

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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Dr. Christopherson is a professor in the School of Home Economics.

**Percentage of Male and Female Children and Major
Child-Rearing Problems as Told by Parents**

Nature of the Problem	Total Number of Children	Sex Percentages			Median Age in Months
		Male	Female	Unspec- ified	
Emotional Problems	254	61	38	1	60
Play	195	64	32	4	51
Tensional Outlets	187	53	44	3	36
Miscellaneous	148	53	34	13	48
Sleeping	133	50	38	2	28
Family Relationships	127	46	39	15	42
Toilet Training	120	71	29	0	37
Discipline	106	70	27	3	41
Weaning and Eating	99	51	40	9	26
Sex	77	53	44	3	54
School	72	61	35	4	82
Fears	69	55	45	0	50
TOTAL*	1,587	58	37	5	45

The total number of males was 922; females, 584; and sex unspecified, 76.

Median

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Some of the problems about which parents also were concerned, but which are not included in the table, were matters of divorce, desertion, adoption, speech difficulties, mental and physical disability, pyromania, and other problems occurring in small incidence concerning the problem areas listed in the table.

Problems of perception would have to be considered the most frequent source of difficulty. Such problems are "seen" as problems by the parents, but the behavior or traits constituting such problems may not be so considered by doctors, psychologists, or well informed parents. For example, parents ignorant of the tendency for appetites to fall off about the second year of age, may see a problem existing when their two-year-old refuses to eat with the same enthusiasm characteristic of a few months earlier. Parents naive of the phenomena associated with the stage of negativism, commencing around the second year, wherein the child responds to almost every request with "no," will see a problem when their child moves into that normal and predictable stage.

Parents very frequently confuse the terms "average" and "normal". Many letters expressed concern over the "normality" of the child when he fell below the average of his age group with respect to some characteristic of growth or behavior. In short, knowledge of the developmental character-

istics of children in general would do much toward doing away with many of the problems that parents have with their children.

Common Sense Not Common

"Common sense" may serve one parent very well in her child rearing endeavors, but it may be the undoing of another. In short, common sense is fine if it is also good sense, which it is not a good share of the time. Nor will advice from "experts" necessarily lighten the load of beleaguered parents. Formulas are very unreliable in the human equation. A combination of genuine love, patience, intelligence and understanding will go far toward helping parents accomplish the difficult but rewarding job of rearing children to responsible and adequate adulthood.

Children who are loved, genuinely, are almost always happy children. Happy children are seldom problem children. It has been said that the single best criterion by which to judge successful parenthood is the obvious happiness, or its lack, in children. The patient parent has grateful children, for there is much to learn and to practice, and mistakes will occur. Patience is undoubtedly a cardinal virtue of parenthood from the standpoint of the child.

It Takes Intelligence

Intelligence applied to the complicated matter of child rearing is imperative. Intelligence to probe the dimensions of the situations that arise, to make fine but necessary distinctions and judgments, to find out about

the nature of the child — which is something quite different from that of the adult — to lead and facilitate the development of the child in consistent and acceptable directions; all this and much more is indicative of the intelligence that must be applied in order to fulfill parental obligations. Children need firm discipline, and those who do not receive it push for it by means of unacceptable behavior until some sort of discipline is forthcoming.

More than anything else parents need to understand the nature and needs of their children. They need to understand that the range of the normal is wide, and that each child moves through the same cycle of development, but each at his own rate and way. Parents need, however, to be alert to real problems when they arise, and they need to know where and how to obtain the kind of help needed.

Not every problem can be prevented by obtaining information. Undoubtedly, however, as indicated by the letters parents write requesting help, knowledge of the child, his ways, his nature, his development and his needs would give many parents the tools they need to fulfill their role better. Some of the sources of sound information for parents, are listed below.

Selected References for Additional Related Information.

BOOKS

- Baruch, Dorothy W. *NEW WAYS IN DISCIPLINE*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1949, 280 p.
- Baruch, Dorothy W. *NEW WAYS IN SEX EDUCATION*. New York: McGraw-Hill, 1959, 256 p.
- Beasley, Christine. *DEMOCRACY IN THE HOME*. New York: Association Press, 1954, 242 pp.
- Jenkins, Gladys G., et al. *THESE ARE YOUR CHILDREN*. (2nd ed.) New York: Scott, Foresmen, 1953, 320 p.
- Neisser, Edith G. *BROTHERS AND SISTERS*. New York: Harper, 1951, 241 p.
- Stone, Lawrence J., and Church, Joseph. *CHILDHOOD AND ADOLESCENCE*. New York: Random House, 1957, 456 p.

PAMPHLETS

- Public Affairs Pamphlets* (child guidance, family, marriage, and special family concerns) Twenty-five cents each. Fifty-four titles available. Address: 22 East 38 Street, New York 16, N.Y.
- Human Relations Aids* (pamphlets dealing with all age groups and all aspects of human relations). Address: 104 East 25 Street, New York 10, N. Y.
- Child Study Association of America, Inc.* (wide selection of pamphlets on all aspects of child rearing and development)