

# HOME and GARDEN



### Cultural Suggestions for Delphinium

Anyone sufficiently interested in gardening to read this page will know enough about perennials to have definite likes and dislikes. It is possible that the favorite bloomer is the one with which least success is had or is beyond the allowance of the family budget. It is well to have a choice that overcomes both of these objections and is still sufficiently interesting and lovely. My choice that meets these latter requirements is the hybrid delphinium.

When I have had the good fortune to secure seed from the choice plants of a friend or have purchased select seed, it is interesting to watch for the first blooms to see just how good they are going to be,—for being hybrids one never knows exactly what they will be like. I have the best results in securing new plants from early fall planting. The seed must be fresh; if taken from a freshly ripened seed pod the germination will be almost perfect. If the seeds are not known to be fresh, then soak over night and dry between blotters. Plant in finely prepared soil in a cold frame protected by a lath screen. By finely prepared soil, I mean good black dirt, pulverized peat moss, sand and a little bone meal.

The first leaves may be expected to appear in from five to seven days. When the second leaves are grown or a little later, the plants are transplanted into a similar bed and similar soil and allowed to grow for about three or four weeks. They are then strong enough and have good enough roots to be planted out into beds.

The permanent location for delphinium should be prepared about a month in advance by deep and thorough spading of the soil. A little manure may be used but it is better to use peat moss and bone meal. A small quantity of wood ashes is also a very good fertilizer as it gives stiffness to the stalk. Good drainage and sunshine are essential. Young plants especially should have a light winter protection.

There are three principal enemies of delphinium, cutworms, blight, and Cyclamen mites. I have never to my knowledge been bothered by the first but a good method of combat is to place a quart or so of clinkery coal ashes about the crown of the plant in the fall. The cutworms do not like the sharp mulch and will not molest the plant.

Blight is easiest combated by sprinkling the ground around each crown with Uspulun or Semesan, or

spraying the plants with bordeaux. Begin this when the first leaves appear or before, and keep it up for several weeks.

And the mites which sap the plant of its vitality, cause club shaped flower stems and bring general grief and disappointment, can be destroyed by persistent spraying with a nicotine solution.

Propogating is also done by dividing, and this is the method used for the select named varieties. If one does not wish to wait for seedlings to grow, the grown plants may be purchased. The plants may be selected and moved while in bloom. Spring transplanting is probably the better but if moved in early fall there is not much danger of loss. It usually depends on the method of growing and the care of moving.

Now why have I selected the delphinium as my favorite? It is a beautiful flower both in the garden and as a cut flower. It blooms profusely in its season and may be forced to bloom a second time if the flower stalks are cut back to the leaves as soon as flowers have faded. It is so varied in its shades and tints of blue and lavender, and there is always a reasonable degree of success.—E. B. Jordan, Deerfield.

One way to help unemployment would be to put everybody who has no work on one of the relief commissions.

Germany made 32,000,000 worth of mouth organs in 1930. There is one country that knows what to do with its wind.—Los Angeles Times.

## Community Garden Class Meets Apr. 26

Mrs. Ernest Reed, 198 Edgecliffe drive will be hostess to the Community Garden class of the Highland Park Woman's club at her home Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m., April 26.

Reports on the various speakers at the Municipal Pier Garden Show will be given by club members.

Mrs. F. W. Voogt will review "Little Gardens" as given by Mrs. Oakes. Mrs. T. F. Dawson will review Jens Jensen's talk on "Native Planting," and Mrs. Kellogg Speed will also give a report.

## Deerfield Rotary Club Elect Directors

Dr. Grover Q. Grady, prominent physician and surgeon of Highland Park, gave an intensely interesting talk on "Getting Ready For An Operation," at the weekly luncheon of the Deerfield Rotary club, Thursday, at the Deerfield Ave. Tea room. William Desmond was Rotarian of the Day. Newly elected directors are Dr. Walter Metcalf, Carl E. Bates, C. W. Boyle, W. K. Hout, Andrew Decker, Harold Vant and E. B. Jordan.

## Mrs. Wessling Wins Oratorical Contest

The gold medal oratorical contest was held Sunday evening at the Bethlehem Evangelical church, Deerfield. The contestants were Mrs. Orville Wessling of Highland Park and Mrs. Mather and Mrs. Lloyd Ritzenthaler of Prairie View. Two who were to participate from Barrington, did not come. Mrs. Orville Wessling was awarded the gold medal. Judges for the contest were two of the Deerfield Grammar school teachers, Misses Ablard and Ronningen and Mr. Arthur Merner.

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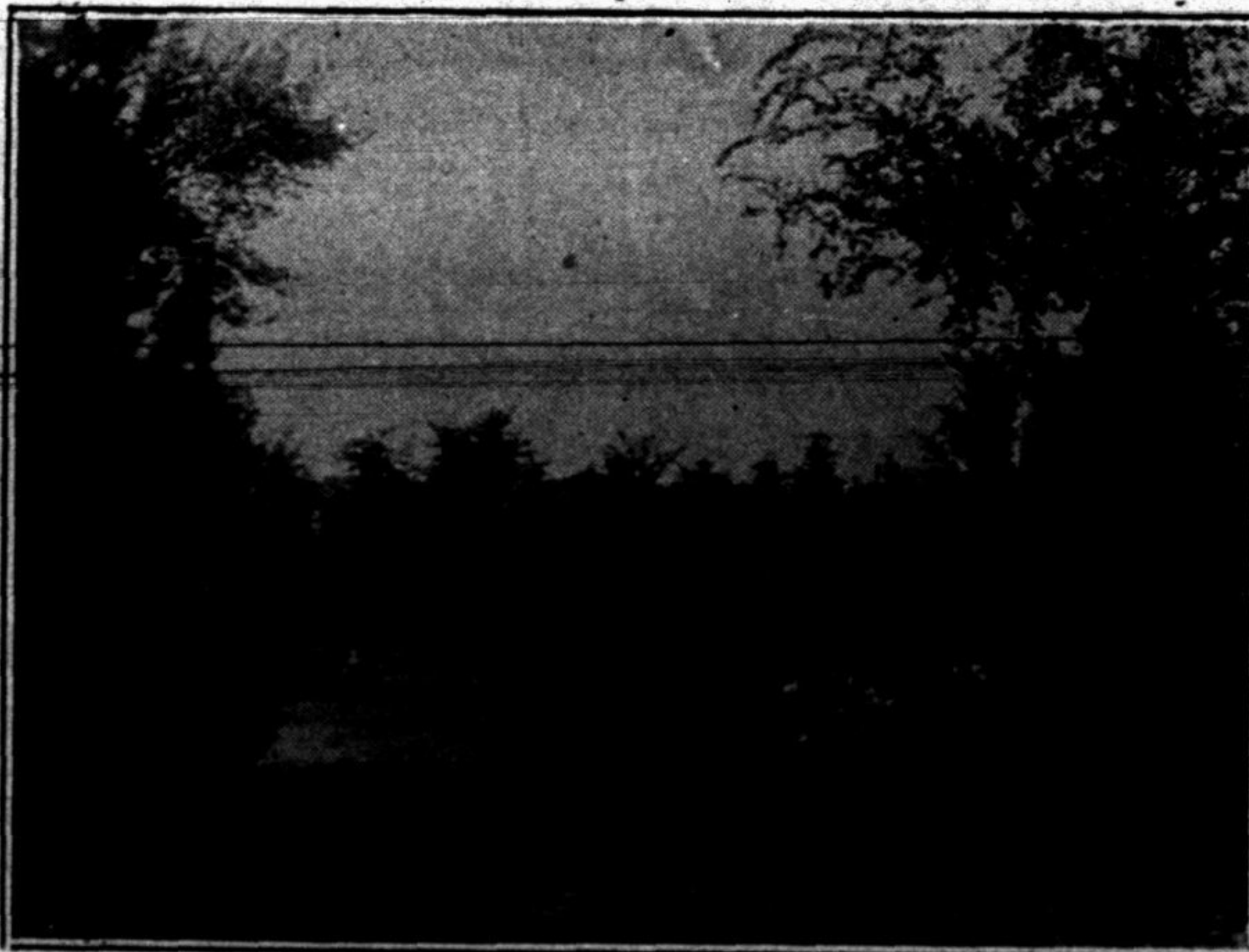
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