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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS 77843

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Prepared by Extension Service for the Texas A&M University System

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Cooperation Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, The Texas A&M University System and the United States Department of Agriculture are cooperating. Distributed as authorized by the American Congress of May 8, 1974, as amended, and June 30, 1974.

10M - 2-81 - 10000
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TEXAS AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE

The Texas A&M University System

S.O.S. Shopper:

This month's "SOS — Smart on Sales" letter has some good tips if you are making plans for a spring flower or vegetable garden. Following these suggestions can result in smooth "sailing" to good savings on seeds and gardening supplies for you and your family this fall.

This letter series and other educational programs are provided at no charge by the Texas Agricultural Extension Service. Extension publications, which are free upon request from my office, may provide information about other items that are on sale this month. If you would like to receive any of these publications or want to know more about other Extension programs, please contact me.

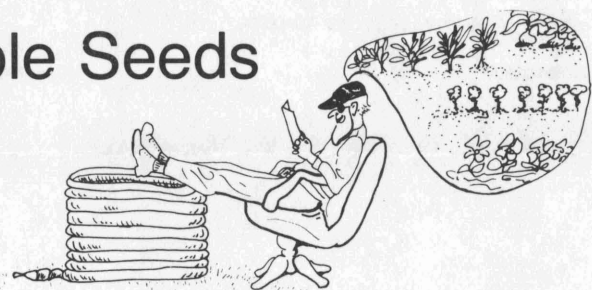
Happy Sales!

County Extension Agent



SEEDS AND PLANTS ...

Flower and Vegetable Seeds



Order Early

Planning a flower or vegetable garden? If you are, remember that many of the reputable mail order seed companies will give a substantial discount on early seed orders. They do this to encourage you to order early and spread out their peak load.

Plan Carefully

Effective vegetable gardens and attractive flower gardens require careful planning. The time to do this is while the successes and failures of the past year are still fresh in your mind.

Early planning allows you to determine your seed requirements soon enough to take advantage of the discounts offered for early orders. Another advantage is you will have the seeds when you need them in case you get a break in the weather and have an opportunity to plant early. Too often the tendency is to wait until you need the seeds and then taking what is available rather than getting the varieties you really wanted.

Start a Garden Diary

An invaluable aid for the home gardener is a garden diary. Keep an account of the seeds and transplants you

use, including the variety name, the date planted, the date the transplants were placed in the garden and other cultural information you feel is important.

Other information that will prove helpful as you plan future gardens include observations regarding the harvest date, quality and quantity of fruit or flowers, insect and disease problems and whether you feel the variety is worth trying again. Unless you record this information while it is fresh in your mind, it is easily forgotten and the tendency is to make the same mistakes year after year. A hard covered notebook and pencil kept in the utility room or kitchen will facilitate keeping records that will be helpful as you plan next season's garden.

The major mail order seed companies start placing ads for their catalogs in the garden magazines in late summer and fall. There is often a small charge for the better catalogs but it is usually refunded with your first order. Send for your catalogs now and be ready to place your order in November and December when outdoor gardening chores are minimal.

Garden			Diary		
ITEM	DATE	REMARKS	ITEM	DATE	REMARKS
Calendula	Nov. 1	Planted 15 from 2 1/2" pots in front bed.	Tomatoes	July 23	Planted seeds of Terrific and Small Fry in Redearth
	Nov. 15	Sprayed with Brae. Insect. to Control loops		July 30	Seedlings are all up
	Nov. 20	Used complete fertilizer and watered in.		Aug. 7	Transplanted seedlings to 1 1/2" peat pots
	Dec. 24	First blooms		Aug. 21	Set out three Terrific + one Small Fry in New vegetable garden.
	Jan. 9	Some freeze Damage (90%)		Sept. 1	Placed wire cage over each plant. Fertilized and sprayed with Orthene to control leaf miners
	Jan. 15	Applied Ammo Sulf. to help overcome freeze injury.			

* Prepared by Extension landscape horticulturists, The Texas A&M University System
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 Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture and Home Economics, The Texas A&M University System and the United States Department of Agriculture cooperating. Distributed in furtherance of the Acts of Congress of May 8, 1914, as amended, and June 30, 1914.
 10M - 9-81, Reprint