

Gardeners Told What Things to Watch to Avoid Plant Diseases

An ounce of prevention is worth far more than a pound of cure in plant disease control, says Dr. Arlen D. Davison, extension plant pathologist with The University of Arizona.

He says diseases of ornamentals take an annual toll of home gardens in Arizona simply because most gardeners have little idea how to control them.

"It's not an impossible chore to banish diseases from the garden," he said. He suggests these steps:

1. Select the proper location in which to grow specific flowers. Follow the directions on the seed package, those given by nurserymen and those in U of A circulars and bulletins.

2. Fertilize the garden properly, following suggestions in U of A circulars 242 and 243. Many diseases are less serious if plants are healthy and growing vigorously. Diseases are more likely to attack weak plants.

3. Use good seed of recommended varieties. It is not a good practice to save seed from last year's plants, because they may carry disease organisms.

4. Observe suggested planting dates and thin young plants to proper spacing.

5. Water so that the foliage does not get wet, or water early in the day so the foliage may dry completely before night. Sprinkling in mid-day often results in foliage burning. Don't handle plants when they are wet, because fungus and bacterial disease organisms spread easily in moisture.

6. Destroy plant residue to help prevent plant pathogens from overwintering and being present the next spring.

7. Control insects in the garden. Aphids and other insects spread virus diseases as well as weaken plants.

8. Use fungicides when necessary. When you do, follow the directions carefully for maximum benefit.

For leaf blights and spotting, Dr. Davison recommends the use of zineb 75 per cent wettable powder at the rate of 2/3 teaspoonful to one gallon of water. Spray at five-to-seven-day intervals. This also will rid your flowers of blossom blights.

On mildews on leaves and flower buds, use actidione PM, carefully following directions on the container. To help control root and crown rots,

use captan wettable powder, following directions on the container for a soil drench.

Publications which will help home gardeners can be obtained free from your local county agent's office.

Teen-Age Marriages Bring Many Problems

Arizona girls don't marry as early as the national average, but teen-age marriages still present perplexing problems in this state.

Mrs. Carol N. Doty, home economics extension specialist at The University of Arizona, points out that statistics show that 20 percent of all girls in Arizona get married between the ages of 15 and 19, compared to 53 percent of all American girls getting married in the 15 to 19 age group.

A recent study showed that between 44 per cent and 56 per cent of those marriages studied were forced by pregnancy. After three years of marriage, one out of every five of the

high school marriages had ended in annulment, divorce or separation.

What can be done to cut down on this high divorce and separation rate?

"For one thing," answers Mrs. Doty, "those of us who work with families must stop preaching anti-early marriage to those already there. After the marriage, all we can do is try to help make it a going concern.

"Young couples realize early in their married lives that they've got some problems they did not foresee. Many wish they weren't in the state they are in. So we must work with them where they are."

Feed Grains Up in 1963

Acreage, yield, production and prices of feed grains in Arizona were higher in 1963 than in 1962. Arizona produced 232 thousand tons of barley and 193 thousand tons of grain sorghum in 1963. This production level represents increases of 24 and 13.5 percent, respectively.

Intelligence, Love, Understanding Needed to Meet Children's Problems

V. A. Christopherson

The results of a study of more than a thousand letters written by troubled parents to a parent-advisory service revealed a number of interesting facts. One, central to the majority of problems described in the letters, was that a great many parents are poorly prepared, if not completely unprepared, to assume the responsibilities associated with parenthood.

To become a parent requires very little other than biology and emotion. To discharge the obligations of parenthood successfully, requires the best, the most constant, and the most intelligent effort of which parents are capable.

So vast is the ignorance and lack of concern on the part of hundreds and thousands of American parents, that the fact that so many children turn out as well as they do is a tribute to the resiliency of that very tough creature, Homo Sapien, Jr. By the same token, hundreds of thousands of par-

ents take their parenthood seriously and make a sincere and prolonged attempt to do their job well.

A Variety of Worries

Many of the parents who are concerned and who are trying their best, still have their share of problems. If the parents who were concerned enough to write letters requesting help are at all comparable to the many parents who try to iron out their own child-rearing difficulties, the categories of problems shown in the accompanying table are among those most troublesome to parents.

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