

The

REYNOLDA GARDENS  
of Wake Forest University

Summer  
2000

# Gardener's

JOURNAL

## The Year of the Peony at Reynolda Gardens

by Camilla Wilcox, curator of education

*A restoration of the garden bordering the greenhouses will begin in the fall. Gifts made in memory of Nancy Beck Johnson have made this project possible.*

We hardly think about peonies today at all, except in May when their exuberant and fragrant blooms fill the gardens around old houses. Taking years to establish and flower, they are often omitted



virginia r. weller

from today's hurry-up landscape designs. But in the early twenties, peonies were fixtures in all types of gardens. At Reynolda, they were placed in three separate gardens: They were the main attraction in the border along the greenhouse, mixed with many other perennials in narrow panels in the east lawn of the Greenhouse Gardens and incorporated into beds of annuals around the central axis of the Fruit, Cut Flower, and Nicer Vegetable Garden. Both tree-

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THE PEONIES IN THE FRUIT, CUT FLOWER, AND NICER VEGETABLE GARDEN HAVE BEEN A FAVORITE OF GARDEN VISITORS FOR MANY YEARS. SOON, THE BORDER ALONG THE GREENHOUSES WILL BE RESTORED TO ITS FORMER GLORY.

## Hot Work—Taking Care of the Greenhouse in the Summer

by Tom Pratt, greenhouse manager

Take one greenhouse. Add two fresh eggs. Mix in 100,000 foot-candles of summer sun and voila: two fried eggs. Hold the grits please.

Well, this is one way to look at your greenhouse this summer, but I also have some other ideas. It is a given that your greenhouse in the middle of the summer will be an uncomfortable place to be. I mean, would you like sitting in your frying pan? Even with this in mind there are many opportunities to be had.

### Housecleaning

If your greenhouse is like ours, dirt, grime, and algae tend to collect both on the inside and outside surfaces. This buildup is not only unsightly but also cuts down on photosynthesis within your plants. During those cloudy growing days, plants need all the rays of sun they can get. My suggestion is to put on your least favorite bathing suit, make up a chlorine bleach/water solution and clean away. While you're at it, the benches and floors will also benefit from a cleaning using the same solution. The mixture should be one part bleach in three to four parts water.

### Maintenance

Have you noticed any glass slippage, cracks, or tears in the greenhouse covering? The summer season is a good time to make any structural repairs. In glass greenhouses, single panes of glass can be replaced fairly easily. In polyethelene houses, good old duct tape will cover any cracks or tears temporarily; however, if the damage to the covering is too severe or the material is very weak from stress, make plans to reskin your greenhouse this summer.

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## Peonies

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gave interest to the garden in early May, just after many of the spring perennials finished blooming and before the roses began.

### The Greenhouse Garden plans

Thomas Sears' 1917 master planting plan for the Greenhouse Gardens indicated that the total design of the Greenhouse Gardens consisted of a series of five planting plans, each highlighting a selected area of the garden and listing the plants to be used there. Plan A was for the two rose gardens; Plan B, the Pink and White and the Blue and Yellow Gardens; Plan C, the borders surrounding the lawn of the sunken garden; Plan D, the borders surrounding the garden plus narrow flower beds in the lawn near the east pergola; and Plan E, the shrub border between the gardens and Reynolda Road.

During the restoration of the Greenhouse Gardens the Plans A, B, and C were available, but Plans D and E were missing. The Jaeger Company, landscape architects for the restoration, used Mr. Sears' architectural drawings for the Plan D area as the basis for reconstruction and rehabilitation of the walls and pergola, but without planting plans it was difficult to determine Mr. Sears' intent for the plantings in Plan D. Other documentation, such as photographs and invoices, was not sufficient to warrant an attempt at restoration of the plantings. Instead, the landscape architects recommended basing the replanting of most of the area on a plan signed by Thomas Sears in 1931, on which he suggested making changes in existing plantings to reduce the overall maintenance of the garden, namely replacing flowers with pachysandra in the perimeter borders and removing the narrow flower beds.

At the time of restoration, however, the staff was reluctant to remove the existing greenhouse perennial beds, which contained a number of established peonies in addition to a host of other plants. According to Preston Stockton, director of Reynolda Gardens, they were retained because "at a time when such a large area of the garden was under construction, it was encouraging to the staff and visitors alike to see a perennial garden in bloom. We hoped that, once the major restoration work was complete, we would be able to undertake this project. And, since we didn't have an original plan for it, there was really no hurry."

Plans discovered recently show that not one but two designs were drawn for the greenhouse border. The previously-missing 1917 Plan D, in which it was included, specifies a mixture of annuals and perennials probably grown as annuals: mums, stock, mignonette, marigolds, scabiosa, petunias, larkspur, annual vinca, and two peony varieties. Very early photographs seem to confirm that this border was planted. A second plan, solely for the greenhouse border, dated 1920, shows a new design in which the number of peony varieties is expanded to ten and all the other flowers are removed except for two varieties of chrysanthemums, one pink and one white. Two varieties of Japanese anemones are added, one pink and one white. The peonies, all herbaceous, are in shades of deep pink to white. Two boxwoods and two Japanese hollies from the first design remain on each side of the conservatory entrance.

Even before these plans were discovered, evidence of the presence of a long-lasting planting dominated by peonies was strong. Peony plants for Plan D are listed on an invoice signed by Thomas Sears in 1918, and some early photographs show them in the garden. Oral histories and photographs from later periods confirm that peonies persisted for many years. Irvin Disher Jr., the son of greenhouse manager Irvin Disher Sr., who served from the mid-1910s until the



LA TULIPE

virginia r. weiler

"Peonies! Peonies!  
Claret or rose,  
Cream-tinted, and pungent—  
Jubilant, joyous survivors  
Of fled winter snows.

—Unknown

Its dependableness has won for the Peony a secure place in the affections of most gardeners. Sturdily it reappears, year by year, true in form and color, a virtue not to be despised."

—The Garden Magazine, May 1921

early 1970s, recalls the presence of a peony border throughout his youth. Georgia Ann Cathey, former superintendent of Reynolda Gardens, remembers that there were established peonies in the border in the mid-1970s, when gardeners added other plants to create the forerunner of the perennial border now in place. Peony plants were not moved or removed then nor have they been moved or removed subsequently.

### Documentation and identification

Once the possibility was raised that these plants may have been part of the original planting, the next step was to document each plant to determine if indeed it matched in type and location to Mr. Sears' plan. (note: Two factors make this a useful exercise. In all instances where we have had occasion to match plans with early photographs and/or existing plantings, they have matched exactly, indicating that the initial execution of the Sears plan was very precise. Also, herbaceous peonies are typically long-lived plants, often lasting sixty or more years.) Photographs of the plants, keyed to a copy of the plan, form a record of the current planting. A positive identification of the plants is difficult, however, because of lack of additional information on them. Many varieties are unknown to modern growers and are not described in references, either current or historical. Only a few of the Reynolda peonies, such as 'Festiva Maxima', and 'Duchesse de Nemours' which were already old standards in 1920, are still popular and widely available today. More typical is the scanty information on 'Andre Lauries'. Mr. Sears described it only as "Deep-rose," and the Henry A. Dreer Catalog (from which many of the formal garden plants were obtained) listed it under "standard varieties, double herbaceous paeonies." It is not included in other references. Descriptions of some, referenced in multiple sources, were more complete, however, and tentative identifications could be made for them. Sources included *The Book of the Peony* by Mrs. Edward Harding, published in 1917 and *Peonies* by Allan Rogers, published in 1996.

### Replacements, substitutions, and a little of Reynolda for your home

Even though some of the original plants appear to be in the garden, many more are missing; the remaining plants would not fill the spaces once the newer plants were removed. Since information on some of the missing plants was sketchy, we knew that substitutions would have to be made in order to fill the space and recreate the appearance of the original border. We expanded the list of possibilities by including peonies that were used in two other places in the garden. We will use three that will were on the original border plan. All are *Paeonia lactiflora*, also known as "Chinese peony", varieties: 'Avalanche', 'Duchesse de Nemours', 'Festiva Maxima', all of which are predominately white. We will add *Paeonia officinalis* 'Rubra Plena', which is deep crimson. It was used in the 1921 design of the Fruit, Cut Flower, and Nicer Vegetable Garden. The two substitutes are 'Monsieur Jules Elie' and 'Sarah Bernhardt', both of which are pink. All of these are readily available from mail-order suppliers. A list of sources is available upon request for those who would like to grow these plants along with us.

This fall we will begin the actual removal of extraneous perennials and replanting the new border. Over the next several years, the peony border should regain its rightful place in the restored formal garden. 🍷

## Peonies for Your Home Garden

by Diane Wise, head horticulturist

As the restoration of the peony border in the formal garden will soon be a reality, perhaps this is a good time to discuss the cultivation and care of this popular plant. Peonies (*Paeonia*) are divided into two groups: tree peonies, which are really deciduous shrubs (lose their leaves in winter) and may reach up to six feet in height, and herbaceous peonies, which die (or get cut) to the ground each fall. We're going to concentrate on the latter since the landscape plan that Thomas Sears designed for Reynolda Gardens used this particular type of peony. People always seem to think that the more beautiful a plant, the more difficult it is to grow. In this case, it just isn't so. It may comfort you to know that peonies have existed for more than 100,000 years and are grown in temperate climates throughout the world. With a little instruction on my part and some simple effort on yours, they can become a wonderful addition to your garden, to be enjoyed for many years to come.

When I mention peonies to most people, their first reaction is to swoon. Not because of the flowers, which can be single, semi-double, or double and can be anywhere from three to nine inches in diameter;

or because of the flowers' colors which range from pure white to yellow to pale pink to magenta red to near-black, but because of peonies' wonderful fragrance. It's true; they *do* smell good. Not like a gardenia, daphne, or oriental lily with that sweet, overwhelming scent. Heady (as in "go to your...") is how my grandmother used to describe it, meaning anything that was simply *too* intoxicating for one's own good, whether it was a fragrance, an alcoholic drink, the harvest moon, or a particularly attractive man; but lighter, more floral, with a hint of lemon. Add that heavenly scent to the many



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Ken Bennett

THE RESTORED LORD AND BURNHAM GREENHOUSES AT REYNOLDA ARE FULLY UTILIZED THROUGHOUT THE FALL, WINTER, AND SPRING TO GROW PLANTS FOR THE GARDEN AND FOR SALES AND TO DISPLAY EDUCATIONAL COLLECTIONS OF TROPICAL AND SUCCULENT PLANTS. IT IS IMPORTANT TO ATTEND TO ROUTINE MAINTENANCE DURING THE SUMMER, WHEN THE HOUSES ARE RELATIVELY EMPTY.

## Greenhouses

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Now too is the time to check the heating system of your greenhouse. The summer months are a good opportunity to do any necessary repairs or tuneups, or maybe it's even time to upgrade to a better more efficient system. There have been significant improvements in heaters for greenhouse use in recent years.

### Planning

Granted, July and August are better for vacations than for growing in your greenhouse; however, by planning now for the future in your greenhouse you will be ahead of the game. It's easier to plan ahead than to try to work with space and furnishings that don't meet your needs. Greenhouse plans should include:

- ☺ Deciding on future garden crops. What plants would you like to grow, when will you plant them, and how will you grow them? You might want to start a fall crop of marigolds or broccoli, for example. You'll need to start them in mid-July to early August, then you'll need room to grow them in flats before setting them out.
- ☺ Changing out or adding to your tropical collection. It seems each year I hear about new and better tropicals. Various mail order catalogs will help you decide. This year my favorite new plants in the conservatory are the banana shrub, which is not a banana at all but the magnolia *Michelia figo*, and the angel's trumpet *Brugmansia sp.*
- ☺ Thinking about making structural changes to your greenhouse? It may be time to add new benches or just remodel the old ones. Now imagine your clean greenhouse with all maintenance and repair work done. Maybe you've even taken the time to plan for your fall garden crops and a new potting bench. Just one more question remains: What to prepare for lunch? Fried eggs of course. ☺

## Peonies for home

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other wonderful things about peonies, and you have a winning combination!

So what are the wonderful things about peonies? How about attractive foliage, with large, nicely divided, dark green leaves; or the fact that peonies combine nicely with other perennials and woody plants; or a growth habit that results in a nice clump about three feet tall by three feet wide; or a tolerance to drought that can be particularly helpful during our long, hot summers. So, just as I helped you with your ferns in our last *Gardener's Journal*, I'll help you with your peonies in this one.

First, peonies like full sun, but they can grow successfully in some shade if they have about six hours of sunlight daily. Second, they need good drainage. Third, peonies must have a winter chilling of roughly thirty to sixty days with night temperatures around freezing in order to flower. Peonies should be planted in the fall for bloom the following spring; however, if you get a great deal on a peony in the spring, buy it. Planting in the spring is perfectly okay. It will just take a little longer to get those wonderful flowers. Be sure to place your peonies exactly where you want them. Unlike many perennials, they resent being moved and will punish you if you move them. Keep in mind that these are large plants and space them accordingly, about two feet apart. The average peony should be planted in a hole at least fifteen inches deep by thirty inches wide. It is important not to plant them too deep, as peonies grow from thick, tuberous roots topped by crowns from which the buds or "eyes" emerge. If the eyes are too far below the surface of the soil, a peony will fail to bloom. For that reason, it is safest to plant so that the top eye is no more than one inch below the soil surface. Remember, a peony will compensate when planted too high, but not when planted too low. Keep the plant well watered until it is established, as you would any newly planted perennial. Begin feeding it the following fall with a balanced fertilizer. After a heavy frost, you may cut the peony to the ground, but you should not cut it back earlier than this, even if the foliage is unsightly. Do not cover the crown with mulch; it is unnecessary in our moderate climate. You will notice the new eyes begin to emerge in mid- to late-February. At flowering time in the spring, feed the peony with fertilizer, followed by another application in late fall. This schedule should be repeated each year.

To get the best selection, you may wish to contact a reputable mail-order peony nursery. The variety available is amazing. You can expect to pay anywhere from ten to eighty dollars for named cultivars. That's very reasonable, considering that peonies can be some of the longest living perennials around; fifty years is not unheard of. Imagine, such a small investment for fifty years of beauty, color, and fragrance. What a deal. ☺



## Fascinating Marigolds

by Joe Grigg, *horticulturist*

Though the name marigold is common to both plants, *Tagetes lucida* (Mexican marigold) and *Tagetes patula* (French marigold) are two very different plants with two very different uses. Both offer flowers with the yellow or yellow-orange hues commonly associated with the marigold plant, but they also provide special characteristics that I think you will find interesting.

The Mexican marigold is a herbaceous plant that provides a stiff, upright structure for the middle of the herb bed. The plant generally grows from eighteen to twenty-four inches in height and will spread the equivalent. Mexican marigold is native to Mexico and Guatemala and is hardy to zone eight. Because of the marginal hardiness, one will want to grow it as an annual.

The leaves are thin and narrow and have a sweet, anise scent when crushed. They may be used in potpourri or as flavoring in dishes requiring a substitute for French tarragon (*Artemisia dracunculus* 'Sativa'). Keep this in mind because French tarragon grows poorly in the South due to acidic soil. Mexican marigold has also been used as an insect repellent. For best results, dry the leaves and stems together and burn them like incense.

The flowers develop in flat-topped clusters and are, of course, yellow. The plant flowers in late summer to early fall on upright stems. Occasionally, the plant may become leggy. If this occurs, simply cut it back to five or six inches above the crown, and the plant will rejuvenate.

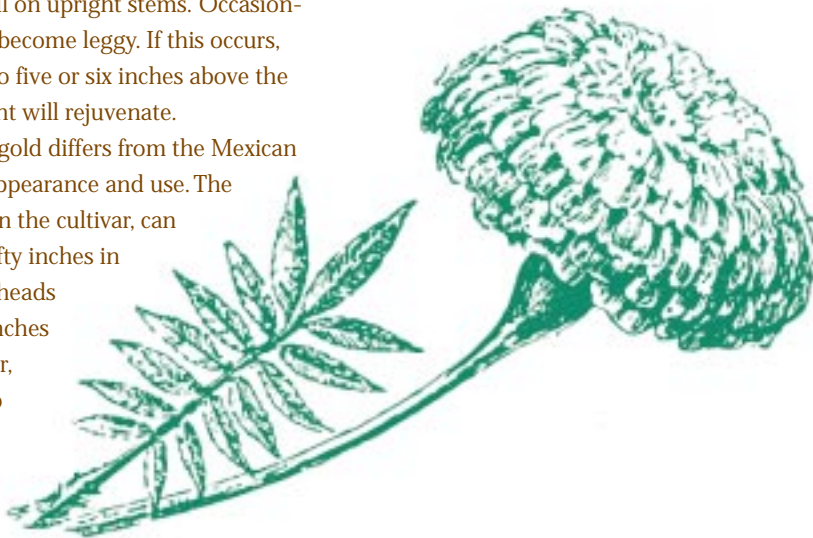
The French marigold differs from the Mexican marigold in both appearance and use. The plant, depending on the cultivar, can range from six to fifty inches in height. The flower heads can measure two inches or more in diameter, in sharp contrast to the Mexican

marigold's small flowers. The sharply-toothed leaves provide visual interest and texture.

What is so interesting about this common marigold? It is surprisingly useful in the garden. French marigolds are now being used as a biological control for soil nematodes. Nematodes are transparent, microscopic, worm-like, animals that feed on plant roots or foliage. Symptoms of nematode damage on above-ground plant parts are stunted growth, wilt, and leaf discoloration. Because these are common responses to many other environmental factors, it can be hard to diagnose a nematode infestation. Characteristic symptoms occur on plant roots, requiring that they be physically examined. Annuals will have large, fleshy galls while perennials will have small, hard galls. Infected sections of roots may appear ten times as large as uninfected sections.

To control nematodes, one must plant solid beds of marigolds twelve inches apart in May and allow them to stay there for three to four months. Once fall arrives, remove the foliage and till in the remaining root system. The roots are the source of chemical control; they emit three compounds that are toxic to nematodes. For best results, plant the cultivars 'Nema-gone', 'Petite Harmony', or 'Petite Gold'.

**Tip:** Marigold plants or seeds planted now will bloom in late summer and fall, giving a needed boost to the garden when other annuals are beginning to fade. ☺



### Twin City Garden Club sponsors horticulture intern

Lisa Phillips, a horticulture student at Forsyth Technical Community College, is spending the summer learning more about her special interests—perennial gardening and landscape design—at Reynolda Gardens, thanks to the Twin City Garden Club. The donation of Ms. Phillips' internship, and spring internships for other students in 2001 and 2002, is the latest in a long list of connections the club has with Reynolda.

The organizational meeting, held at Reynolda House in the early 1920s, brought together many civic leaders who shared a love of gardening and a commitment to serving the community. Over the years, the club has actively supported many local projects, but, according to member Germaine Culbertson, the group has always retained a special fondness for Reynolda. In addition to many other gifts through the years, members currently maintain the wildflower garden near the pond. ☺

## Selected Salvias *for the Home Garden*

by Preston Stockton, *director*



*S. GUARANITICA* 'PURPLE MAJESTY'



*S. FARINACEA X LONGISPICATA*  
'INDIGO SPIRES'

**"A favorite annual for bed or border is the Flowering Sage (Salvia), which is remarkable for its sturdy, bushy growth and freedom of bloom and keeps the garden bright with color from July until smitten by frost. The best of the Scarlet Sages are *S. splendens* and *Bonfire*."  
—*Garden Guide, The Amateur Gardeners' Handbook, 1925***

Something very interesting has happened in gardening in the past five or six years. For some reason, gardeners have started turning up their noses at annuals. The Reynolda staff maintains the island bed in at the front entrance to Reynolda Village, and for the last several years have planted it totally in annuals. The public seems to like this planting, and we get many inquiries about it every year. Yet when we tell people that all of the plants are annuals, they get a pained expression, roll their eyes, and immediately lose interest. Let's be honest. These folks are the worst kind of perennial snobs. It doesn't matter that the bed is full, diverse, colorful, long blooming, and attracts bees, butterflies, and hummingbirds. Nope. They're not going to have to plant every year. Too much trouble. And these people call themselves gardeners. They do not realize that they are leaving out this whole world of new and exciting plants. The annuals that we grow today are not the old tired petunias and impatiens of yesterday. As a matter of fact, the Reynolda staff got so tired of the public ignoring the wonderful annuals we have offered for years at the spring plant sale, that we decided to have a separate annual lecture and sale. Local gardeners need to know that these plants are certainly worth growing even if they have to be replaced every year.

Now everyone who knows me knows that I will never give up my perennials. But I do love to mix in some of these great annuals with them, and many are super for pots. Salvias are rapidly growing in popularity and include some of our best summer blooming annuals and perennials. Here at Reynolda, we have grown many different species and varieties of ornamental salvias. We try new ones every year, and we all agree that some of the most beautiful ones are annual. They grow fairly rapidly. Annual varieties may reach five to six feet in one season, but there are many that stay low enough to use in the front of bed. Most have brilliantly colored flowers and attractive foliage, which is often scented.

Basically, they are very easy to grow. Most of them need full sun. The notable exception is *Salvia koyamae*, which needs light shade. They must have good drainage or they will rot off at the ground. This is a key to growing them in this area because of the clay soil. Remember to add plenty of organic matter to the soil in areas where you want to grow these plants. They are fairly drought-tolerant, but do not keep them too dry or they will not grow and bloom to their full potential. Be sure to fertilize lightly several times during the growing season. To encourage continuous bloom, it is best to remove spent blooms. To assure plants for next season, all of these plants root easily from softwood cuttings taken in the fall and overwintered inside, but for most home gardeners it is easier to purchase new plants every spring.

There are hundreds of salvias available today, but let me suggest a few that we especially like to grow in this area and that are ones that we sell at Reynolda each spring. (I hate to get everyone fired up on plants that are hard to find.)

☺ ***S. leucantha*, Mexican bush sage**, is one of my favorite annuals. It grows three to four feet tall with a three-foot spread. It flowers in the late summer to early fall with six- to twelve-inch fuzzy violet-purple spikes with small, white flowers. They are good for cut flowers and easy to dry. The variety 'All Purple' has purple flowers that match the purple calyces (flower part that holds and protects the remaining petals). The leaves are narrow, gray-green with whitish undersides and white fuzzy stems. It likes full sun and is heat-tolerant. It is fairly drought-tolerant once it is established. It can survive winters that do not get below twenty-five degrees.

☺ ***S. 'Indigo Spires'*** is an outstanding chance hybrid (meaning crossed by Mother Nature) between *S. longispicata* and *S. farinacea*. It rapidly grows into a small shrub three to four feet tall and as wide. It begins blooming in early summer and continues until frost. The flowers and calyces are a deep violet-purple in whorls on long and curling flower spikes. It also is a good cut flower and good for drying. The foliage is smooth and light green. This plant should be grown in full sun. Be sure to fertilize monthly and water well to keep it growing and blooming. Because it grows so rapidly, it is good to prune it for shape after planting.

This plant is probably hardy to twenty degrees.

☺ A salvia that prefers to be grown in afternoon shade is *S. splendens* 'Van Houttei'. This plant grows three to four feet in height and width and begins blooming in late summer and continues through to frost. The flower stalks are showy terminal clusters of deep burgundy-maroon and orange-red flowers and calyces. It is stunning in the fall. This is a plant that, if you like it, you really like it. One fall I had a call from a visitor from Tennessee who saw this plant and just had to have it for her garden. The next spring a friend bought a few plants at our sale and sent them to her. Luckily today this plant is much more readily available. The leaves are thin and heart-shaped. Yellow foliage indicates lack of fertilizer or too much sun. This plant needs plenty of water and regular fertilization.

☺ *S. guaranítica* 'Costa Rica Blue' is the tallest salvia we grow at Reynolda. It can grow up to six feet in one season, so be sure to put it in the back of your bed. I often cut it back a few times after planting to get it to branch a little, but it still shoots right up. Many of the *S. guaranítica* varieties are hardy in this area, but we have not found this to be true of this one. It has a large terminal cluster of deep blue flowers in the early fall that are very showy. The foliage is deep green and has a nice scent. After we sold this plant last year at the plant sale, many people told me how well it did and asked us to offer it again. This variety needs full sun and water during hot, dry periods.

As salvias have grown in popularity and with the rapid increase in available species and varieties, we have found that there is a lot of confusion with their nomenclature. Luckily in 1997, Timber Press published *A Book Of Salvias* by Betsy Clebsch. This is an excellent and beautiful book that anyone with an interest in salvias must own. ☺




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## Food for Thought

by John Kiger, assistant director

Hunger, as defined by Webster's Dictionary, is a "craving or urgent need for food or a specific nutrient." Fortunately for most of us, that need is easily fulfilled; however, according to statistics provided by the U. S. Government, thirty-five million Americans are deemed "food insecure," which equates to one out of ten families in the United States that cannot meet their basic food needs. Classifications of those in need of assistance are children, working poor, disabled, and elderly.

These are startling facts, I am sure you will agree; however, there are ways in which we gardeners can help. Recently, while browsing through a gardening magazine, I noticed a simple statement: "Plant a row for the hungry." The Garden Writers Association of America uses this phrase to inspire gardeners throughout the country. Imagine, if all gardeners planted one row and donated it to a food bank some of those in need may fulfill their craving. I wondered if Reynolda Gardens could play a role in alleviating hunger in Forsyth County.

Reynolda's vegetable garden consists of approximately 9,000 square feet of gardening space that Joe Grigg, numerous volunteers, and I maintain. Generally, the volunteers and staff reap the benefits of what they have planted, and quite often garden visitors may be invited to take some leftover goods. After reading that statement I mentioned above, I talked with the Gardens director, volunteers, and other staff members about allocating a twenty-five by forty-five foot plot that the staff and volunteers would plant, with the produce donated to the Second Harvest Food Bank. Everyone was in agreement; it was a wonderful idea.

The mission of the Second Harvest Food Bank is to reduce hunger in the eighteen northwest North Carolina counties by distributing donated foods, supplementing supplies donated by churches and

In the early years of Reynolda, visitors came for advice and help with food-growing and preparation, as illustrated in this excerpt of an invitation to the public from the local cooperative extension agent. "...a group of farmers and dairymen will...visit the dairy of the Reynolda farm...to see how Mrs. Reynolds will aid her neighbors to can perishable products during the summer, using the steam sterilizer."  
—Winston-Salem Journal  
June 9, 1917

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PUBLISHED TWICE YEARLY BY  
REYNOLDA GARDENS OF  
WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY

Communications about Gardens development should be addressed to Preston Stockton. Correspondence concerning *The Gardener's Journal* should be addressed to Camilla Wilcox, editor.

A calendar of events is published separately in January and September.

Layout by David Fyten

For a list of sources for plants mentioned in *The Gardener's Journal*, please send a SASE to Reynolda Gardens, 100 Reynolda Village, Winston-Salem, NC 27106.

## Food for Thought

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other nonprofit organizations, and by educating the public about the nature of and solutions to hunger. The vegetable gardens are already used to demonstrate how home gardeners can grow their own fruits and vegetables. By adding this garden, we are also able to show gardeners how they can help in this important mission.

Our local Second Harvest Food Bank, located at 3655 Reed Street in Winston-Salem, is one of six agencies in North Carolina and was established in 1982. A 34,000 square foot warehouse contains a 19,200 cubic foot freezer and a 16,200 cubic foot cooler. Donors such as T. W. Garner, Winn-Dixie, Lowes Foods, Bi-Lo, and others contribute to keep this vast warehouse full. Even though corporations contribute large quantities, donations large and small from individuals are greatly needed. When I asked Nan Holbrook, director of operations for Second Harvest Food Bank, what their needs were and what is generally received from donating individuals, she shared a recent survey that was administered internally throughout the North Carolina agencies to determine what produce was needed for the upcoming gardening season. The survey results and the order of choices are: 1. tomatoes, 2. snap beans, 3. lettuce, 4. collards, 5. cantaloupe, 6. corn, 7. cucumbers, 8. squash, 9. bell peppers, 10. onions, 11. cabbage. Other needs and recommendations were: 1. potatoes, 2. mixed greens, 3. apples, 4. watermelons, and 5. strawberries.

As we prepared for the 2000 growing season at Reynolda, we kept this survey in mind and planned the designated plot so it will produce vegetables for the food bank through fall. The spring phase of the garden was planted with lettuce, onions, and cabbage, and interplanted with bush green beans for summer. Future plantings will be determined by the available space. In conjunction with the food bank plot, vegetables from other areas will also be donated as quantities surpass demand.

"Plant a row for the hungry." Reynolda Gardens is proud to be associated with an organization that reaches out and gives nourishment to those who truly need it. 🌱



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