

Garden a highlight of Del. Ag Progress day

NEWARK, Del. — The University of Delaware's College of Agricultural Sciences is planning an open house for home gardeners and plant lovers. Home Gardeners' Day is one aspect of Agricultural Progress Day, which will take place on August 1, 1979, from 2:30 p.m. until dusk, at Agricultural Hall in Newark. Experts from the College

of Agricultural Sciences will offer instruction in successful gardening practices, answer questions, and diagnose plant problems. A tour of the grounds around Agricultural Hall offers more than an aesthetic experience. It's also instructive for the home gardener. Greenhouse supervisor Paul Dennison, whose staff is responsible for

maintaining the grounds as well as the greenhouse, explains that the plants are selected mainly for their growth habits. In keeping with the University's educational mission, Extension horticulturist Dr. Charles Dunham selects additions to the gardens because they display notable growth characteristics or unusual seasonal color. The object is to give students and visitors the knowledge they need to make their own

educated plant selections. The University's plant science students learn which materials do well in city environments, and many go on to work with local beautification committees, either on a professional or volunteer basis. A number of faculty members are serving on city and county beautification committees as well as working professionally with the private sector and homeowners on landscaping.

the Nordmann fir — one of the most beautiful and reliable in the area; and one of the most glorious of the Japanese cherries, the amanagawa, with its masses of lovely apple-blossom pink blooms.

Those who want to garden in small spaces should take a look at the Clark Garden's extensive collection of dwarf conifers. Visitors can compare the dwarf eastern white pine specimens in the Clark Garden with their full-sized counterparts that gracefully flank Agricultural Hall.

The heath and heather bed and rock wall garden include a number of small and interesting plants for home rock gardens.

Colorful in every season, the Clark Garden includes azaleas and rhododendrons, winter-berried — hollies, spring flowering bulbs, and the beautiful golden larch from China, which changes from a soft green in summer

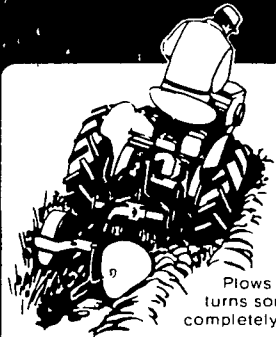
to a rich, burnished gold in Fall.

An unusual feature of the garden is its four styrax japonica specimens. Each has been pruned in a slightly different way to give visitors an idea of what can be done with judicious use of the pruning shears.

Dennison notes that the Louis Detjen Rose Garden behind Agricultural Hall is in full bloom now, and so are many of the annuals and perennials immediately in front of the building.

Visitors are always welcome to stroll through the grounds, Dennison says, and a self-guided tour sheet can be found in a mailbox along the front driveway to the building. But Agricultural Progress Day is a particularly good time to visit, since Dennison, Dunham and other members of the plant science department will be on hand to lead tours and offer the benefit of their experience.

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