

George Abrahams
Naples, N. Y.

THE GREEN THUMB

GARDENIA NOTES: Although this is a tropical subject, a good many homeowners are having good success raising the gardenia. A common complaint right now is what makes the buds drop—or why is the foliage yellow?

Since the gardenia is a semi-tropical plant, it grows best in a warm, humid atmosphere and in a location that affords plenty of sunshine. During the winter mon-

ths a southern exposure where the temperature is 70 to 80 degs. F. during the day. The night temperature can range between 62 and 65 degs. F. If lower the plants will grow slowly and the foliage is likely to become yellow-green. Temperatures at night above 65 degs. will cause the buds to drop.

Another cause of yellow foliage may be a deficiency of iron in

soils that are not acid. This can be overcome by scratching into the surface a small amount of sulfur dust, once every six weeks until the condition clears up. From now on, until the 1st of November, apply one cupful of ammonium sulfate (mixed at the rate of 1 level teaspoonful in a quart of water), once a month.

SOWING SEEDS INDOORS: Starting plants from seeds sown indoors offers a real gardening experience. To grow stocky seedlings, you need, first of all a light sunny window. A sun room on the south side of the house is fine, or if you have a heated attic, this can also be used.

Temperature is also important. A temperature of 68-70 degs F. during germination is good, and after the seed has sprouted, try to maintain a little cooler temperature, if possible. After seeds germinate, the cooler temperature insures more sturdy growth and the seedlings are less likely to become tall and spindly than when the temperature is higher.

with the above requirements met, a soil mixture is also im-

portant. Seeds do not need a rich soil for germination, but more important is the texture. Soil should be loose, sandy and well drained. Vermiculite is ideal for starting seeds because it is so loose. This material has no food value, so be sure to transplant seedlings immediately since they will turn yellow from lack of nitrogen.

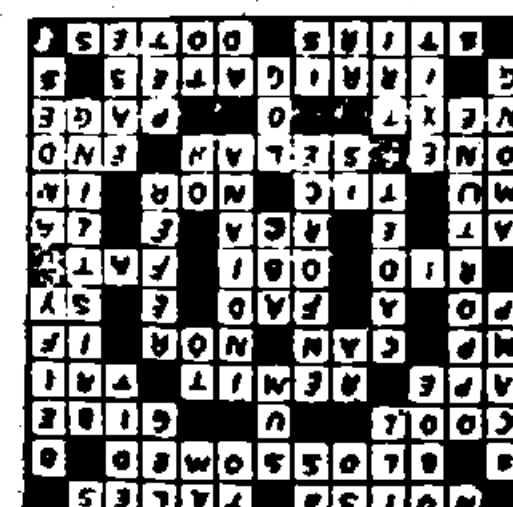
Muck or muck and sand mixed are good, or peatmoss and sand. A good formula for mixing soil consists of: 2 parts of garden loam, 1 part peatmoss, muck or leafmold, and one part coarse sand. Mix these together thoroughly and pass it through a coarse screen, about 1/4 inch mesh.

GERANIUM CRINKLE: We've been asked what causes the leaves of geraniums to take on a pimply, or black-specked condition, without any trace of insects. These small black specks may be due to a disease known as geranium crinkle or a mosaic disease. There isn't too much known at present about this condition, but we've found that healthy plants often will outgrow geranium crinkle disease. This disease is more prevalent during the winter months, and seems to disappear in spring and summer. Sprinkle a small amount of 5-10-5 fertilizer, around the soil in each 5-inch pot.

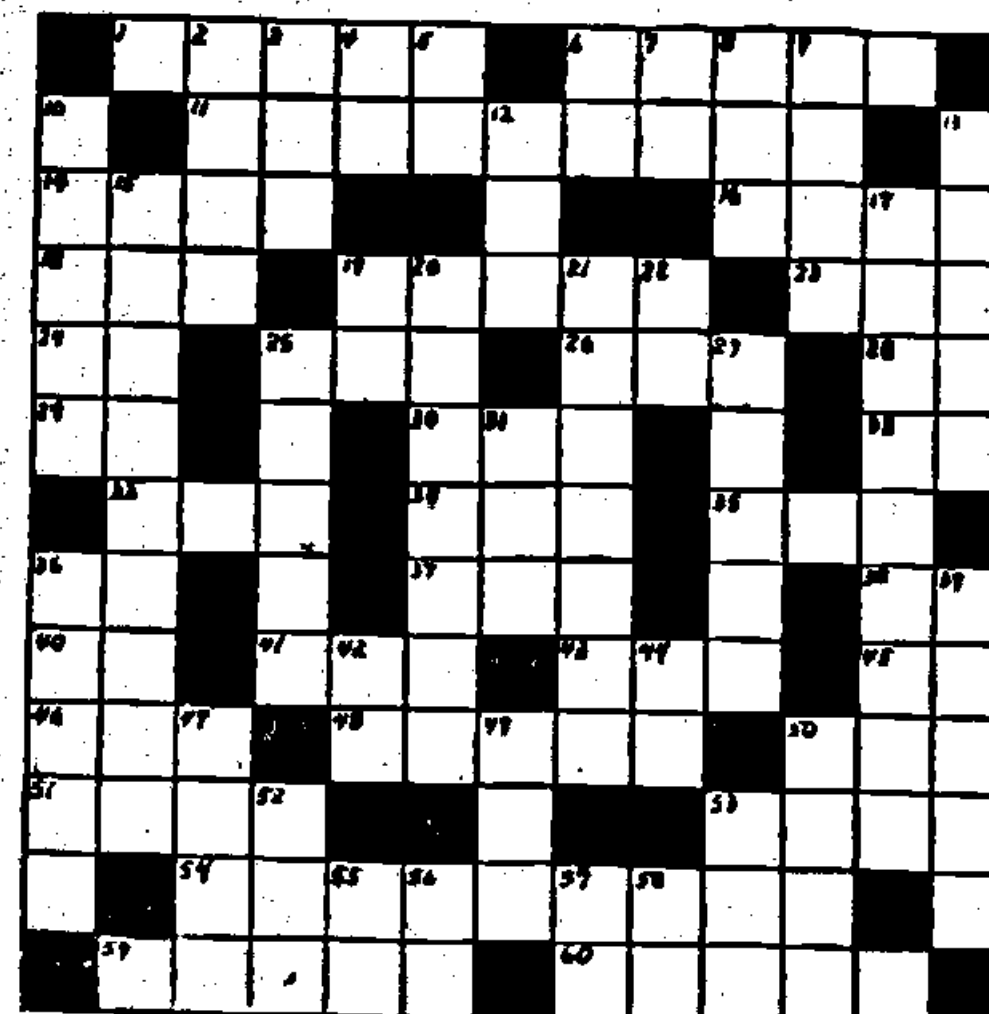
SOWING PEPPER SEED: March is the time to sow these seed. If you've been having trouble with peppers in the past, switch your varieties. Some do better than others in certain areas. We have found that the new variety, Vine-dale, introduced from Canada, can produce a heavy crop of medium size fruits in a short season. Coming later is a high quality sweet pepper, Penn Wonder, which we have tested also in the field and in the greenhouse. Penn Wonder has larger fruits, with more flesh, but for some reason, around here it sometimes grows into bush and with only a few fruits.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- HORIZONTAL**
1. Clamor
 6. Societies
 11. Bloomed
 13. Slightly cold
 15. Taunt
 18. Simian
 19. Pardon
 23. Three (Prefix)
 24. Military Police (Abbr.)
 25. Is able
 26. Neither
 28. Providing
 29. Italian river
 30. Hobby
 32. See: past tense (Obs.)
 33. Free
 34. Japanese sash
 35. Plump
 36. By
 37. Radio Corp. of America (Abbr.)
 38. Note of recall
 40. Creek letter
 41. Nervous twitching
- VERTICAL**
2. Musical instrument
 3. Ailing
 4. Thus
 5. In (Span.)
 6. Toward
 7. Exit
 8. Limb
 9. Revise
 10. Rascal
 11. Total
 12. Apocryphal
 13. Timely



THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS



17. Having bristles
18. Sun god
19. Compel
21. Midwest state
22. In direction of
25. Military trainee
27. Direct elsewhere
31. Am. Broadcasting Co. (Abbr.)
38. Amidst
39. Mountain range
42. Has been
44. Exclamation
47. Way of stress
49. Nautical record
50. Comfort
52. Three (prefix)
53. Poodle
55. Railroad (Abbr.)
55. Extinct
57. Paid notice
58. At

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ASKED
FOR
THIS?



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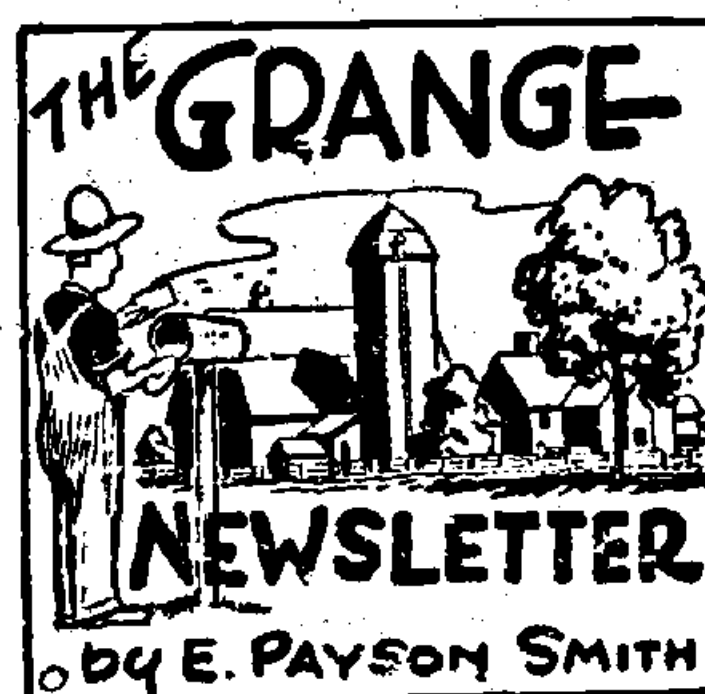
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FARM POLICY on the subject of price supports as expressed by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson was applauded by N. Y. State Grange Master Leland D. Smith. Speaking at a western N. Y. conference the farm leader told his audience that Grange members and most farmers in the northeast have known for years that full production and free markets are not encouraged under rigid price controls. Until now Washington turned a deaf ear to grass roots farmers who have asked for less government intervention in their affairs. "Secretary of Agriculture Benson has pledged himself to uphold existing laws governing price supports," Mr. Smith pointed out, "but his intention to use them in the future only as a last extremity is in line with Grange farm policy, and we heartily approve his courageous stand. We in the Grange feel that the mark of a free people is their determination and ability to solve their own problems through their own resources rather than calling on others to do it for them, and we are pleased to find

that Secretary Benson shares this belief."

GRANGE YOUTH activities will focus on the annual leadership school, which has been set for July 26 through August - at the Agricultural and Technical Institute at Morrisville. Dormitory and class accommodations make this a desirable location, together with recreation facilities including nearby swimming. Pomona Granges will be well repaid in financing at least one representative to the school, by contributing to this excellent training in leadership that will return long range benefits to their areas. There are no fixed quotas, and now is the time to canvass you youth for eligible students. Applications should be in to Pomona Youth committees by May 30 and to State youth chairman Elton Borden by June 15th.

MEMORIAL to the late Albert S. Goss, former National Grange Master, was dedicated in impressive ceremonies at the Washington office recently. Formally designed as the Goss Memorial Lobby and Conference room, the former is featured by a beautiful plant studded spouting fountain and pool. Mrs. Albert Goss and son, Warren were honored at the dedication, which was attended by an array of notable leaders in the nation's capital.

Emergency Set-Ups
Medical societies in 329 communities have established night and emergency doctor call systems, according to a report by the Board of Trustees of the American Medical Association. A survey made in the summer of 1943 had shown only 60 such plans in operation.



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Pulaski, N. Y.

