

Farm Tribune

GARDEN GUIDE

Plant petunias Show of color

By John Bradshaw
Beauty in the garden comes from many sources, but there are some flowers which are much more valuable and useful for this purpose. In this week's column I'm recommending one of those that I feel is above the average in this regard.

Every gardener, amateur or professional, will agree that dollar for dollar and square foot for square foot, petunias provide the biggest show of color each garden season. This has been particularly true since the F1 Hybrid Satin series was introduced. The varieties belonging to this series are in the multiflora or many-flowered class, and are characterized by masses of brilliantly colored flowers carried on vigorous and compact plants. The blooms are medium sized, stiff-petaled and stand up better than almost any other flower under adverse weather conditions. Summer storms and rains have little effect on this most free flowering of all bedding petunias. The satin series comes in coral, scarlet, red, pink, white and purple colors.

Many a garden is spoiled each year by the lavish use of white flowers. Basically, the effect of white is to deaden color. On the other hand, yellow is an exciting color which should be used a great deal more than it has been up until now. There are several excellent yellow petunias on the market, including Yellow Gleam, Brass Band and Sunburst. I don't think there's much to choose between them in quality, but one thing is certain; their soft lemon yellow color will add untold beauty and charm to any garden.

Most commercial growers will have already sown quite a bit of their petunia seed. If you want yellow petunias for your garden this year, I'd strongly recommend that you get in touch with your plant grower, nursery or garden centre and tell them your requirements. There's still time for them to get some seed and have plants ready for setting out in the garden around the 24th of May.



An eagle's nest? No. It's a witch's broom as photographed by Betty Pegg, Claremont, R.R. 2.

With binoculars and camera The witches' broom

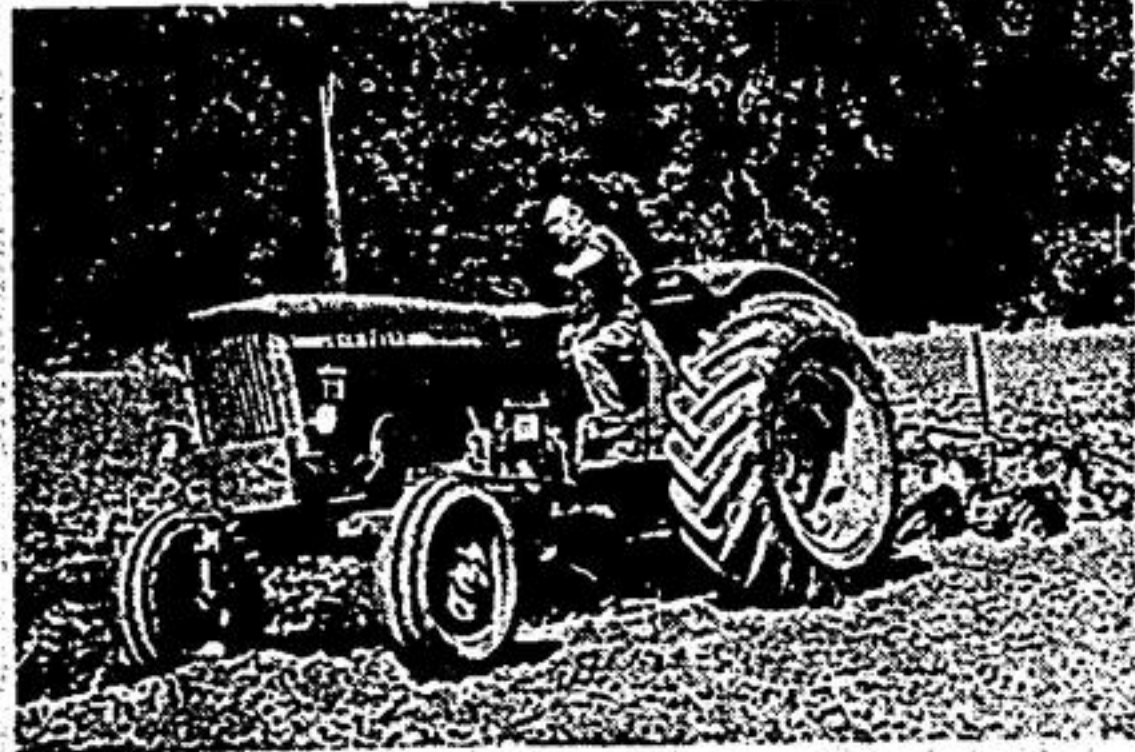
By Edgie and Betty Pegg
About five years ago, we found our first Witches' Broom. It was in a jack pine tree on our farm. Many times we had walked past it, thinking that the large dark object was a squirrel's nest. Curiosity finally got the better of us and we took a closer look. We found a dense cluster of short, slender, parallel branches coming from an enlarged axis. From below, the growth appeared dead. The upper side, however, was a very healthy green. A Witches' Broom may be started by some irritant such as a fungus or virus, but in most cases, it is caused by a parasitic plant known as Dwarf Mistletoe. This is a true flowering plant, but lacks chlorophyll. The seed is probably carried by birds. When left on a branch, it sends out a penetrating root into the living layers of the host, which over the years grows around it, sending out side suckers. This makes the tiny mistletoe difficult to find as most of the plant is under the bark.

Witches' Broom sometimes reach a diameter of six feet. They are not uncommon and can be found in Pine, Spruce and Hemlock trees. Plant breeders have gathered and propagated them by grafting. Many of our dwarf garden evergreens came from them originally. Medical research men, working on cancer, are studying Witches' Broom and similar growth on plants for any clue these may shed on unusual production rates of cellular materials.

Knee surgery

BLOOMINGTON — Mr. Mel Thomas is convalescing at home following surgery on his knee at York County Hospital, Newmarket. Mr. and Mrs. Howard Kee of Orangeville were recent visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Otto Tranmer. Miss Christine Gwinner of Brampton is visiting with Mr. and Mrs. LaVine at Green Gables Manor.

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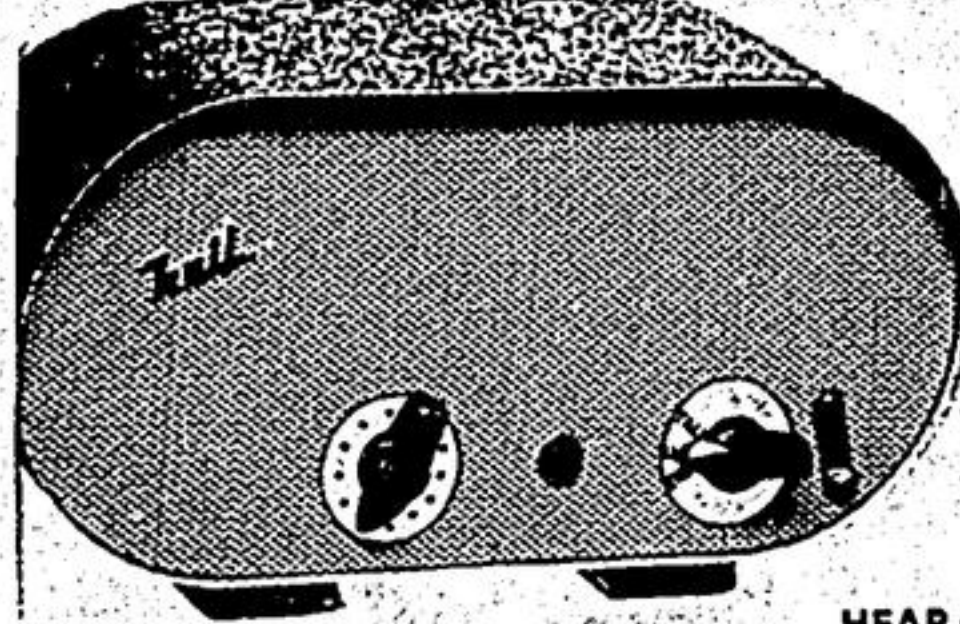
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Best actress award

CLAREMONT — The entire cast of the Brooklin Junior Farmer entry in the Ontario County Drama Festival was selected for individual awards following the presentation of their one-act comedy "Red Carnations" at Uxbridge Secondary School, March 9.

Nineteen year old Doreen Jones, Claremont, R.R. 2, was chosen Best Actress. Best Actor Awards went to David Hawthorne and Kenneth Stickwood — a tie.

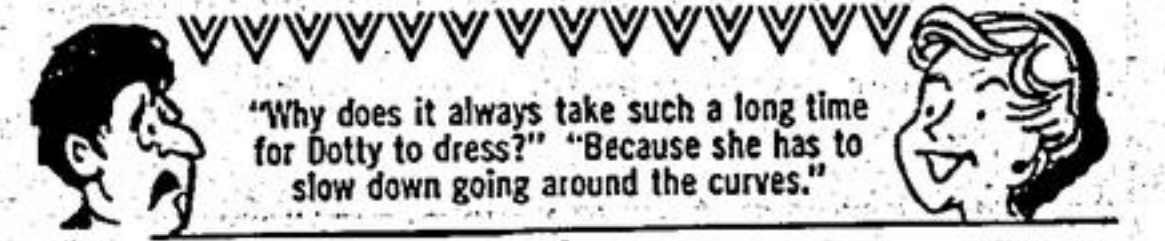
The Brooklin entry was declared the winner over Beaverton Junior Farmers and will now advance into further competition. The one-act comedy by Beaverton was "My Wife, Henry" and included Janet Tomlinson, Elaine Beggs, Suzanne Wood, Carle Parliament and Bill Wood. Suzanne Wood was named Best Supporting Actress and Bill Wood, Best Supporting Actor.

The adjudicator for the evening was Mr. Charles Joliffe. He complimented both clubs on their efforts.

Brooklin Junior Farmers are defending champions, having won provincial honors for the past two years. David Hawthorne has served in the cast on both occasions and won the Best Actor Award in 1967. Ken Stickwood won the same honor in 1966. The club's director again this year is Miss Rhoda Almack of Claremont.



Doreen Jones, Ashburn, R.R. 1.



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