



THE TORRANCE HERALD HOME AND GARDEN

JAN. 5, 1956 TORRANCE HERALD Twenty-seven

Garden Chatter

This is the time of the year that we go about making New Year's resolutions, and somehow or other we manage to keep a few of them.

This year, how about making a few for your garden? Resolve to enjoy your garden to the utmost and not become a slave to it. Resolve to give it the attention that it deserves, but not the overattention that it should not and need not have.

Resolve to get the garden into shape to the best of your ability and to keep it that way with a minimum of effort.

Resolve to have color where it is needed, especially in certain key spots and not to have the entire yard a splash of color that does not last and will have to be replaced all at one time when the blooms go.

Resolve to provide sufficient plant food and moisture when needed and not to overdo either.

Resolve to be ready this year when the bugs move in. Have sufficient ingredients on hand so that the very moment that insects and diseases are noticed that you can stop them and that you will not have to wait until you can get to your nursery and garden supply dealer to pick up the necessary supplies.

Resolve to regularly cut your grass and keep it properly edged, and not to scalp the turf by cutting too short.

On your turf also resolve to

be ready when the lawn moth and diseases move in next summer and treat properly when first observed instead of waiting until the damage is beyond repair.

Resolve to tend to the proper chores at the proper time weed control now when they are very young. Pruning when trees, shrubs, and roses are at their dormant state. Planting in the proper season when the proper stock is available.

Resolve to educate yourself along lines that you are hesitant about. Do this by reading on the subject on sources that give you the most information about local conditions, or by attending night classes in your adult education section of your local schools.

Resolve to join a club or society that devotes full time and energy to a particular class of plant that you may be especially interested. There are local branches of the Rose, Iris, Fuchsia, Begonia, African Violet, and Geranium Societies. Get out and meet other people who have a common hobby.

And lastly resolve to keep your garden resolutions, for they will give you unfold pleasures with a minimum of effort and make your home one to be proud of, instead of one that you are ashamed to show.

Bare root rose season is here again! To the newcomer who is unfamiliar with the term, this

means that now is the season of the year that our rose bushes go dormant and can be safely moved about with little or no dirt attached to the roots, in fact the roots are bare. As long as the roots are kept moist and the plant remains dormant, the bush is not harmed. Nurseries receive their entire shipment of roses for the coming year from the wholesale rose grower in this bare root fashion, and as you, the customer, do not have to purchase a container full of dirt with the plant, the roses are sold cheaper with this cost saving passed on to you.

The bare root rose season extends from about mid-December to the first part of March. Usually after this time, the weather begins to get too warm for the bush to be safely handled in a bare root condition. At this time the plants are placed into containers, and of course the price has to be increased.

It is much easier to prepare the soil and to plant a bare root rose now too. For those of us who are inclined to be lazy, not such a large hole is necessary,

although at no time should the roots be cramped into a tiny hole, but allowed to fill the hole in their natural growing position.

In addition to the bush roses, other types are available bare root. They are the climbing forms, the pillars, which are moderate climbers growing to about 8 or 10 feet, and the tree roses, which broadly speaking, are bushes growing on a 30 inch stem or trunk above the ground.

You can find these bare root roses at your dealers now, and in about any type and color that you may desire. Prices

Techniques Are Listed

If you want to enjoy all the blooms from camellias, azaleas and rhododendrons, advises the California Association of Nurserymen, plant now before the new growth begins. However, since these plants are handled in containers, they may be planted at most anytime. To be safe, consult your nurseryman. The azalea and rhododendron

are consistent with quality and grade, as well as being reasonable. Patent varieties of roses must be sold at a standard price in all places.

are planted in much the same manner. Dig the planting holes big enough and deep enough to comfortably accommodate the root ball or roots and the addition of drainage material beneath the plants. The top soil should be mixed thoroughly with leaf mold or peat moss. Set the plants in at the same level they were previously growing in the case of balled stock and loosen and fold back the burlap (but do not remove) around the root ball. Pack the soil firmly around the plants and water very thoroughly.

Camellias should be planted in holes twice as large, as deep as the root balls of the plants. Mix the top soil with leaf mold or peat moss and a plant food. If you think the soil will not drain properly add a layer of gravel at the bottom of the hole.

Set camellias in the holes at the same level they were planted previously, loosen the top of the burlap and pack in the soil firmly around the plants. Water afterwards and every few days until the plant is established.

Proper planting procedures carefully followed will assure you of healthy azalea, rhododendron and camellia plants that will decorate your yard and garden for years to come.



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