



Daylily display border along road at the foot of Tallac Knoll, Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Arcadia, California. Courtesy of same.

## PROGRESS OF THE DAYLILY TEST GARDEN AT THE LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM

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IN THE FALL of 1950 a large number of *Hemerocallis* species, hybrid varieties, and seedlings were moved to the Arboretum from the University of California at Los Angeles. These represented plants obtained from many sources, together with seedlings selected from larger populations. These were intended to be the basic material for a daylily test garden and for further breeding and research.

During the last three winters a considerable part of these plants, together with new accessions, has been set out in the permanent test garden area just west of the Coach Barn on the Arboretum grounds. At the present time there are

some 270 clones in the ground, planted in triangular groups of three clumps of each clone, with a large number yet to be moved or to be obtained from daylily growers. When single plants are obtained, it is our practice to propagate them before putting them in the test garden.

The species collection is now fairly complete, inclusive of all except the rarest. Two clones of *Hemerocallis flava*, the Lemon Daylily, which are believed true, are being grown and should prove of special interest since this species is commonly confused in our California gardens. It seems to be adapting itself somewhat satisfactorily to our mild winters



and is now carrying seed pods. *H. minor* is a bit more resentful of our winter temperatures, but it does flower moderately well. *H. middendorffi*, *H. dumortieri*, *H. thunbergi*, *H. citrina*, *H. aurantiaca*, *H. aurantiaca major*, *H. multiflora*, *H. foresti*, and most of the forms of *H. fulva*, are now in one of the long display beds.

Prominent in the Arboretum collection are hybrid varieties developed in his work at the New York Botanical Garden by Dr. A. B. Stout who was the pioneer of scientific daylily breeding and introduction. Other breeders well represented include H. P. Sass, Dr. Hamilton P. Traub, H. M. Russell, Mrs. Thomas Nesmith, and Carl Milliken. There are also clones from Carl Betscher, Amos Perry, Bertrand Farr, George Yeld, Paul Cook, Wyndham Hayward, Dr. J. B. S. Norton, Clint McDade, Lemoine Bechtold, W. B. Davis, David Hall, Ralph Wheeler, Mrs. Bright Taylor, Mrs. Hugh Lester, and a few others. The writer's named hybrids and some numbered seedlings are included in the planting.

For the most part, the many varieties are growing satisfactorily, in spite of the fact that the soil is extremely uneven in

quality because of the leveling and grading of the area. Some few varieties have developed severe chlorosis which seems to be related to the type of soil and may indicate a deficiency of some kind. However, something more than simple nutrient deficiency is indicated by the fact that certain clones are severally affected while others alongside them are beautifully green. This is a problem to be studied, since it is being found in many parts of the country. During the past winter a serious infestation of aphids was also noticed in the collection, as well as elsewhere in the Arboretum. Heretofore daylilies have been thought to be free of this insect pest.

Present plans are to fill the remainder of the border areas allotted to the daylily test garden and then, as additional good varieties are acquired, to discard the less desirable hybrids, unless they are of historical importance. By gradually discarding and replacing we hope to maintain a complete and representative collection of modern daylilies that should be useful to visitors and should help gardeners to choose the best varieties to grow in their own gardens.

## NAMES, NOTES AND NEWS

*The Herb Society of America*: Mrs. Robert K. Price of Philadelphia, national president of *The Herb Society of America*, was welcomed to southern California by officers and members of the Southern California Unit of this Society the latter part of April. She and her hostesses visited the *Los Angeles State and County Arboretum* in Arcadia, and *The Huntington Library and Art Gallery* and Botanical Gardens in San Marino.

In Arcadia, tour was made of the Arboretum grounds, including the potting sheds, greenhouses, aluminum lath houses, the recently restored landmark, Queen Anne Cottage, and the site of the proposed herb garden. Plans for the latter were outlined to Mrs. Price who expressed the conviction that it would be one of the unique herb gardens in America and a challenge to other Unit groups in the country. On the Arboretum grounds she had her first glimpse of redwoods, including the Dawn Redwood, re-discovered in China in 1944, after centuries of consideration of it as a fossil specimen; young seedlings of this species, *Metasequoia glyptostroboides*, are thriving at the Arboretum. Grass test plots were another source of keen interest.

At *The Huntington Library and Art Gallery*, an exhibit of several centuries of garden books, rare botanical books and herbals was opened for the benefit of the group; a tour of the gardens concluded the day's trek, leading through the rose garden in full bloom and fragrance, the Oriental and Camellia gardens, and finally the Desert Collection with its color-laden test plots of succulent ground covers and many desert exotics. A gift copy of "The Huntington Botanical Gardens, 1905-1949"—Personal Recollections of Curator Emeritus William Hertrich, was presented to Mrs. Price as a fitting memento of the afternoon.

From a release by Mary B. Darrow,  
Recording Secretary, So. Calif. Unit, H.S.A.

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Mr. Carl O. Erlanson, Head, and Dr. Walter H. Hodge, Assistant Head, Plant Introduction Section, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland, visited the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, during the month of April for conferences regarding the plant introduction aspects of the Arboretum.

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Early in May the Arboretum received visits from Professor Guiseppe Martinoli, Instituto





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