

# Catalogue browsing helps plan spring planting

After the Christmas cards, the postman brings the seed catalogues. To avid gardeners this is pure heaven - pouring over catalogues on wintry evenings.

Although we choose some old favorites, inevitably we are tempted by the new varieties. Each year the All America Selections Committee chooses several exemplary varieties from among the many new offerings to be known as the AAS Winners.

A few weeks ago I introduced 1997 AAS vegetables - cabbage dynamo, okra Cajun delight and basil Siam queen. Today, I'll introduce 1997's flowers selections.

Prestige scarlet is a new type of multiflora celosia cristata. Multiflora means many more and smaller flowers. Prestige scarlet is covered with three-and-a-half-inch deep scarlet velvety cockscomb blooms which can be used as cut flowers or everlasting when dried. The plants grow to a height of 15 to 20 inches and are self supporting so no staking is needed.

Celosia need full sun and will provide an uninterrupted show of color all season despite excessive heat and drought. I am planning a new red border fashioned after the ones I've seen in Europe. This new annual will provide lots of color all summer amongst the newly planted perennials.

Another annual that will perform nonstop under stressful growing conditions such as severe heat is zinnia angustifolia crystal white. Each plant grows about 10-inches high, 10-inches wide and is covered with pure white, daisy-like blooms. Unlike zinnias, this one is not susceptible to mildew. This white zinnia can be



## Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

used in the garden or containers for trouble-free beauty all season.

Gypsophila muralis gypsy is an annual baby's breath. It has a light airy habit similar to perennial baby's breath but the plant is only 1-and-a-quarter-inches tall with finely textured foliage and small quarter-inch pink-blooms. Gypsy will be an excellent filler plant for containers or for the front of the border.

The AAS winners will be available from seed catalogues so you can start from scratch or you may purchase young plants in packs in mid-May.

Remember when choosing annuals in May that young plants that haven't begun to flower will transplant best.

Following are some other annuals which I think you might enjoy. Petunia pink wave is sister to purple wave, the groundcover type of petunia. It has flamboyant pink flowers but doesn't grow quite as

rampantly as its sibling cosmos pied piper red is the unique sea shell type - each petal is rolled into a tube. This type has previously been available only in mixed colors.

A new variety which I plan to try this year is clarkia pulchella passion of purple. It promises masses of rose-purple flowers in full sun from July to frost. Also on my must try list is nolana humifusa little bells. It's a ground hugging annual with small light blue flowers with deeper blue throats. I saw this plant in large containers at Tintinhull House in England last summer.

These are just the beginning - I hope you enjoy planning your 1997 garden as much as I do.

Send your questions or comments to:

Let's Get Growing  
c/o The Tribune  
88 Brock St. West  
Uxbridge, ON L9P 1R4  
Attn: Marjorie Mason Hogue

## DON VALLEY NORTH LEXUS - TOYOTA ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



DAVID GREEN

David Green returned from an injury to play a superb game in the Markham Waxers 3-2 win over the Aurora Tigers in Metro Junior A hockey action Thursday night.

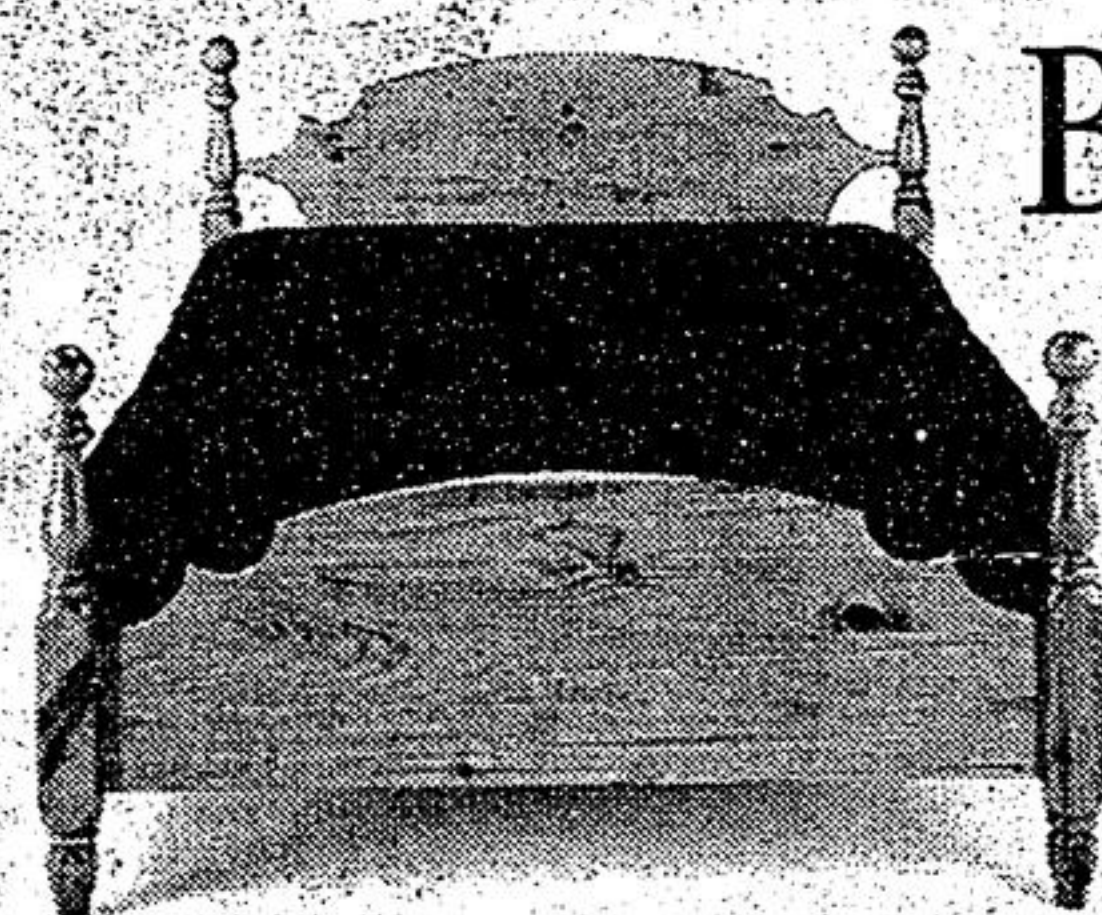
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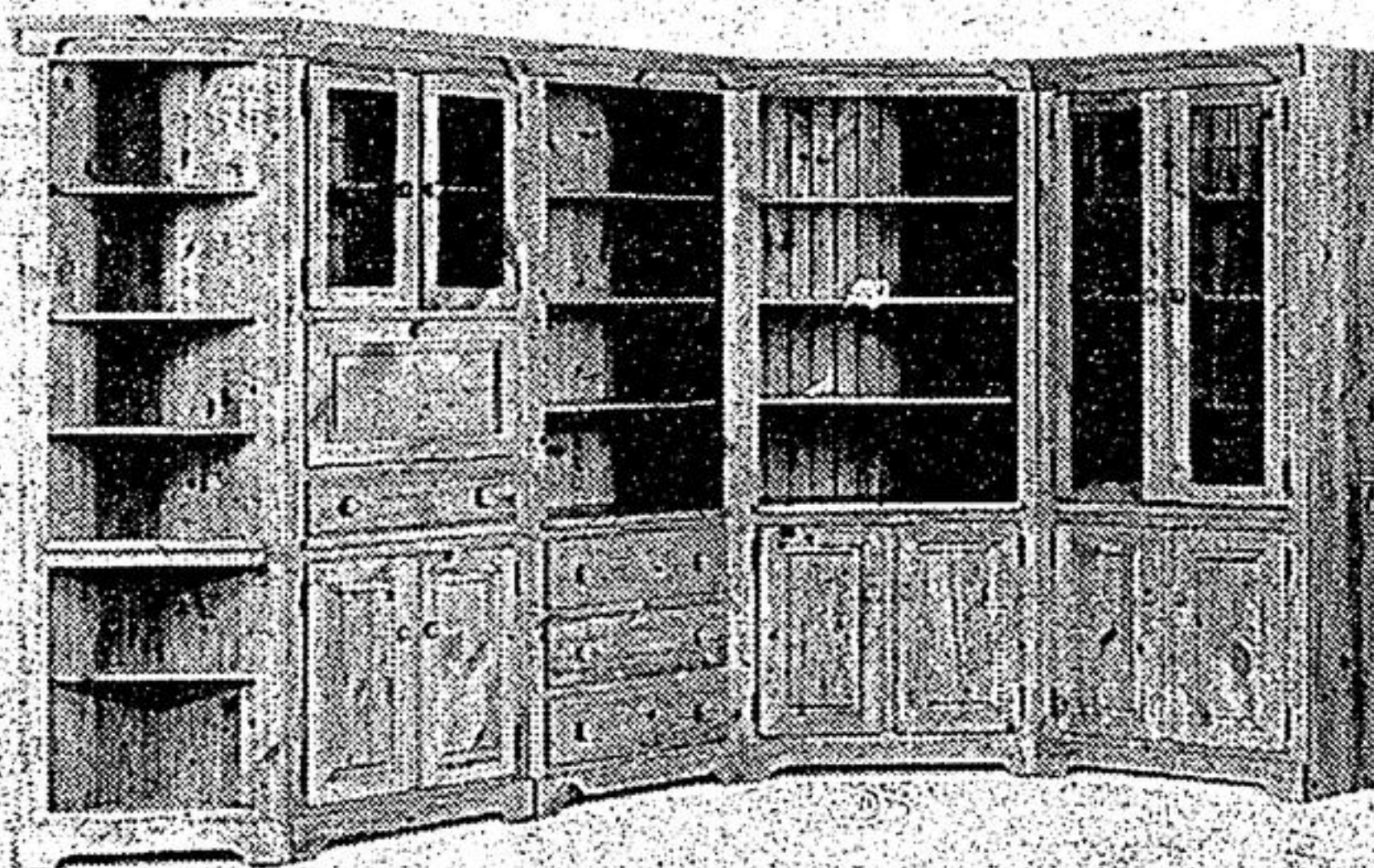
## It's January, 1997.

Time to do all those things that really should have been done in 1996. Time to start afresh. Maybe it's time to wake up and smell the coffee (in a new Woodcraft bed). It might be time to get down to business (at a Woodcraft workstation). There's always time to curl up with a good book (on a comfy Woodcraft sofa). And there's no time like right now to save money on every kind of Woodcraft furniture - and who doesn't have time for that!



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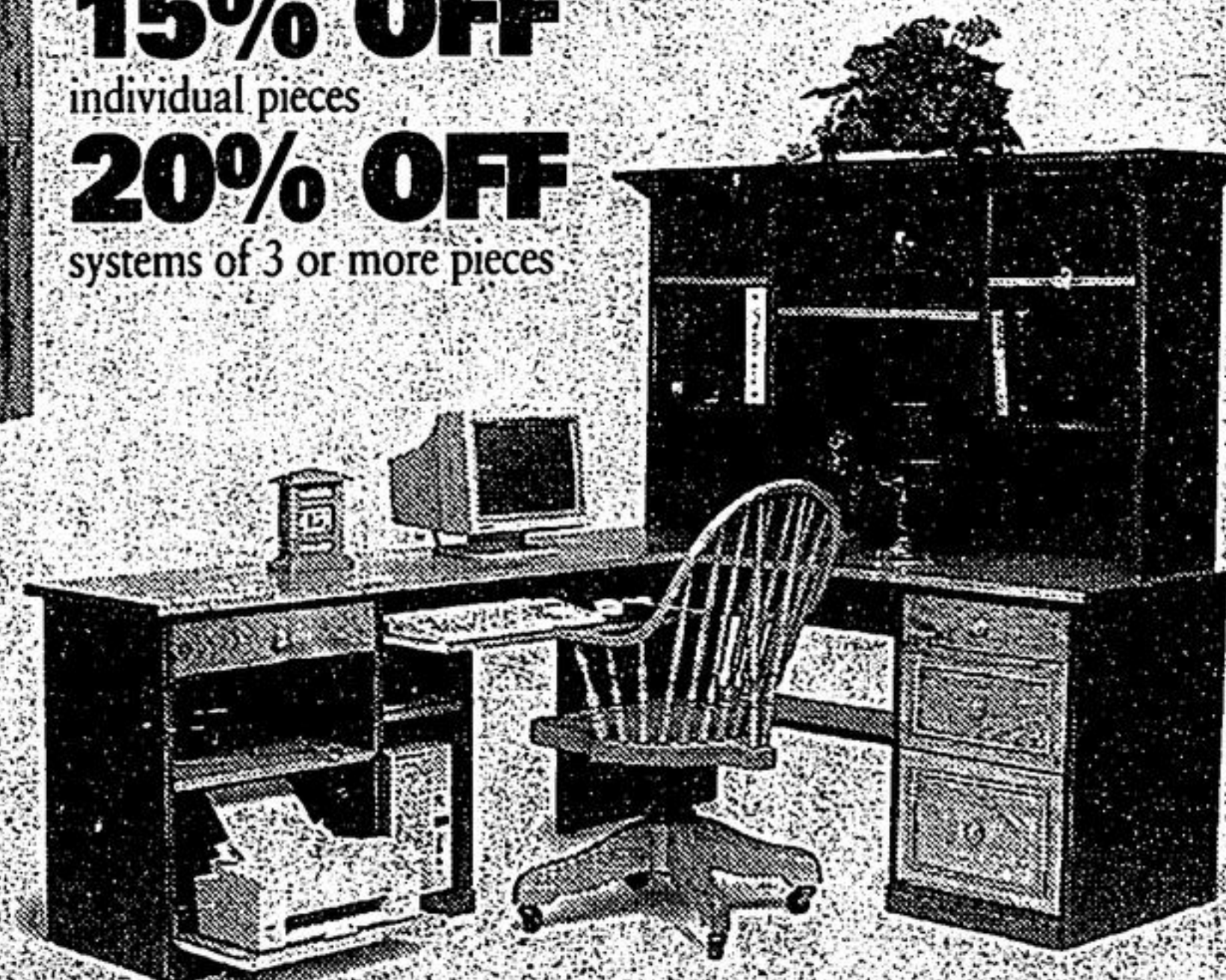
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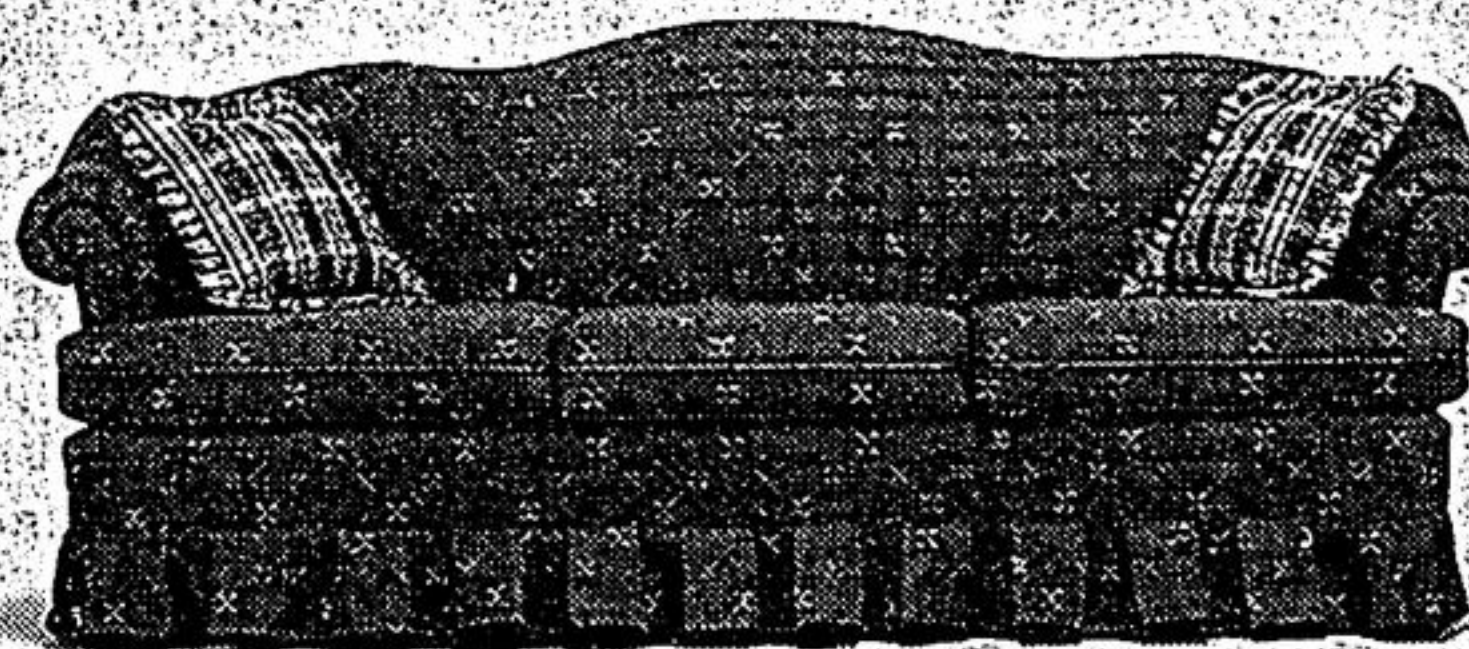
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to  
Markham Waxers Selection Committee  
P.O. Box 23,

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