



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

home & garden

Home gardeners have a bad habit of giving plants strange common names. Take the "chicken gizzard" plant. In some parts of the country it is called something else. One plant can have a dozen common names. That's why it's important to use the Latin name whenever possible.

I can see why no one wants to use the Latin name of this fine house plant. Who wants to say they grow an *Herbertus aureoreticulatus* when it's easier to call it a "chicken gizzard plant."

In case you aren't familiar with this one, we'll describe it. Plant grows about a foot tall, has colorful foliage, with red stems. Leaves are greenish with white areas, making it a wonderful foliage plant for any window sill or garden collection.

We have one growing on the east window where it does well without sunshine. There's a blood red Iresine which also makes a fine addition to your window sill collection. "The only care these need is a soil mixture of one part each of sand, peat and loam. We grow ours in plain tap water. Beans are one vegetable you have to make room for in the garden. A seed catalog will give you descriptions of the best varieties, but we'll mention a few you should try.

First, try a few pole beans. They do well on a trellis. Some people plant them among corn and let them climb up the cornstalks. Kentucky Wonder is a white seeded type that's still hard to beat. Romano is an Italian pole type with five-inch pods, broad and flat. Seed is small, round and buff colored.

You should have some of the yellow-podded bush beans such as eastern butterbean. There's also an oval green-podded bush bean with meaty pods six inches long. Lima beans such as Ford-hood 242 is a bush type with pods 3½-inch long and well-filled. You can eat them fresh, or use them for canning and freezing. If you're looking for a "baby lima" bean try the Thaxter. It resists downy mildew disease and the beans are ideal for freezing.

Some gardeners like to grow the "horse" bean, or Fava, or broad bean. Its pods are seven inches long and have five or six big flat, oblong beans which are useful in the green shell stage or dry stage.

When it comes to beans, "Grow More in '74." GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "Last year our salvias were all bush and few blooms. What made that?"

Answer: Probably the variety. Use an earlier type such as Red Pillar, a real early one. Or try Hot Pants, an early bloomer. Hot Pants is eye catching and starts blooming in August. Unlike other early salvias it will continue to produce flowers right through until frost.

Remember this: tall salvias bloom later than dwarf types, so if you've been having trouble getting salvias to bloom early, stay away from the late blooming types such as Bonfire. St. John's Fire is another early one.



ZINNIA SCARLET RUFFLES, a gold medal winner in the 1974 all-America selections, is an unusual vivid deep scarlet that almost glows in the summer sun. Bright showy flowers begin in late June and continue blooming until hard frost. Seed is best sown into garden where plants are to bloom.



ZINNIA PETER PAN ORANGE is a bronze medal winner with well doubled flame-orange flowers measuring up to four inches across. For earliest blooms, plants should be started indoors and transferred to the garden after danger of frost or they can be direct-sown into the garden.

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Hickory, oak, ash, and hard maple are among the better fireplace woods, say Michigan State University foresters.

Hickory and oak are the best heat producers - a cord of hickory or oak produce more heat than a ton of coal.

Osage orange and mulberry burn well and spark, pop, crack making the fire interesting. When burning these woods, use a fine mesh screen to keep the sparks in the fireplace.

If your family uses the fireplace every day, you may want to purchase a cord of wood to start the season. A cord is stacked wood four feet high, four feet wide, and eight feet long.

Most sales are by "face cord", a 4 by 8 foot stack cut in desired lengths.

A fireplace is not an efficient home heating system in itself. An ordinary fireplace delivers only a tenth of the heating value of the wood to the room. The rest goes up the chimney.

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