

The

Gardener's

JOURNAL

Winter
1997FRIENDS OF REYNOLDA GARDENS
July 1, 1995 — June 30, 1996

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Ann Lewallen Spencer

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Clemmons West Garden ClubREYNOLDA — A MODEL
for the COMMUNITY

by Camilla Wilcox, curator of education

WHEN THE GARDENS of Reynolda were planned, during the years between 1910 and 1917, the practice of horticulture was at a point of great change. Throughout the nineteenth century, scientists, plant collectors, and horticulturists had fed the public's desire for exotic plants for greenhouse culture and for new and better cultivars for their gardens. By the late 1800s, growers found that they could create exciting hybrids through the process of controlled cross pollination. As gardeners responded to these introductions, hybridizers produced more and more plants. By 1910, there were scores of cultivars from which a gardener could choose. For the gardens and greenhouses of Reynolda, landscape architect Thomas Sears worked with Mrs. Reynolds to select the best, most lovely, and often most exotic plants available and to place them together in a sophisticated, modern design that was a model for local gardeners.

In the last eighty years, the number of horticultural introductions has increased exponentially. Fashions in plants and gardening have come and gone, just as styles have changed in other areas of life. An urban community has grown up around the thousand acres of land



THE KODAK DEPARTMENT OF BARBER'S BOOK STORE IN WINSTON-SALEM PRODUCED POST CARDS FOR MRS. REYNOLDS FROM PHOTOGRAPHS SHE MADE. THIS ONE, TAKEN SOMETIME BEFORE 1918, SHOWS FERNS, PALMS, AND BUNDLES OF MUMS IN THE CONSERVATORY.

A GREENHOUSE HISTORY

IN MIDWINTER in the early part of this century, heat came to the greenhouse through pipes in tunnels from the central boiler in the Village, creating first a warm spot where mushrooms could grow in troughs in the basement. Orchids, a special favorite of Mrs. Reynolds, thrived in a passageway of the greenhouse devoted solely to them; doors on each end of the space closed in supplemental heat and humidity, giving the plants conditions similar to their native environments. Seeds of plants to grow on Reynolda farms and to sell would soon be sown in soil-filled flats in the warm growing houses. In the earliest days of its history, the function of the greenhouse combined the luxury of growing

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 NC Unit of Herb Society of America
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MODEL

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that were rural when Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds purchased them. And the city of Winston-Salem has grown busier and more congested than it was when the small towns of Winston and Salem merged.

But, even after all this time, Reynolda Gardens continues to serve as a model for the community, incorporating the latest advances in horticultural products and techniques within the setting of a garden that is significant for its architectural and horticultural history and for the affection that has been felt for it by generations of local families who have come to think of it as their own. The current renovation will bring back the appearance of a garden of an earlier time. Advanced knowledge of plant culture and a program of continuing care will ensure that the garden thrives in the years ahead.

As it was in the early years of its life, Reynolda is a busy place. Each person involved in the care of Reynolda, — staff, volunteers, Friends, — brings to it a gift, a talent, or expertise that gives this place a character that is still uniquely modern. 🌱

GREENHOUSE

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plants out of season, raising exotic species, and cultivating delicacies for the family table with the practicality of providing a warm starting place so plants for the gardens and farms could get a head start on the growing season.

The greenhouse range, a product of the highly regarded Lord and Burnham Company, encompassed a domed conservatory, three contiguous growing houses, and a separate, smaller growing house. Silver-painted cypress shading covered glass roofs and walls. Frosted glass in the conservatory dome and white painted side windows and doors gave extra protection for tender tropical plants. Heated cold

frames extended the capacity of the facility. The head house, with white stucco walls and a green tile roof, blended with other buildings in the Village. The building foundation, most of the cold frames, and the chimney were built of round boulder stone found on the property.

Many other estates of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century also featured substantial greenhouses and conservatories. In fact, the Lord and Burnham Company had numerous regional offices in the U. S. to serve its large clientele at the time this range was built. But, unlike most other estates of the period, Reynolda was to be a model farming operation and thriving commercial center as well as a comfortable and pleasant environment for its owners.

THE GREENHOUSE was built to Mrs. Reynolds' specifications. In a letter to the Lord and Burnham Company dated May 12, 1912, she requested a design to include "a palm room, a good sized grapery, a tomato section, a large vegetable section and an assorted plant section, a propagating room, a section for fruits, a nice work room, a pit, and about 200 feet of cold frames." Carefully designed and spacious, this busy greenhouse functioned as planned, fulfilling the agricultural demands of the large farms on the property, serving the commercial needs of the local community for vegetable garden plants and, as time went on, for decorative plants and flowers for homes, and supplying plants and flowers for its owners. It was a modern facility, furnished with the latest equipment. A library of current publications helped workers in the gardens, greenhouses, and farms stay abreast of developments in horticulture and agriculture.

Over the period of the early 1910s until the early 1960s, while Reynolda was privately owned by the Reynolds and Babcock families, the function of the greenhouse changed as the families' and the community's needs changed. Irvin Disher, Sr. served as greenhouse manager

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GREENHOUSE

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throughout the period. According to his son, Irvin Disher, Jr., the day-to-day operation of the greenhouse changed little over the years.

From the mid-1910s until the mid-twenties, the greenhouses served the function for which they were designed. A 1917 article in the *Winston-Salem Sentinel* reports on the vibrant activity centered there, noting that "In the vegetable greenhouse at Christmas, the cantaloupes ready for market were worth more than \$200.00. Other greenhouses and hot frames aid the trucking interests of the farm. In one of these houses are now upwards of a million young plants ready to be transplanted in the outside vegetable gardens. Other houses harbor roses, palms, and other flowers." When Mr. and Mrs. Reynolds died and the property fell under trusteeship, the greenhouse business continued.

In the mid-thirties, when Charles and Mary Reynolds Babcock became the owners of Reynolda, their personal interest ensured the continuing operation of the greenhouse, but the emphasis by that time had moved away from support for the farm to growing seedling plants and growing and housing decorative plants and flowers for sale to the public.

As the floral business developed, the Reynolda Florist continued to serve its owners and the Winston-Salem community as a full service florist under the direction of Irvin Disher, Sr. until 1959 and under his son Dennis Disher until 1961. The Florist provided fresh arrangements daily for the breakfast table as well as for special occasions at Reynolda House. Other Winston-Salem families had standing orders for arrangements also, and Reynolda Florist was in demand for decorations for weddings and other special occasions throughout the community.

In a series of Deeds of Gift, dated 1958, 1959, and 1961, the Reynolda Gardens property,

including the greenhouses, was given to Wake Forest College. Since the early 1970's, the building has housed plant collections for educational purposes, and has been used to grow plants for the formal gardens and for sale to the public.

ORAL HISTORY BRINGS FACTS TO LIFE

IRVIN DISHER, JR. of Yadkinville, NC began working alongside his father in the greenhouse at the age of twelve, continuing until he was grown. Mr. Disher, Jr. returned to Reynolda in May of 1996 for an interview about his father and the greenhouse operation, making his first visit to Reynolda in over thirty years. In the interview, he shared memories and observations about Reynolda that provide perspective for late twentieth century observers. Some highlights from that interview:

Drinking water came from wells on the property, but water for plants was pumped from Lake Katharine because lake water was believed to be better for plants than well water. Pipes in the lake connected with pumps on the bank fed the irrigation system. Water that came up the hill to the greenhouse from the lake first was the warmest. The warmest water was used for watering the African violets that grew in the small passageway between the headhouse and the greenhouse, then other plants were watered.

Flowers in the formal gardens were for display, not for sale. Roses and other flowers for floral arrangements came from wholesaler J. Van Hanford and others. A cooling room in the basement of the greenhouse held flowers to keep them fresh for a long period.

Families who lived on Reynolda grounds could use two fenced acres near their homes. Most grew plants or raised animals there. Mr. Disher remarked that the owners also set aside two acres near their home for their personal use.

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Tarasa G. Stephenson
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Summit School
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Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Taylor
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Marguerite B. Taylor
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William H. Tucker
Twin City Garden Club
Harry and Nancy Underwood
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Vance
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Dr. and Mrs. S. Clay Williams
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Mr. and Mrs. William F. Womble
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Laura R. Ballew
Jane Benbow
Don and Kay Bergey
Mrs. James C. Bethune
Elizabeth Berry
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Helen H. Blum

Rose Ellen Bowen
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GREENHOUSE

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The fenced upper level of the formal garden, called on Thomas Sears' plans the Fruit, Cut Flower, and Nicer Vegetable Garden, is approximately two acres in size.

Changes in availability of certain plants brought changes in garden and greenhouse operations. Mushrooms, long considered a delicacy, were cultivated in the greenhouse until they became available commercially. Vegetables were grown in the Fruit, Cut Flower, and Nicer Vegetable Garden until they became widely available, then flowers were planted in their place.

Red poinsettias, the only color available for many years, were grown each fall from cuttings. Plants were used to decorate mantels and hearths during the holidays at Reynolda House. Stock plants were kept in the heated cold frame outside the small greenhouse over the winter.

Nandinas were cultivated in rows in a plot near Polo Road and Cherry Street. The red berries were used in holiday decorations.

Chrysanthemums were a popular florist flower. Mum standards were trained in the greenhouse each year for many years.

IRVIN DISHER, SR.

IRVIN DISHER, SR. was born in 1895. He came to Reynolda in 1910 and was soon put in charge of the greenhouse, remaining in charge of the greenhouse and the business called the Reynolda Florist until 1959. During his period of association with Reynolda, Mr. Disher, Sr. and his family lived first in a two-story frame farmhouse near the water tower on the present Wake Forest campus. Then, when the property on which their house stood transferred to the new college, the family moved to a brick house

owned by the Babcock family on Indiana Avenue. Throughout his life at Reynolda, he worked seven days a week tending to the greenhouses and plants, in heating season often staying in the building through the night to regulate heat coming in from the central boiler in the Village. The greenhouses were open from 7:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Mr. Disher, Sr. retired in 1959, turning the business over to his son Dennis Disher, who operated it until 1961. Mr. Disher, Sr. died in 1960. Dennis Disher died in the early 1960s.



RAISE YOUR STANDARDS!

by Tom Pratt, greenhouse manager

THE TERM STANDARD is used by us all today differently. The businessperson, the homemaker, the teacher, the farmer, all use the word in different conversations, though usually meaning the same thing: normal, usual, average. But leave it to the dignified gardener to take standard to a higher level of meaning. "Stupendous," say some gardeners, "gorgeous," say others. "Magnificent" has also been heard used when talking about the garden standard. To help educate the new gardeners of today, let me add that when

gardeners use the term, we are referring to a plant grown to a single stem that is free from leaves and branches to a height of from one to eight feet or more, with a branching head at the top.

There are three methods for making standards. First, grafting or budding upon a previously grown stem of the same or related species is widely used for woody plants. Catalpas, mulberries, cherries, and roses respond well to this method. So-called tree roses are produced by grafting. Rose standards were included in the 1917 Sears plan for the rose gardens near the greenhouse.

A second method is cutting to the ground a plant that has been established a year or more, then allowing only one shoot to develop from the rootstock.

Once this shoot has grown to a desired height, the terminal bud is pinched to induce more lateral shoot development, forming the head. As the lateral branches reach suitable size, they too are pinched. Both pruning processes help ensure that the standard keeps its characteristic shape. A wide variety of plants, including climbing roses, wisteria, and shrubs such as honeysuckle, privet, and azaleas respond to this technique.

Third, a standard can be produced from seed or a cutting, allowing only one shoot to develop until the desired height is achieved, then proceeding as in the second method. Standards that are often started from seed and cuttings include fuschia, lantana, chrysanthemum, coleus, and verbena.

In today's gardens, standards can be used in different ways and locations. They can give accent to both formal and informal gardens. In large beds consisting of low plant material, standards dotted throughout the low bed give additional definition.

It's a challenge to grow standards, but anything above the normal or average is a worthwhile challenge. Go ahead — go a step above the usual — go standard! 🌱



TOM PRATT EXAMINES AN AZALEA STANDARD.

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Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Koach
Margaret L. Kolb
Bernice G. Lansford
Susan Layman
Ron Lentz
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Gail Lybrook
Peter and Deborah MacGregor
Rachel V. Malcolm
Betty March
Mary Ruth Marler
Mrs. Charles Andrew Marshall Jr.
Christine Marshall
Mr. and Mrs. James Martin
Rick Mashburn
Elizabeth L. Mason
John M. Matthews
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph David Matthews
Billy McClain
Charles E. McCreight
William B. McGlamery
Sue Ellen McNeill
Dr. and Mrs. Robert L. Means
Ralph E. Messick
William P. Messick
Dr. and Mrs. Richard B. Merlo
Rod and Marianne Meyer
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Ruth G. Miller
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Lee Miller
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Kathryn S. Moore
Mr. and Mrs. Edward T. Mulvey, Jr.
Janet Neblett
John Newman
Joanne O'Brien
Mrs. Algine Neely Ogburn
Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Shea
Mrs. Virginia S. Owen
Nancy Owens
Betsy H. Palmer
Carolyn Park
Mrs. Carl Perkinson
Dr. and Mrs. Russell Perry
Katherine Phillips
Robert G. and Vianne N. Piper
Sallie Millis Pryor
Kenneth and Joanne Raschke
Nan D. Rand
Dr. and Mrs. Richard Rauck
Reynolda Antique Gallery
Mr. and Mrs. Scott A. Richardson
Mrs. Robert D. Rickert
Ruth M. Ridenhour
Ringmasters
Della Roberts
Mary Robertson
H. C. Roemer
Mrs. Joyce Robertson

Mrs. Jackie Rodgers
 Mrs. M. S. Rogers
 Mrs. Edward Rowe
 Mary Carol Sapp
 Donna Shultz
 Mrs. Lyttleton Scott
 Ruth Seitz
 Phillis Sharpe
 John R. Shore
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 David L. Smiley
 Mrs. Fred Smithdeal
 Mrs. Shirley B. Snell
 Ruth Stafford
 Ms. Virginia Stoelzel
 Mrs. Frederic E. Sturmer
 Margaret Taylor (Mrs. Mills)
 Edith Teague
 Mr. and Mrs. Bill Temples
 Charles and Nancy Thomas
 Ruth Thompson
 Marian F. Townsend
 Douglas R. Turner
 Mr. and Mrs. Douglas D. Walker
 Jo Walker
 Mrs. Nancy Watkins
 Mr. John F. Watlington
 Dick and Mary Weaver
 Susanne Weber (Mrs. Arthur)
 Mr. and Mrs. John Weiner
 Holly and Willard Welsh
 Mrs. Robert Whaling
 Mrs. Donald L. Whitener
 Jean Long Whitley
 Mrs. Marcus Wilkenson
 Dan and Margaret Williams
 Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Yokeley
 Dr. R. L. Wyatt

OTHER GIFTS

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 Hope Valley Garden Club
 Billye Keith Jones
 Jean L. Merwin
 Mrs. Cynthia Cox Moore
 Mrs. Alex M. Nading
 Mrs. Charles T. Preston (Joy)
 Kathy Stewart
 Cora Vick
 Wildflower Garden Club

MEMORIALS

Evergreen Garden Club
 in memory of Elizabeth Butler
 Lawndale Garden Club
 in memory of Phyllis Pepper

HERITAGE AND PROMISE REYNOLDA GARDENS

Audubon Garden Club
 Charles Babeock
 Cereus Garden Club

THE ORCHID COLLECTION

WHEN GREG BOGARD pulled his car up to the door of the greenhouse in 1981, he had a trunk full of orchids to show the Gardens staff. A newcomer to Winston-Salem, he had been growing orchids in his spare time for a little over three years. Already, he had been the director of the orchid society in Wisconsin, his home state. He was hoping to find a place near his new home where he could pursue his passion for growing orchids and join a group of fellow orchid enthusiasts. He thought Reynolda Gardens would be the perfect place to start.

Shortly after that introduction, he began to assemble a collection for Reynolda Gardens,



IN 1912, WHEN MRS. REYNOLDS WAS PLANNING HER GREENHOUSE, SPECIES ORCHIDS WERE COLLECTED IN THE WILD, IMPORTED, THEN SOLD THROUGH COMMERCIAL GREENHOUSES. TODAY, ORCHIDS ARE PROPAGATED FOR SALE TO HOBBYISTS AND SCIENTISTS. MANY ORCHIDS CULTIVATED TODAY ARE HYBRIDS, BUT SPECIES ORCHIDS ARE STILL AVAILABLE. NONE OF THE ORCHIDS GROWN BY MRS. REYNOLDS HAVE SURVIVED, BUT, BY COINCIDENCE, MR. BOGARD HAS CHOSEN SEVERAL OF THE ORCHIDS NAMED IN MRS. REYNOLDS' 1913 PRICE LIST FROM KNIGHT AND STRUCK COMPANY OF NEW YORK FOR THE CURRENT COLLECTION. THEY ARE *Cattleya percivaliana*, *C. harrisoniana*, *Dendrobium nobile*, *Laelia anceps*, *Oncidium varicosum*, *O. flexuosum*, *O. ornitho-rhynchum*, *O. marshallianum*, *O. splendidum*. HERE, HE HOLDS AN *Oncidium varicosum* IN BLOOM.

adding his own orchids to others that had already been donated. By continuing to add a few plants at a time, disposing of those that failed to thrive, he has built a remarkable collection, now totalling over six hundred plants, in the fifteen years he has served as volunteer curator of orchids. The collection contains orchids representing every major group, from environments all over the world. Mr. Bogard says he "strives to maintain a balanced, diverse collection so people can see the whole range of orchids." In locating spots in the greenhouse where he can meet plants' individual needs, Mr. Bogard has filled every nook and cranny with orchids. Orchids are crowded together on risers and in flats in the conservatory, hanging from rafters and support beams in the growing houses; they grow on bark slabs and in pots.

Mr. Bogard usually tends the orchids in the early morning, following his shift at Forsyth Memorial Hospital, where he is a staff R. N. with the cardiovascular surgery unit. His attention to regular watering, fertilizing, checking for and treating problems, and repotting keep the collection in top shape. Each year, he conducts an auction of divisions and donations to support the care of the collection and the purchase of new plants.

Even with the specialized knowledge he brings to his work, growing orchids in the greenhouse has been a challenge at times. High temperatures in the summer and cool, damp conditions in winter have led to development and spread of disease and fungus on some plants. Now that the old, unpredictable heating system has been replaced, solving many problems that have been developing during cold weather, he looks forward to the future of the collection. He says, "The next five years will be exciting as the collection reaches its potential. People are going to see exciting things happen."

Sharing knowledge about orchids, helping others appreciate their beauty, is as much a passion for Mr. Bogard as caring for the plants. Based on his experience with the orchid society in Wisconsin, he suspected that there would be

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ORCHID COLLECTION

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similar interest here. He was a founder of the Triad Orchid Society, chairing the first meeting held at Reynolda Gardens in 1983, and remaining active in the organization in the years since. The Orchid Society has grown dramatically over the years, and, even though home base for the group has been moved to Greensboro, members come back to Reynolda to display their choice plants at a special show every December.

In the past, Mr. Bogard judged some regional shows and took Reynolda Gardens orchids to others, where they consistently received high honors. He and his wife Claire made the trips a family affair when their children were small. Now that his sons are older, with activities of their own, he has less time to travel, but expects to get back to it someday. In the meantime, while he works in the greenhouse, he says he enjoys overhearing visitors as they ooh and ahh over the orchids, showing appreciation for the plants. "I know that what I'm doing means something. I'm not a wealthy man. I can't donate money. But I do have time and expertise. Sometimes that's more valuable than money."

ORCHIDS FOR HOME GROWERS

BY ATTENDING Mr. Bogard's popular classes and workshops and making frequent visits throughout the year to see the plants in bloom, plant lovers have become fascinated with the collection. Often, visitors ask Mr. Bogard to recommend orchids they can grow at home. After years of trial and error, he has come to recommend members of only one genus. He says that *Phalaenopsis*, or moth orchids, natives of Indonesia, Indochina, and the Philippines, have proved to be the easiest of all orchids to grow in the home environment. In fact, they have become the most popular orchids in commerce all over the world in the last decade. Hybridizers are producing new cultivars rapidly, so many colors and forms are now available. Moth orchids should be potted in a peat-based mix,

then given the same conditions as African violets, receiving bright but filtered light. Because they are susceptible to water damage, it's important to water well, drain, then wait until the mix is almost dry before watering again. Fertilize once a month with one half teaspoon 15-16-17 fertilizer per gallon of water, being sure not to let fertilizer dry on leaves. 🌱



FALL 1996, THE JAPANESE CEDARS HAVE BEEN REMOVED, RECONSTRUCTION OF GARDEN WALLS IN PROGRESS.



FROM LEFT: RICK CATES AND JED DANIEL OF SEAGER WATERPROOFING INC. DISCUSS THE WALL PROJECT WITH A. CHESTER "CHET" THOMAS, ASLA OF THE JAEGER COMPANY.

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Robert Andrew Fouts
Walter Henley
Lawndale Garden Club
Mrs. Rebecca R. Porterfield
Mrs. Robert W. Prichard
Dr. and Mrs. Gerald Taylor
Town and Country Garden Club
Virginia Weiler
Dr. Richard B. Weinberg
John C. Whitaker, Jr.

VOLUNTEERS

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Joe Boroff
Toby Bost
Stephanie Brooks
Barbara Bryant
Llewellyn Churchill
Jennifer Cannino
V. Cheatwood
Kit Cutrone
Pam Faino
Charlie Frost
Roger Galloway
Karen Harris
Lynn Hawks
Mary Ruth Howard
Andrea Hupert
Donavan Jackson
Billye Keith Jones
Vince King
Cynthia Leonard
Eleanor Leverenz
Susan Lounsbury
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James Mitchell
Helena Mockov
Dr. Lewis C. Mokrasch
Lea Nading
John Newman
Dina Nieuwenhuis
Richard Patterson
Margie Persico
Ken Putnam
Ellen Reynolds
Dawn Rodgers
Jane Rogers
Judy Scurry
Shirley Smith
Janet Snow
Doug Turner
Carolyn Wallace
Laura Warren
Neil Wilcox
Beverly Wilson
Winston-Salem Rose Society
Bill Wise
Diane Wise
Wayne Wright
Missy Yelton

RESTORATION
in PROGRESS —
THE POST LAMP
FIXTURES

by John Kiger,
building superintendent

As the renovation continues, attention is directed to the six post light fixtures located at the north, east, and west steps with two fixtures at each set of steps. With regard to authenticity and safety, it is important for these fixtures to be restored and fully operational. For this project, we contacted Gene Collins, project manager for Salem Electric Company of Winston-Salem. Upon inspection, Mr. Collins documented outdated wiring, missing or broken globes, and many layers of paint on the fixtures.

As each fixture was removed for restoration, we were amazed to find that each one was five and one half feet in length, with only two and one half feet protruding above ground. A brass plate connected to the base of each fixture indicates that they may have been hand crafted out of cast iron by the Smyser-Royer Company of York and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The process of refurbishing the fixtures began with removal of existing paint and determination of the original color. The Frank S. Welsh Company, architectural coatings consultants of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, reported that the fixtures were originally painted very dark green. Piedmont Sandblasting and Paint Company of Greensboro, North Carolina, will remove old

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PLAN A, SEPTEMBER 25, 1917
A MODERN ROSE GARDEN

by Camilla Wilcox, curator of education

TO LOVE A GARDEN planted eighty years ago is to see beauty in a design created before many of the horticultural advances we take for granted were developed. Today, we are accustomed to seeing rose gardens filled with modern hybrids that produce flower colors, shapes, and sizes in almost endless variety. New introductions seem commonplace to us, even though each is still the result of many years of making crosses, testing, waiting, judging, and propagating, just as it was in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Interest in new plants and specialized horticultural technique was high as the century began. The process of hybridizing plants for commercial trade was still relatively new and hybridizers were introducing new plants to a booming trade at a steady rate. Rose introductions were especially varied and exciting. Roses in

new forms and colors, developed by a few major nurseries in France, Germany, and the British Isles, quickly reached the American trade. American nurseries, including the Dreer Nursery in Philadelphia, which sold many of the roses and other plants used in the Reynolda gardens, produced and distributed their own rose introductions.

The rose gardens designed by Thomas Sears in 1917 for two square plots totalling 720 square feet in size near the greenhouse were to contain a total of 1,739 rose bushes. From photographic evidence of the early 1920s, it appears that fewer than that number were actually planted, but the finished gardens retained the original form. In each, grass paths separated smaller segments edged with boxwood cuttings. Pink-flowered saucer magnolias were planted in each of the eight corners. Rose standards were special features. A boxwood hedge surrounded the entire sunken garden. A line of Japanese weeping cherry trees beside the hedge helped define the sunken garden. Like the other flower gardens of Reynolda, the rose gardens were designed to provide the longest possible period of bloom.

Today, it would be impossible to recreate the rose garden of 1917. While some plants could be obtained through specialty nurseries in America and abroad, many have been lost to trade. Of the remainder, some of the cultivars are parents of today's hybrid roses that have been superseded by their improved offspring. Only a few are still available in their early form. Even though the rose gardens will not be restored, the horticultural concepts represented are of interest because of the period in which they were designed and because they embodied the concepts that defined all of



AN EARLY VIEW OF THE WEST ROSE GARDEN.

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OLD ROSES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Reynolda - mixing the best of the old with the latest innovations to create a new, modern environment.

THE WEST ROSE GARDEN, close to Reynolda Road, was a modern garden, planted mostly with hybrid teas and new introductions of older types. Two of the latest hybrid teas, 'Radiance' (1915) and 'Ophelia' (1912) and a new polyantha 'Echo' (1914) were included in the design. Unfortunately, many of the hybrid tea cultivars specified for this garden have been lost, among them 'Countess of Ilchester' (1909), 'Laurent Carle' (1907), and 'Miss Cynthia Ford' (1910). Plants in this garden were similar in size and habit, giving a bed effect. Almost all flowers were shades of pink.

The hybrid perpetual 'Frau Karl Druschki' (1901) in this garden, also known as 'White American Beauty', was a special favorite of Mrs. Reynolds. In a 1912 letter to the Lord and Burnham Company outlining her plans for the new greenhouse, she emphasized her desire to grow this particular rose by saying that she would need room for "medium-sized compartments for American Beauty roses, [other] roses, and carnations."

A white tea rose, 'White Maman Cochet' (1896), a popular cutting flower during the period, was included here. Four standards of the polyantha 'Mrs. W. H. Cutbush' (1907), with flowers of delicate coral pink, were in the center of the garden, accompanied by plantings of the polyantha 'Cécile Brunner' (1880), and 'Echo'.

IN THE EAST GARDEN, closer to Reynolda House, rose cultivars were a mix of old and new. The design of this garden, more than the other, recognized the fashion of an earlier time. It featured hybrid perpetual roses that had been popular in the late Victorian period. 'Baronne Adolphe de Rothschild' (1868) was an early hybrid perpetual. 'George Dickson' (1912) was introduced near the end of the hybrid perpetual's popularity. There were six other cultivars of hybrid perpetuals in this garden.

But in this garden, the newest cultivars of old favorites were given prominent space, too. Many had been in trade less than twenty years, including the polyantha 'George Elger' (1912). The delicate tea roses from China that had been introduced to western gardeners in 1810 were represented by cultivars 'Marie van Houtte' (1871), 'Alexander Hill Gray' (1911, also known as 'Yellow Maman Cochet'), and others. Standards of the rambler 'Tausendschön' (1906, translates 'Thousand Beauties') anchored the four corners of this garden.

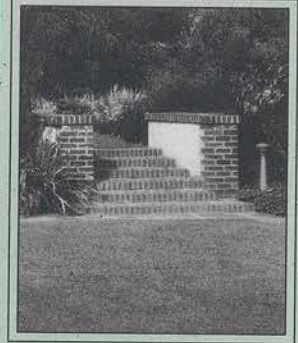
Flowers were more varied in color in this garden than in the west garden, ranging from pale yellow to cream, pink, coral, red, and apricot. Many were very fragrant and many were prized for cutting.

The teas, hybrid perpetuals, and Bourbons of this garden are fragrant and showy when in flower, but they often bloom only once a year. Some begin blooming early and bloom sporadically through the season, like the polyantha 'George Elger'. The tea rose 'William R. Smith' (1908) blooms late into the fall. Even considering the large number of plants in the east garden and their staggered blooming times, there would have been long intervals during which there was very little bloom without the addition of a few hybrid teas to give the garden a more continuous bloom. Among the hybrid teas was 'White Killarney' (1899), a popular florist rose of the 1910s. Others were 'Mrs. Arthur R. Waddell' (1909) and 'Kaiserin Auguste Viktoria' (1891). The hybrid tea 'Lady Pirrie' (1910) is among those that are no longer in trade.

OF SPECIAL INTEREST —

🌹 THREE ROSES, 'Tausendschön', 'Louise Walter' (1909), and 'Echo' shared genetic lines. In the east garden, 'Tausendschön' was underplanted with 'Louise Walter', a polyantha that resulted from a cross between a 'Tausendschön' rambler and a polyantha. Although it was smaller than its rambler parent, their pink flowers were similar. 'Echo', classed as

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paint, then repaint the fixtures the original color.

The second step in restoration is the recreation of the glass globes. The glass globes for each unit, which resemble cereal bowls without bottoms, will be hand blown by Mike Kennedy, owner/operator of Public Scientific Glass of Pfafftown, North Carolina. Once completed, the globes will be taken to Salem Art Glass of Winston-Salem to receive an inside etching that will give the globes the appearance of frosted glass.

The final step is to reinstall and rewire each unit. When restoration is complete, Mr. Collins will return the lamps to Reynolda Gardens and lay underground electrical lines to each one. Once the lines are laid, each unit will be placed back into the ground and rewired. 🌹

OLD ROSES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

a polyantha, arose as a sport of 'Tausendschön'. 'Echo' accompanied standards of 'Mrs. W.H. Cutbush' in a bed in the west garden.

🌹 COLORS OF ROSE FLOWERS have become varied through many generations of hybridizing. The introduction of a bright yellow rose in 1900 made it possible for hybridizers to increase the intensity of yellow and orange flowers. Although a few bright yellow hybrids were probably available by 1917, none of them were used in the Reynolda garden. Even though contemporary catalogs described the yellow roses used here as lemon or sulfur yellow, bringing to modern minds a bright yellow color, these roses today would be described as creamy shades of soft yellow.

🌹 'NEW DAWN' (1930) holds the first plant patent in the U.S. It arose as a sport of 'Dr. W. Van Fleet' (see glossary: pillar roses) in the nursery of Henry A. Dreer, Philadelphia, the company that supplied many of the plants for Reynolda.

🌹 ROSES FROM JAPAN AND CHINA introduced to the west in the early nineteenth century, crossed with roses of the European continent, became the parents of many of the roses familiar in today's gardens.

A LITTLE of REYNOLDA for your GARDEN

Of the 49 varieties of roses specified for these two gardens, most are difficult to find commercially, and some are no longer available in trade. These three are sold through mail order companies:

'Paul Neyron' (1869), a fragrant hybrid perpetual, is a large, gracefully arching plant with large deep pink flowers and large leaves.

'Frau Karl Druschki', (1901), sometimes listed as a hybrid tea, sometimes as a hybrid perpetual, has large white flowers with little scent. It is also known as 'Reine des Neiges', 'Snow Queen' and 'White American Beauty'.

'Mrs. John Laing' (1887), is a tea-scented hybrid perpetual with large, well shaped buds and shell pink flowers. It is a vigorous plant that blooms almost all season.

A ROSE GROWERS' GLOSSARY

BOURBON ROSES are known for their long bloom period and strong fragrance. They are large, full plants with gracefully cascading branches. There is only one bourbon rose on the plan, 'Grüss an Teplitz' (1897, translates 'Greetings to Teplitz'), planted alongside steps in the east garden.

CULTIVARS are plants that result from selective intervention in the natural process of cross pollination and seed production. Cultivars are named by the hybridizer.

HYBRID PERPETUALS first appeared around 1837. They were more cold hardy than tea roses. They were fragrant and bloomed at intervals throughout the season, often blooming late into the fall. Even though they often became lanky and ungainly in the Southern climate, they came in many beautiful shades of pink. Hybrid perpetuals were favorites in late Victorian gardens, but their use declined as the improved hybrid teas came into trade.

HYBRID TEA ROSES resulted from a cross between tea roses and hybrid perpetuals, combining the best features of both parents. The first hybrid teas appeared in 1867. These plants gave a new dimension to the rose garden by providing nearly continuous bloom throughout the growing season. Hybrid teas were valued for bedding purposes.

PILLAR ROSES are robust with sturdy canes, usually growing to a height of eight

feet. They were used in the Fruit, Cut Flower, and Nicer Vegetable garden on the upper level of the formal garden, not in the rose garden. The cultivar 'Dr. W. Van Fleet' (1910), specified on the plan, blooms only once a year unlike its sport, 'New Dawn' (1930), that blooms almost continually. 'American Pillar' (1902) and 'Excelsa' (1909, also known as 'Red Dorothy Perkins') were among pillar rose cultivars specified by Thomas Sears.

POLYANTHAS resulted from the chance hybridization of a multiflora from Japan in 1869. By 1881, 'Cécile Brunner' had been introduced into trade. This rose, often called 'Sweetheart Rose', was grown in the Reynolda garden and is still popular today. Polyanthas are small, sturdy plants that rarely grow over three feet tall. Flowers bloom in clusters, usually appearing only once a year.

A **sport** is a shoot that has characteristics different from those of the plant that produced it.

RAMBLERS bloom in the summer. They can be very robust, with long and flexible canes. Their flowers bloom in clusters.

STANDARDS are forms of plants trained to a tree-like shape, often supported on a frame. The east garden contained four large 'Tausendschön' standards in the corners under the saucer magnolias. A standard 'Baby Dorothy' (1910; also known as 'Maman Lavvasseur') specified for the center of the east garden apparently was never planted. The west garden contained four standards of the polyantha 'Mrs. W.H. Cutbush' in the center section.

TEA ROSES are natives of China that were introduced to the west in 1810. Their delicate stems often droop under the weight of flower clusters. Many tea roses are not hardy in cold climates, so they were often grown in greenhouses in cold climates. According to the 1917 newspaper account in the *Winston-Salem Sentinel*, roses were grown in the greenhouses of Reynolda, but varieties actually grown are unknown. 🌹

AARS WINNERS for your GARDEN

by Mary Chrestman, horticulturist



TIMELESS



SCENTIMENTAL



ARTISTRY

ALL-AMERICA ROSE Selections (AARS) is a non-profit association that supports rose research and helps promote rose plant sales for home gardens. A total of 900 plants representing 92 cultivars are displayed in the All-America Selections rose garden at Reynolda. Included in the display each year are roses that will be introduced to trade nationwide the following year. Seeing the plants grown under local conditions helps local gardeners decide whether or not to add the new roses to their own collections.

'TIMELESS'

Hybridized by Keith Zary and introduced by Jackson and Perkins, 'Timeless' is a deep rose-pink, nearly red hybrid tea offering four and one half inch flowers. Attractive dark green foliage sets off stunning blooms with the best show of flowers toward fall. Perhaps the winter of '96 contributed to late flower production. This is definitely one to consider adding to your rose collection.

'SCENTIMENTAL'

Reaching back in time to recapture the look and fragrance of the 1800s, 'Scentimental' offers small burgundy and cream candy-striped blooms. 'Scentimental' has the distinction of being the first striped rose to win AARS recognition in the hundred year history of striped roses. Unfortunately, the perky spice-scented flowers entertained us for only a few days. This rose is a floribunda hybridized by Tom Carruth from 'Peppermint Twist' and 'Playboy', introduced by Weeks.

'ARTISTRY'

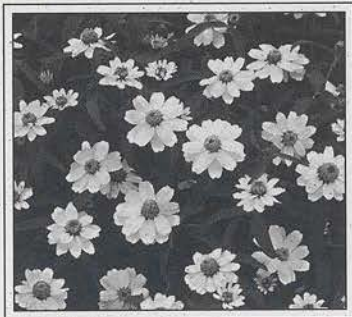
A true work of art, 'Artistry' painted the richest color with its subdued coral-orange blooms. This elegant hybrid tea reached five feet and produced classic, lightly fragrant blossoms that were great for cutting. Even though it was a bit slow to flower and rebloom, this rose will become a favorite. Another Keith Zary hybridization introduced by Jackson and Perkins. 🌹



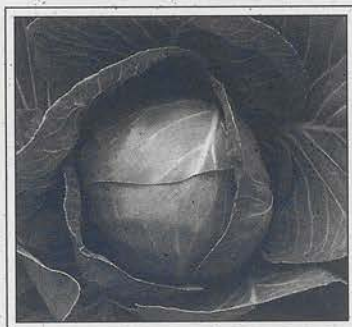
CHARLES M. (CHARLIE) FROST, WHO RETIRED FROM BROWN AND WILLIAMSON TOBACCO COMPANY IN 1968, HAS CARED FOR THE ROSES IN THE ALL-AMERICA ROSE GARDEN FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. THROUGH THE GROWING SEASON, HE SPENDS MANY HOURS EVERY DAY REMOVING SPENT BLOOMS FROM EACH PLANT, HELPING TO ENSURE THE HEALTH AND VIGOR OF EACH BUSH AND THE ENTIRE GARDEN. HE ANSWERS A WIDE RANGE OF QUESTIONS FROM CASUAL VISITORS, HOME GARDENERS, AND STUDENTS OF ROSE CULTURE. HE OFTEN OFFERS ENCOURAGEMENT IN ADDITION TO BASIC FACTS, PARTICULARLY FOR YOUNG GARDENERS JUST STARTING, OR HOPING TO START, ROSE GARDENS OF THEIR OWN. HE SAYS THAT, ALTHOUGH MOST VISITORS TO THE GARDEN LIVE IN THE AREA, HE HAS TALKED WITH SOME WHO HAVE COME FROM AS FAR AWAY AS AUSTRALIA, GERMANY, AND ENGLAND. MR. FROST HAS OBSERVED THE GROWTH HABIT AND CHARACTERISTICS OF HUNDREDS OF CULTIVARS OVER THE YEARS, BUT HE SAYS HIS FAVORITE ROSE IS STILL 'DOUBLE DELIGHT', AN AARS 1977 HYBRID TEA THAT IS KNOWN FOR ITS BEAUTY AND FRAGRANCE. THE PETALS ARE WHITE INSIDE, TRIMMED WITH ROSE PINK, BLOOMING PROFUSELY OVER A LONG PERIOD. HE SAYS, "IT REALLY DOES DO DOUBLE DUTY. A WONDERFUL ROSE."

ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS WINNERS for your GARDEN

by Kim Tilley, assistant superintendent



ZINNIA ANGUSTIFOLIA
'CRYSTAL WHITE'



'DYNAMO' CABBAGE

PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY
ALL-AMERICA SELECTIONS

ALL-AMERICA Selections is a trade association that tests new vegetables and flowers each year and introduces to the trade those the AAS judges believe exhibit superior qualities. Following is a summary of test results from the Reynolda Gardens site during the summer of 1996.

FLOWERS

Zinnia angustifolia 'Crystal White'

'Crystal White' is a compact annual that we used last summer in small garden areas. The plant's pure white flowers with striking yellow centers show up well from a distance. A compact growing habit makes it an excellent front-of-the-border or small container plant. It held up well in last summer's heavy rains. Fertilizing lightly about every four to six weeks with 10-10-10 keeps 'Crystal White' blooming late into the fall. This is a summer annual that no garden should be without.

Gypsophila muralis 'Gypsy'

'Gypsy' is one of those annuals that will become a yearly bedding or container plant for many gardeners. It is the first gypsophila to earn an AAS flower award, and deservedly so. 'Gypsy' will not grow as large as the perennial variety, staying about 14 inches in height. The plant blooms profusely in a single growing season, covered in soft pink blooms. 'Gypsy' received many compliments from the public last summer and is the Gardens staff's favorite of the AAS winners. The plant bloomed out early, but this may have been caused by heavy rains throughout the summer.

Celosia cristata — 'Prestige Scarlet'

'Prestige Scarlet' held up well in our test garden last summer. If you like celosia, or crested cockscomb, this one is worth trying. The plant is loaded with blooms, classifying it as a multiflora. Each plant reaches a height of 15 to 20 inches with

blooms and a width of three and one half feet. I like this variety because no staking is needed. It made my list of plants to grow as a cutting or drying flower in next year's gardening season. When buying, look for young plants with no flowers because plant growth tends to stunt if plants become rootbound before planting.

HERBS AND VEGETABLES

Thai basil 'Siam Queen'

Ocimum basilicum 'Siam Queen' is one of those plants with many desirable qualities. Some basilis begin flowering very early in the summer, causing them to diminish early in the summer, but 'Siam Queen' holds well late into the fall. If you're into cooking those wonderful Thai or Vietnamese dishes that are so fast becoming popular, this is one plant you should not be without. The smell is very intense and the taste is a wonderful licorice-basil. 'Siam Queen' can also be used as an ornamental plant. It is compact with reddish stems and purple flowers. Plant it for cooking, drying, or potpourri. Use it dried or fresh — you can't go wrong. If garden space is limited, use in pots or incorporate it into your summer annual or perennial gardens.

Cabbage F₁ hybrid 'Dynamo'

'Dynamo' will be on my list to plant for many years to come. It will surely become one of those favorites handed down from generation to generation. The plant is beautiful to grow and wonderful to eat. The bluish-green color really stands out in the early spring or fall garden. The size is perfect for the single person or the small family to eat for a single meal with no leftovers. Plants will mature in about 70 days from transplanting. Our plants grew to good quality size without splitting, in spite of a late spring and periods of early heat.

Okra F₁ hybrid 'Cajun Delight'

'Cajun Delight' is the only AAS winner I would not recommend. It neither held well in the garden, nor produced so prolifically as older, reliable okras like 'Clemson Spineless' or 'Candelabra', both of which give large yields in little space. 🌱

TOMATOES for EVERY TASTE

by Kim Tilley, assistant superintendent

THE TOMATO is highly esteemed as a delicious and nutritious food. With comparatively little care, tomato plants yield well and produce a succession of flavorful fruits over a long growing season. They come in all shapes, sizes, and colors, from red to pink, yellow, orange, purple, and white.

Tomato plants are of two types, determinate and indeterminate. These terms describe their growth habit and fruit production. Determinate or bush tomatoes are those that reach a certain plant height and then stop, with the majority of their fruit being borne in a four- to six-week period. Indeterminate varieties continue to grow and flower throughout the growing season, but they have fewer mature fruits at any one time than determinate plants. I like growing both types—determinates for large harvest at one time, and indeterminates for steady, full-season yields.

This past summer I tested some heirloom plants along with the newer hybrids because there is so much interest now in older varieties. A plant is called an heirloom if it is a variety or cultivar that is fifty years old or older. This is an evaluation of the performance of selected plants.

HYBRIDS

'Parks Whopper'

With excellent size, flavor, and disease resistance, this is one of the most popular varieties for the home garden. The firm fruits are red through and through, often larger than four inches in diameter, and produced from midseason until frost. Determinate.

'Lemon Boy'

Lemon yellow, not golden in color, this highly adaptable hybrid yields large, deeply oblate fruits, averaging six to eight ounces. With its slightly tangy taste and striking color, it adds inviting flavor and color to salads. Determinate.

HEIRLOOM

'Yellow Pear'

Vigorous vines produce high yields of two inch, yellow-skinned pear-shaped fruits with few seeds, slightly later than 'Red Pear'. Indeterminate.

'Red Pear'

One of the rarest of the heirloom varieties grown today, these hardy, medium-sized plants yield plenty of small, red, pear-shaped fruits with few seeds, perfect for salads, sauces, or pickles. This is a good plant for a small garden. One plant will produce many fruits. Determinate.

'Cherokee Purple'

Fruits are an unusual medium pink-purple with shades of brown, averaging eight to twelve ounces. They are round to oblate, with no cracking and are tolerant of common diseases. Good foliage cover prevents sunburn. Indeterminate.

'Prudens Purple'

Quite possibly the truest purple of the purple tomatoes, giving striking color to the garden. Small to medium-sized fruits are of a purplish-pink color, grown mostly as a novelty. Quality is inferior, but the taste is excellent. Indeterminate.

'Great White'

A magnificent, almost perfect, large white tomato that features low acidity and few seeds, this tomato also has good drought and crack tolerance. Fruits are protected under vigorous heavy foliage. An absolutely beautiful fruit, it is a great addition to a gourmet salad. Indeterminate.

'Pineapple'

Huge, uniquely patterned, beautiful, yellow-red striped fruits will certainly be the center of attraction in your garden and dinner table. Beefsteak type fruits are easily five inches in diameter and larger, orange-yellow in color, with red streaks in the meaty flesh, mild flavor and no green shoulders. Heavily foliated plants produce good yields. Indeterminate. 🍅



PLANTS for COLLECTORS — ORNAMENTAL GRASSES

by Preston Stockton, superintendent

MENTION GRASS and most Americans will think of mowers and string trimmers since most people associate grasses with lawns. This is not surprising, considering that in the United States there are 50,000 square miles of mowed lawn requiring an estimated \$30 billion a year to tend them. The general thought on grass is mow it or kill it, depending on its location in the landscape. But grasslands and wetlands have always played a vital part in world ecosystems. Grasses are the most important native and cultivated plant to man. Most of our important food crops — corn, wheat, barley, rice, oats, rye, and sugar cane — are grasses. Grasses also support grazing animals.

True grasses are in the Gramineae family, a large and complex group of plants with wide ranges of habitat. Ornamental grasses are grasses and grasslike plants such as sedges and rushes that are used chiefly for ornamental purposes. They also offer an extra benefit of attracting birds and wildlife for food and winter shelter. Today we have some wonderful choices of ornamental grasses for the Southern landscape that are easy to grow annuals and perennials that can easily find a place in every garden.

Adding grasses to the landscape tends to soften the appearance of the garden, giving it a more natural look. The gardener's focus will shift from color to form, texture, line, and seasonal interest. I grow many ornamental grasses in my own garden, and I especially love their movement in summer breezes and the reflection of the sun behind them, which is especially nice in the fall when the angle of the sun is low.

I say that the focus will shift from color, but you will be amazed at how many colors can be found in the foliage of the many varieties available. Most grasses bloom in late summer into fall, but just as many are grown for their foliage as for their bloom. There are hundreds of shades of green, gold, and yellow (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola', *Carex elata* 'Bowles Golden'), wine (*Pennisetum setaceum* 'Rubrum', *P. x* 'Burgundy Giant'), red (*Imperata cylindrica* 'Red Baron'), blue (*Panicum virgatum* 'Heavy Metal', *Helictotrichon sempervirens*), and variegated white with pink (*Phalaris arundinacea* 'Teeseey's Variety').

Ornamental grasses can be used easily in both formal and informal landscapes, but it is important to take great care when picking the proper variety for each site. The plants vary greatly in size and growth habit. In many cases where an ornamental grass looks out of place, the problem is not with the plant but with the planter. The best example of a grass that is commonly placed incorrectly is the poor, much maligned pampas grass, a magnificent plant when grown and placed properly, where it has plenty of room to grow up and out. Or think of the lovely maiden grasses (*Miscanthus spp.*) that are often slapped in around the take-out window of fast food restaurants. After two years, you are lucky to find the take-out area at all!

CULTURE

MOST GRASSES PREFER a sunny location. They are able to adapt to a wide range of soils, temperatures, and moisture conditions and are relatively pest- and disease-free. They require little soil preparation, although in our heavy clay they will establish more quickly and grow faster with improved soil. Once the plants are established, be sure to avoid giving them too much nitrogen, which will contribute to weak and floppy growth. Be sure to allow for good drainage. Water well until the grass becomes established which, under good conditions, should be quickly. Many grasses

have an accelerated photosynthetic ability that allows them to grow faster than other plants. Most are capable of growing to their mature size in one to two years.

Grasses are classified as either warm season or cool season, depending on when they are in active growth. It is important to know this information about a specific variety to help you determine when to plant and how to maintain. Warm season grasses grow best between 80° and 95° F. They grow quickly from spring through summer, bloom, then go dormant in the fall. They are best planted in early spring. Cool season grasses grow best in temperatures between 60° and 70° F. It is best to plant them in the fall in this area so they are well established going into the next summer. These plants generally bloom in the spring or early summer and are slow growing in the summer. They are native to areas with dry summers and often go dormant during the hot dry months, resuming growth when the temperature cools and fall rains begin. Cool season grasses are not so drought tolerant as the warm season grasses.

The single most important maintenance rule for growing healthy and attractive grasses is to cut back the foliage in the late winter or early spring before new growth begins. I love the wheat color and the rustling of the leaves and flower heads through the winter, so I try to wait as long as possible before cutting them back.

In nature, grasses burn regularly. This is good for the plants because it allows the sun to warm exposed soil around them and adds nutrients to the soil. But city gardeners are not allowed to burn, and county gardeners should take care as grasses burn very hot and can quickly get out of control.

PROBLEMS AND ETHICAL ISSUES

IN THE YEARS that I have grown and experimented with ornamental grasses, I have found that they are incredibly easy to grow and maintain and have an overwhelming

diversity of texture and movement and appeal at every season. Can you tell I'm hooked? But there are three problems that should be considered before purchasing plants.

FIRST, some varieties, like many perennials, need to be divided every five years, or they begin to lose their line and look ratty. For smaller varieties, this is no big problem. But for some of the larger specimen varieties, this can be a huge problem, one that calls for strength and determination and a good ax. Many varieties have leaves like razors, giving them a natural protection against foraging animals; long sleeves and gloves are a must.

SECOND, many spread by underground rhizomes and stolons and can be very aggressive. This does not mean that they have no place in the garden, it's just that a gardener needs to be aware and use care in placement. Actually, in some situations, this growth habit can be a plus, such as when securing slopes or naturalizing large areas. I have found the two biggest culprits to be the manna grass (*Glyceria maxima* 'Variegata') and the blue Lyme grass (*Elymus arenarius glauca*). I love the steel blue leaves of the Lyme grass, especially where it surrounds my blue gazing ball. For the first two years, I thought my clay soil was keeping it in check, but this year, I was horrified to find it popping out of one of my New England asters. It is a very good dune stabilizer at the coast. Mine may soon take a trip to the beach.

THIRD, and most important, there is a vital consideration if you live in rural areas near undisturbed native plant colonies. Many grasses spread by seed carried by birds, other animals, and wind. A small percentage of grasses can escape and dominate a natural system, choking out our native grasses. This situation is evident along Interstate 40 near Asheville, where maiden grass has escaped from Biltmore, over the years spreading throughout the natural landscape. Not only is this a fire hazard along the highway because of its naturally dense growth, but also because it has obviously overrun a wide range of native species. The *Encyclopedia of Ornamental*

Grasses compiled by John Greenlee lists grasses that are known to be weedy in certain climates and is an excellent general reference to ornamental grass selection and culture.

I have found the hardest part of growing ornamental grasses is finding them. Most of our local garden shops do not carry large selections except pampas, pampas, and more pampas. In the nurseries' defense, though, there is not a great demand at this time.

Grasses are difficult to maintain in containers and can look unattractive to buyers. I usually depend on mail order nurseries that offer a large selection and newer varieties.

SELECTED GRASSES for the NORTH CAROLINA PIEDMONT

PERENNIAL

Golden hakone grass

Hakonechloa macra 'Aureola'

Brilliant yellow foliage is streaked with green lines. Plants grow one to two feet tall in partial shade and moist, fertile soil.

Northern sea oats

Chasmanthium latifolium

This is a North Carolina native, but it is not the sea oat that is protected on our coast. It has bamboolike foliage and showy, drooping flowers. It grows two to three feet tall in partial shade and moist, fertile soil.

Foerster's feather reed grass

Calamagrostis arundinacea 'Karl Foerster'

This is a cool season grass that blooms in June. The foliage is two to three feet tall. Blooms are five to six feet tall. A good vertical accent, it needs sun and moist, fertile soil.

Korean reed grass

Calamagrostis arundinacea

var. *brachytricha*

This is a warm season grass and a fall bloomer, with fluffy pink blooms. It prefers full sun but will bloom in light shade in a moist, fertile soil.

Black fountain grass

Pennisetum alopecuroides 'Moudry'

This plant has lush green foliage and large black foxtail flowers. The foliage is 18 to 26 inches tall, with flowers 10 to 18 inches above foliage. It grows in full sun or light shade in any soil. Watch out — it's a prolific seeder.

Red switch grass

Panicum virgatum 'Haense Herms'

With compact, upright habit three to three and one half feet tall. It blooms in July, but this grass is most outstanding in the fall when it is a bright orange-red. It needs full sun but will grow in any soil.

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ORNAMENTAL
GRASSES IN WINTER CONDITION.

The *Gardener's Journal* continues a tradition that began in the early twentieth century, presenting up-to-date horticultural information to the public. The *Journal* includes advice for home gardeners on plant culture in the Piedmont region and helps readers understand the choice and care of the plants featured at Reynolda Gardens. Information is presented within horticultural and historical contexts.

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GRASSES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

'Heavy Metal' switch grass

Panicum virgatum 'Heavy Metal'

The stiff, metallic blue leaves, three to three and one half feet tall, are unusual. The summer flowers are held 12 to 16 inches above the foliage.

Purple moor grass

Molinia caerulea subsp. *arundinacea*

This is a member of a small group of Eurasian grasses and one of the showiest of all ornamental grasses. Its foliage is dense and clumping, two to three feet tall. Flower spikes are held high above foliage and sway in the slightest breeze. It needs full sun, good moisture, and rich soil. The best varieties are 'Skyracer', with flowers seven to eight feet tall, 'Windspiel', with flowers six to seven feet tall, and 'Staefa' with flowers four to five feet tall.

'Morning Light' Japanese silver grass

Miscanthus sinensis 'Morning Light'

This grass is five to six feet tall in flower. The silver variegated, very narrow leaves are a nice contrast with its reddish bronze flowers, blooming in October. It grows in full sun, any soil.

'Cabaret' Japanese silver grass

Miscanthus s. 'Cabaret'

A good specimen plant with wide foliage with white, linear striped centers. The six foot foliage is topped by copper-color flowers in September. Full sun, any soil.

Maiden grass

Miscanthus s. 'Gracillimus'

This is one of the oldest cultivars in the nursery trade but is still very popular. It's a beautiful dark green, with fine foliage six to seven feet tall in flower, blooming in September. Full sun, any soil.

ANNUALS

Purple fountain grass

Pennisetum setaceum rubrum

Burgundy foliage is topped by red-purple plumes that appear in June. The plant is four and one half to five and one half feet tall in bloom. A good grass to grow in pots. Full sun and moist, fertile soil.

Feathertop grass

Pennisetum villosum

This grass is distinguished by bright, slightly blue-green foliage that grows one to two feet tall. Its bright white, foxtail flowers appear in July and August. Full sun, any soil. 🌱

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