

# Garden Chatter

By LORING BIGELOW

Favorites in my garden for warm sunny spots, are the several types of daisies. All home-owners are familiar with the old fashioned Shasta Daisy, but there are many interesting forms in addition to this type. All these types can be planted at this time from root divisions.

Perhaps the type that receives the most comment is the Grand Maroon Daisy. This is pure white with a double chrysanthemum-like flower which appears on 2 1/2 foot stems. This is a tall grower.

Either Read is also a fine large pure white type, with a

slightly raised center, also double. This variety does not grow quite so tall as the Maroon. Two other types worthy of mention are the Majestic and Muriel, sometimes called Kitty. Both are fairly new large frilly double types and their growth habits are in-between the Esther Read and the Maroon. These plants bloom profusely all Spring, Summer, and until late Fall if the flowers are kept cut. They make an excellent cut flower.

As the above mentioned daisies are all white it is often another color that we desire, or we may wish to blend in some other colors. If so, we should consider the Gerbers or Transval Daisy. These types also like lots of sun and heat, and the colors range in salmon, orange, red and pink shades. Gerbers never cease to receive comment when in gorgeous bloom in a garden. For the most part they do not grow tall, the overall height seldom exceeding 18 inches.

All the types we are discussing here are perennial—living from year to year. The clump gets larger each year as well, and when it becomes too large may be easily divided in the winter months.

Care should be taken to plant the roots with the crown slightly above the soil level. If the crown is buried or soil is allowed to cover it later, the plant does not do as well and in moist conditions may die out. Ample water and plant food is of course very important, and a pest control should be maintained.

Try a few in that hot sunny spot, or in narrow areas between the house and the sidewalk or as a color amendment in your perennial garden.

## GARDENER'S CHECKLIST

1. Concentrate on planting all bare root plants such as berries, grapes, roses, fruit and shade trees. The bare root season is approaching its end.
2. This is a good time to give the whole garden a winter clean-up spray.
3. Rid the garden of snails and slugs by broadcasting bug pellets or meal in flower beds.
4. Get your lawn off to a good start by fertilizing now with a balanced fertilizer.
5. Gardening can be easier if you properly prepare your soil. Don't plant in soil that is too wet. Ask your nurseryman about effective soil conditioners for your area.

## Camellia Show Closes Sunday

Because of a late blooming season this year, the 50,000 camellia bushes at Los Angeles County's Descanso Gardens will provide more flowers during the closing days of the Second Annual Camellia Festival, which ends Sunday, than could be seen during the opening days of the Festival. That was the declaration yesterday of Gardens Superintendent John Threlkeld. Lateness of the rains this season at La Canada contributed to tardiness of the blooms which now are in their greatest mass of color, he said.

Among the many varieties of camellias which are providing current attraction as Descanso are Elegans, Hans-Fukii, C. M. Wilson, Hermes, Ivane-Shibori, and Friede of Descanso.

Closing week of the Descanso Festival will be marked by special daily events, including garden tours, lectures, motion pictures and slides. Escorted garden tours will be conducted by information aides from assembly points inside the main gate and in front of the lounge.



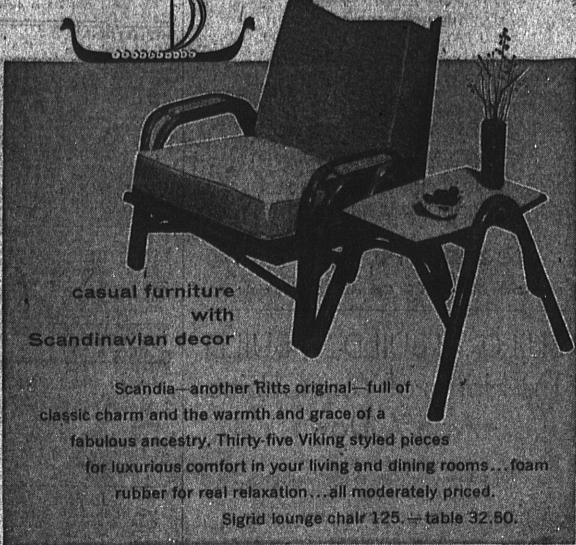
FLOWER QUEEN... Natalie Wood, one of Hollywood's fastest rising stars, has been selected queen of the California International Flower Show, which opens March 17 at Hollywood Park. The annual affair will run until March 25 at the Inglewood race track.

The fastest-growing state in the nation, California is also the number one lumber-consuming state of the Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, is located at 1418 Descanso Drive, La Canada. The admission is 50 cents for adults, 25 cents for children 12 to 18 years, and free to children under 12 when accompanied by an adult.

Landscape exhibits and fresh cut flower displays from the opening days flower show will remain for viewers until the close of the Festival.

Descanso Gardens, a facility

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