

**On being  
a farm wife  
-And other  
hazards  
Joyce Bupp**



Taunting, flaunting, teasing, enticing, they arrive again, filling our heads with giddy promises as they sap our checkbooks. Seed catalogs. These gardeners' wishbooks invariably hit the mailbox when

the snow is up to here, the temperature down to there, and we're our most susceptible to their outlandish promises and lusty colors. Perfect red roses, tomatoes so fat and juicy they almost drip onto

your lap from the page, cabbage never nibbled by slimy green things and cantaloupes that ooze images of incomparable sweetness.

It's those poetic names and breathtaking descriptions that always do me in, like Summer Icicle, Pink Panther, Rose Diamond, Fluffy Ruffles, Rainbow, Gold Dust and Fiesta, all of which are showy, free-flowering, early-blooming, sturdy, disease-resistant, delicate, ruffled, crinkle-leaved, and so on and so on.

Once in a while a variety does, by the end of the season, live up to all the wishbook hype promised on the slick, glossy pages. Then again, more than once I've invested a mint on some highly-touted variety only to have it fizzle under the best conditions. And, with real life gardening what it is, with May frosts, June insects, July drought and August vacations,

even the best varieties under coddled conditions can turn out something less than picture perfect.

No matter what I plant, it seems some varieties return year after year to my garden, and probably to yours. If you don't have these, and would like to try some, just drop me a note—I'm sure I have some extra seed flying around:

—"Slug's Favorite"—a delightful, loose-leaf variety of lettuce, bursting with extra-crinkly, deep green leaves. Each little crinkle provides a hiding place for the neighborhood baby slugs, some of which you will find in the dressing after you have finished your salad. Nice if you like meat with your vegetables.

—"Sure-to-Seed"—an old favorite spinach, slow to germinate, shy to form rosettes, but then taking off with unbelievable vigor and going straight to seed, before you get more than a serving or two. A favorite of my children, whose regard for spinach is unprintable.

—"Oh Yuk"—an especially high-yielding type of red beet, vigorous in growth and enduring throughout

the entire season. Mature overnight from tender, tiny golfball size to soccerball giants. Named by our offspring, whose inevitable reception of these served for dinner is "Oh yuk, beets."

—"Fantail"—a standby carrot variety, characterized by its ability to break from a single straight, crisp root into several useless, fingerlike projections, upon contact with the tiniest stone in the garden soil. Beloved by guinea pigs and entrants in "wierd" vegetable classes at flower shows.

—"Butterfly's Delight"—every variety of broccoli that I've ever planted. The butterfly in question here is that dainty, white cabbage moth type, which graces broccoli with its little eggs, which in turn become those awful green larvae that play hide-n-seek in broccoli heads.

My supplies of these varieties are limited, so run, don't walk, to the nearest post office with your order.

After all, planting season is right around the corner.

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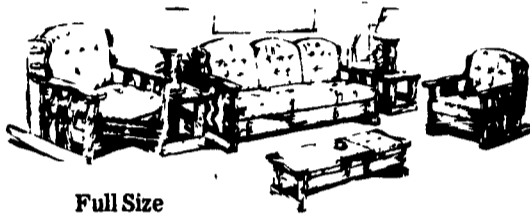
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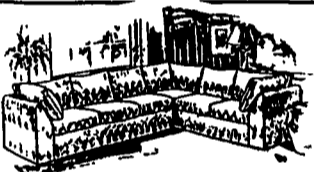


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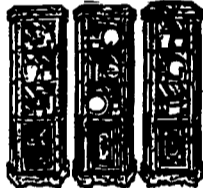
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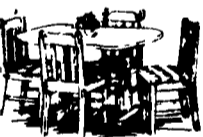


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**Cambria Co. Master Gardener program seeks participants**

EBENSBURG — If you're a gardener who enjoys working with plants and people, then you don't want to miss the opportunity to become part of the Cambria County Master Gardener Program. The main objective of the program is to train the horticulture enthusiast who has interest in gardening of all types.

The program will be taught by Extension staff and past master gardeners. Information in the program will include such basic areas as soils, fertilizers, plant growth and development, pest control, and the various cultural aspects of many garden plants and crops.

The training program will begin Tuesday, March 12 and is sponsored by the Extension Service. It

will be made up of five sessions for five weeks and will be held each Tuesday evening of the respective week.

There will be no enrollment fee. The only thing expected in return for the training received will be for the volunteer to return service back to Extension. At the end of the training and service period each volunteer will be awarded a Master Gardener certificate.

If you are interested, send your name and address to: Ron Hostetler, c/o Master Gardener, P.O. Box 390, Ebensburg, PA 15931.

You will receive an application and a horticultural test which you must complete and return by Monday, Feb. 25 to be considered for the program.



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