



The German, or bearded, iris need a well drained location. The beardless types, such as Japanese and Siberian iris, grow well in moist soil along a pond or stream; they rarely need to be divided.

Plant your iris with the thick, underground stem or rhizome, partly exposed on the soil surface. New roots will soon grow from the underside of these rhizomes.

In dividing older iris clumps, each "fan" of leaves with attached rhizome will form a new plant. It will usually take these plants about two years to flower. Larger clumps with several "fans" of leaves will flower the next year.

Perennials and biennials are no

more difficult to start from seed than annuals—they just take longer to develop. Perennial seeds sown now, in late July or August, will have ample time to grow into small seedlings that will overwinter well and be excellent plants by early next summer.

Easy perennials to start from seed include columbine, foxglove, delphinium, coral bells, shasta daisy, violas, and pansies. Sow seeds in pots or directly into the ground in a shady part of the garden.

Sweet Williams, foxglovers, Canterbury bells, viola, and pansies are biennial plants that

can be grown from seed planted in early August. Biennials are plants that have a two-year life cycle and will die after blooming next year.

Seed sown this time of the year needs a little extra care to protect it from the hot sun or drenching thunderstorms. It can be sown in flower pots with a mixture of equal parts of garden soil, coarse sand, and peat moss.

Place the pots in a sheltered location, such as a coldframe or sheltered area for the winter. Early next spring they may be transplanted to the garden where they will flower.

Hanging baskets with cascades of colorful flowers or foliage are becoming more popular every year. Many of them that were bought in early May have grown quite large by now and the root area has become restricted.

If your hanging basket looks a little stretchy and droopy it has probably used up the plant nutrients in the soil and is in need of a doze of fertilizer. The best way to fertilize plants is to apply a diluted solution of soluble fertilizer. Flowering plants need a 5-10-5 fertilizer and foliage plants could use a 10-6-4 fertilizer. Plants that are overgrown can be cut back and reshaped for summer-long beauty.

### Tioga County Fair

WHITNEYVILLE — The Tioga County Fair, to be held at the county fairgrounds in Whitneyville Aug. 6 through 11, will feature performances by The Mavericks, a singing duo from central Pennsylvania, and Dean McNett, a popular round and square dance band from Montgomery.

The Mavericks, also known as Kay Lynn and Jamie Lee, will perform country and sacred songs Aug. 10 at 8 p.m. and Aug. 11 at 2 p.m.

The Dean McNett Band will perform at the fairgrounds Aug. 9 at 8 p.m.

The fair opens Wednesday, Aug. 6 with the 4-H Roundup and closes Aug. 11. Daily hours begin at 9 a.m.

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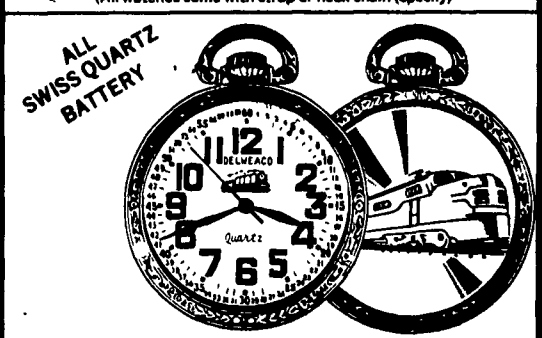
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