

GARDEN TIME

By M. E. GARDNER, N. C. State University

Each year I try to keep my readers abreast of the times by calling attention to new varieties of flowers and vegetables of interest to both the home gardener and the commercial grower.

The next two or three issues of Garden Time will be devoted to the 1969 All-America selections of flower and vegetable varieties. These tests are sponsored by the United States and Canadian seed associations and the selections are made only after carefully controlled tests under different conditions of environment.

First, the 1969 flower varieties: Cherry Buttons, a buttons-type zinnia; Rosy Future, Fla cactus-type zinnia; Polka Dot, Vinca rosea; and now Ball, a dwarf cornflower.

Zinnia "Cherry Buttons," the only Silver Medal flower winner, begins blooming at about 10-12 inches, perhaps a little dwarfier than pink Buttons. A profuse bloomer, uniform charming new cherry-coral color, fully double 1½ to 1¾ inch flowers almost as deep as wide, on wiry stems. Compact, base branching plants are prolonged bloomers and blooms are long lasting. Foliage is mint green and abundant for the bright, luminous colored blooms. Richest, most delightful of the Buttons zinnias, a real honey.

F1 hybrid giant cactus flowered Zinnia "Rosy Future" is of bright rose-pink color and two feet or taller. With many strong stemmed flowers of five to six inch width, these large quilled floral heads make glorious cutting material as well as garden display. The dwarfier and sturdier plants of this Zenith series make more desirable garden subjects with zinnia's most spectacular flower form. As large as they are, the quilled petals provide a lightness or airiness, never a heavy appearance, for arrangements. The sturdy, compact plants have continuous blooms and color.

F1 hybrid giant cactus flowered zinnia "Torch" is of richest orange color, 2 to 2½ feet tall. It is vigorous, sturdy and profuse flowering, bushy and continuous with huge five to six-inch quilled double blooms, true to color and an improvement over the hybrid Bonanza which did segregate in color. This is of the best type of cactus zinnias and most colorful, a grand companion to Firecracker, Yellow Zenith and Rosy Future in this Zenith series.

We have run out of space so will describe Polka Dot, Vinca rosea, and Snow Ball next week.

Veterans Corner

Below are authoritative answers by the Veterans Administration to some of the many current questions from former servicemen and their families. Further information on veterans benefits may be obtained at any VA office.

Q — For some time I have had the Veterans Administration retain my G. I. insurance dividends, but I just got a letter saying I should apply for reinstatement of my policy. I know that I have enough dividends to cover the premium due. What happened?

A — With your present option,



The Drunk Driver Can Hurt You

As the holiday spirit flows, so do alcoholic spirits — and also blood on our nation's highways.

Even during non-holiday periods, alcohol plays a major part in the nation's tragic traffic safety record, points out Don Costa, safety director at the Allstate Insurance Company.

Nearly 50% of all auto accidents involve drinking drivers. Almost half of the 52,000 deaths and about half of the 4,000,000 auto injuries are caused by drunk drivers.

Of the nearly 100 million drivers in the nation, an estimated 93 million drink. Luckily, only 2% — one of every 50 drivers — are drunk drivers. Every drinking driver is not a drunk driver because only the drunk driver is a mentally sick driver.

Only a "sick" driver would drive his car when:

- he is 25 times more likely to have an accident
- his behavior is erratic and unpredictable
- his field of vision is lowered by 80%
- his reactions have been reduced by 15%
- he may fail to see dark objects at night
- and all this is topped with a false sense of bolstered confidence.

As a consequence, says Costa, the statistics tell that some 26,000 dead and 2,000,000 injured motorists and pedestrians owe their pain and suffering to the drunk driver... the "sick" driver... the killer driver.

the dividends you have left on deposit with VA do draw interest. However, they are like a bank account; the VA cannot use these dividends to pay your G. I. insurance premiums without your permission. To insure that your policy will not lapse in the future, you should change your dividend option to provide that dividends will be used to pay the insurance premiums in advance, as they accrue. You will be furnished a statement each time dividends are applied, letting you know how far ahead you are paid, when the next premium is due, and the amount of any partial credit left over.

Q — I am told that my non-service-connected pension payment will be increased soon. When will I receive my increased payments?

A — The VA nonservice-connected pension program was restructured effective Jan. 1, 1969. Approximately 1.2 million beneficiaries under this program will receive increased pension pay-



by Capt. Fred Lawton, Director Marine Safety, Raytheon Company & America's Cup championship sailing master.



SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS

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how we can finance all of the demands for Federal spending without incurring inflation and doing serious damage to our monetary system.

Certainly, governments should be responsive to the needs of the people, and anyone familiar with a changing society can understand that we must keep an open mind about how we shall deal with our needs. We should, however, keep in perspective the fact that not every problem can best be solved by drafting a new Federal program. In fact, our experience demonstrates that we may damage the whole fabric of our civilization by taking that approach. Adding layer upon layer of Federal bureaucracy to deal with problems that can best be dealt with at a level closer to the people stifles productivity and individual initiative.

Aside from dealing with specific problems of crime, education, health, the post office, highways, pollution, and hunger, there is the problem of general government and its structure which needs attention at this Congress. For years now, we have been dealing with problems almost on a program by program basis. Consequently, there is duplication, overlap, and waste in the countless programs which deal with domestic problems. As I have frequently pointed out, there is a real need to correct this.

I am hopeful, therefore, that the new Administration will join with Congress to bring order to the kingdoms which exist here in Washington.

ments as the result of this restructuring. These increased payments also went into effect Jan. 1, so if you qualify for an increase, you should receive your high pension check around February 1.

Senior Citizen Status Can Be Rewarding

Reaching senior citizen status may mean a woman has to take a closer look at her goals and values: the things that are most important to her. Why?

According to Frances Jordan, extension family life specialist, North Carolina State University, a couple will have realized most the goals they set in early marriage. The house is paid for; the children are through school.

Now there may be some new goals the homemaker can set. Goals to help her make the best of the rest of her life.

One goal a woman may set is to be a good wife. During all those years with children to care for, she may have let this other role take second place. Now is the time to get reacquainted with the man she married and discover some of the new dimensions of the personality he has become.

In addition, a woman will wish to be a good in-law; willing and helpful when the children ask for her help. "It may be hard to let married children make obvious mistakes in their decisions, yet they must do their own bit of learning through experience," Miss Jordan points out.

Also, a senior citizen should be in step with the time. She should read the newspaper and library books and be willing to listen to an opinion that's different from her own. She will do well to determine why she believes the way she does about certain things.

A woman should do all she can to be a good citizen. In the golden years he may have the best chance ever to make a contribution to her community. She has less home responsibility, more time and years of maturity. Community action programs need volunteers at all levels.

A senior citizen should be somebody. "Remember, a woman is herself and no-one else, no matter how old she gets. No-

Four Suggestions Given for Storing Chemicals

Cold weather can be hard on pesticide-chemicals as well as many other things around the farm, home or business.

In fact, any extreme temperature, high or low, makes it necessary to guard many pesticide-chemicals. Home chemicals are usually safe because they are likely to be stored in protected areas. Chemicals for other purposes, especially herbicides, often need special care.

J. C. Wells, extension plant pathologist at North Carolina State University, said four precautionary steps should be taken in storing pesticide-chemicals.

1. Store liquid formulations on pallets and duckboard to prevent the containers from rusting.
2. Keep containers tightly closed. Plug air vents which have been punched for ease of pouring.
3. Keep water soluble chemicals clean and dry to prevent them from caking.
4. Check chemicals to see if they have "crystallized out of solution." This often happens when the temperature drops below 32 degrees. If this does happen, warm the chemical to at least 40 degrees and shake the container. If the crystals disappear, no harm has been done.

Wells, who heads the Pesticide Education Team at NCSU, said that most labels on chemicals give directions on how they should be stored.

body else in the world is just like she is," Miss Jordan adds. "The senior citizen will do well to recognize her special talent, whatever it is. She should cherish it. Share it."

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