

# Buds AND Blossoms

by  
**MAMIE MILLER**



"Flowers have an expression of countenance as much as men or animals. Some seem to smile; some have a sad expression; some are pensive and difficult; others again are plain, honest and upright, like the broad-faced sunflower and the hollyhock."—Henry Ward Beecher.

As the mid summer flowers bloom, we can make beautiful arrangements. We may have expressions of moods and personality by the flowers we select for our arrangements.

The following rules will keep our arrangements from wilting so early. All flowers should be placed in water over night before being arranged. Cut all flowers with a sharp knife. Flowers cut late in the afternoon will last 12 hours longer than the ones cut in the morning.

The following methods will aid in conditioning your flowers: To boil, place one and one-half inch of the stem in boiling water, or 110 degrees. To char, place the stem over a flame and burn the end, then place in cold water. To harden means to let stand in water until they soak a sufficient amount of fluid.

Cut asters in the middle of the day, as they stand up better. Use turpentine oil, sugar or salt to close up the stem. Cut carnations above the joint, and boil the end

of the stem. Place Boric acid on the end of the carnation.

Put chrysanthemums in one-half cup of sugar to a quart of water. Cut dahlia stems and rub alcohol or powdered aspirin in the stem. Put forget-me-nots in boiling water and then in cold water.

Break the stems of hydrangea instead of cutting. Then char the ends. Boil the ends of marigolds. Add eight drops of peppermint oil per quart. Place zinnias in water immediately after cutting. Should be hardened before arranged.

Share your flowers with others. Let them speak the "Language of the Flowers." Much of your time now may be shared with the ones who could not garden.

"In all labour there is profit."—Old Testament—Proverbs XIV—23.

## Farmers Warned Not to Increase Hogs Recklessly

North Carolina farmers shouldn't increase their hog flocks at a reckless rate.

J. R. Woodard, animal husbandry specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, says that despite the fact that hog prices are around twice the 1955 low of \$11 per hundred, farmers should expand cautiously.

He advised farmers to continue to produce higher quality, meat-type hogs that will help increase the consumption of pork. This will help keep the market price of hogs high.

As he puts it, "We do not want \$11 hogs again. A quality product will help prevent this."

Woodard also urges farmers to push their spring pigs and try to market them by August 15. Prices usually hit their peak in July and early August.

The best thing about worries is that most of them never happen.

Betting is a convincing argument only when you happen to win.



**GARDEN TIME**  
m. e. gardner  
n. c. state college

If you'll be traveling this summer you may want the locations of some of the rose test gardens in North Carolina and neighboring states.

North Carolina: All-American selection trials located on the student horticultural laboratory farm near Meredith college; Raleigh Municipal Gardens at the Little Theatre; Sunnyside Rose Garden, Charlotte.

Tennessee: Werner Park, Chattanooga; Eastern State Hospital, Knoxville; Overton Park, Memphis. South Carolina: Timrod Park, Florence; Edisto Rose Gardens, Orangeburg; Fairfield Memorial Garden, Winnsboro.

Georgia: Ida Cason Callaway Gardens, Chiple. This is a beautiful place and has a wide variety of plant materials, especially holly.

It will soon be time to take cuttings from such plants as azalea, holly, rose, box and many others. Late June is usually best but a more positive guide is to take the cuttings after terminal elongation

stops and the plant tissues begin to mature somewhat. The cuttings should be three or four inches in length and removed from the plant with a sharp knife. Early morning is the best time to take the cuttings and preferably, during cool, rainy weather. Keep the cuttings moist and set them in the rooting medium without delay.

A good rooting mixture can be made of equal volumes of peat and sand, well mixed. The sand should be clean and sharp. Sand alone can be used but peat will increase the water holding capacity of the sand.

A growing frame, or structure of some kind, will be needed so that the plants can be protected from drying winds and direct sun, by shading. An electrically-heated hotbed will be found most useful around the home because it can also be used as a cold frame. They are not very expensive. If you are interested, write the Agricultural Extension Service, N. C. State College, or visit your county agent.

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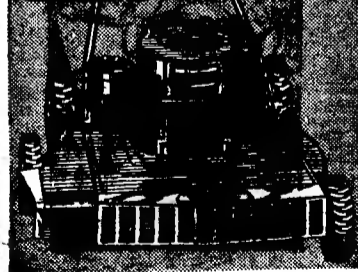
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