

Cook's Question Corner

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New Fragrant Flowers To Debut At Philadelphia Flower Show

PHILADELPHIA—Wild blueberry and mountain laurel surround a Lenni Lenape village; a velvety canopy of orchids create Utopia in the jungle, and from Britain, new burgundy blossoms of hyacinths perfume the air when The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's 1996 Philadelphia Flower Show presents "This Land Is Your Land, Philadelphia in Flower," February 25 through March 3 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center.

The Greater Delaware Valley Region has more public gardens than any other area in the United States. A profile of local gardens, arboreta and houses, which were the first of their kind to be established, invites visitors to explore a great variety of subjects, from religion and architecture to botany, social history and zoology—not to mention landscape design.

A 100-foot waterway provides a dizzying assortment of fountains and a profusion of blooming flowers set in 19th century patterned beds. This new entrance feature of the Show leads to a grand 24,000-square-foot main aisle. Here, Philadelphia shines with an elaborate grouping of gardens that include the river view of John Bartram's farm house and flower garden. A rosarian's paradise sur-

rounds Wyck, one of the City's oldest existing houses. Mercury sits among flowers in a Palladian temple on the grounds of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania. This electric 76-acre Victorian estate has been systematically restored and adaptively reused as a public garden and forward-looking university center of education and research. These renowned gardens are members of the Gardens Collaborative, a collective of 36 local gardens and arboreta. Their portrayal explores a horticultural richness unique to Philadelphia and set the stage for the Philadelphia Flower Show's most impressive presentation to date.

The Philadelphia Flower Show has always been a showcase for the new and unusual. This year, the Zoological Society of Philadelphia opens its huge iron gates to showcase some of the 208 species of trees and Victorian architecture found in America's oldest zoo. The 'Woodstock' hyacinth, in its first year of commercial availability, brings a joyous spring to the Show with its wine-colored, fragrant blossoms. The 'Cadillac' rose, a full-blown pink hybrid, leads the wave of new South American varieties to this country. And, garden art and

architecture, more pronounced than ever, illustrate America's passion for the outdoor garden.

Gardening and lifestyle become one, as peaceful pine groves surround a Native American garden. The "three sisters"—corn, beans and squash—appear in a modern day Native American home, reminding us of the lessons to be learned from Native American life.

Elsewhere in the 10-acre exhibition hall, dozens of gardens create pure delight. Hawaiian lei makers demonstrate their traditional art among the tropical foliage and orchids of Hawaii's Waimea Valley. The waterwheel of an old Grist Mill provides a peaceful backdrop for a wedding. And, divine displays offer a spiritual experience amidst the National Cathedral's gothic structure.

More than 580 artistic and horticultural classes demonstrate the expertise and creativity of more than 700 great gardeners who compete with nearly 2,000 entries of specimen plants, forced flowering bulbs and whimsical topiaries, elaborate room and garden displays and a massive gallery of artistic arrangements. These experts will create and coax their floral designs, plant collections, flower-

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ANSWER—June Baklik, Shelton, Ct., wanted a recipe for a dip that was baked in a loaf of Italian or French bread. Thanks to Melva Baumer, Millmont, for sending a recipe.

Slow-Ball Dip

1 large round loaf French, Italian, or other unsliced crusty bread

2 8-ounce packages cream cheese, softened

3 6 1/2 -ounce cans chopped clams, drained (reserve 1/4 cup liquid)

2 tablespoons grated onion

2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

2 teaspoons lemon juice

1 teaspoon hot-pepper sauce or to taste

1/2 teaspoon salt

Parsley sprigs for garnish, optional

Raw vegetables for dipping

With sharp knife, cut top from bread; set aside. Hollow loaf, leaving a 1 1/2 -2-inch thick shell; cut removed bread in cubes (see note); set both aside.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth; stir in clams, the reserved clam juice, onion, Worcestershire sauce, lemon juice, pepper sauce, and salt until well-blended. On baking sheet, make a cross with two sheets of foil, each long enough to cover loaf. Center bread shell on foil. Pour clam mixture into shell; cover with bread top. Wrap loaf in foil. Bake in preheated 250 degree oven for 3 hours for flavors to blend and clam mixture to get piping hot. Remove top; sprinkle dip with parsley. Serve loaf on large platter surrounded by the bread cubes and raw vegetables for dippers. When empty the bread shell can be torn apart and eaten. Makes 12 servings. Note: Toast bread cubes in the oven during the last 5 minutes of baking.



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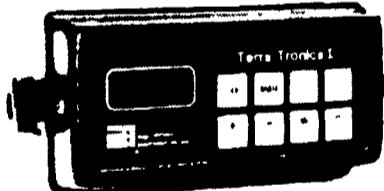
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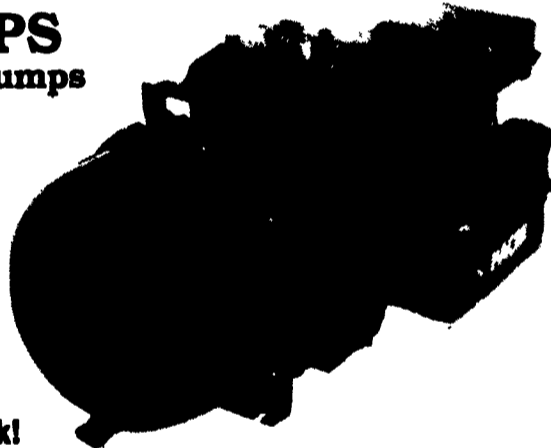


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