After Victory Gardens - Flowers
Training in Vocational Horticulture is offered by
A. M. Binkley
Southern Florist and Nurseryman
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While it is never safe to forecast trends because of the many influencing factors, one might assume that there will be an expansion of nurseries, greenhouses and horticultural specialty crops after this war. As prices and demand on staple farm crops decrease, there is often a turn to crops that have a higher elasticity of demand and better chances of selling for higher prices. More intensively cultivated crops are usually grown after wars. This was shown after the last war and will probably occur again. General economic conditions influence demand and prices; however, there is every reason to believe that there should be a turn to horticultural specialty crops of all kinds. Colorado will have a bright future in ornamental horticulture and specialty crops of various kinds if irrigation water supplies can be further developed.

The remarkable food production credited to Victory gardens deserves praise for all those who have contributed to the program in any way. It has been estimated that 42% of fresh vegetables used last year in the United States was produced on farm and non-farm gardens -- 7,940,000 tons in gardens, 6,322,000 tons in commercial truck farms and market gardens. Someone has said that this would fill 800 supply ships or 200,000 freight cars 200 miles long.

Nurserymen and florists have played an important part in the national Victory garden program. They have contributed (1) services, teachers of garden classes, committeemen, supervisors and other services; (2) furnished land for employees, community gardens and others, even plowed and prepared land; (3) produced over 500 million plants for gardeners in the United States, and (4) many produced food crops for fresh market and canning companies.

Garden Leaders Needed

This year there is a call for still more gardens, and there is a greater need for garden leaders now. New recruits are needed now, even though it is estimated that 60% of the people were active last year in the United States on gardens. More are needed for 1944.

Rationing is planned to be continued in Great Britain for a period of four years after Japan is defeated. Rationing may continue in the United States after the war is over for a period of one year. There probably will be about a 60 to 75% conversion of Victory gardens to lawns, flowers, shrubs and trees after the war. This means that there will be an excellent opportunity for landscape men and nurseries to do a better job of home grounds improvement, both in the city and country. The present well organized garden programs should be kept together and active after the war. There will be a need for farmstead improvements, community parks, roadside parks, highway plantings, county zoning, and work on the millions of new homes that will be constructed and need to be properly landscaped. A very bright future possibility for landscape and nursery men.
Postwar Education in Horticulture

Many general studies and plans have been considered, but not enough of them have been detailed to be practical. No one can forecast exactly what the postwar situation may be, so it is better to prepare plans for many possibilities, then select the plan that may fit the situation. Even then new plans may need to be developed quickly. Training programs for industries which have serious shortages of trained men will no doubt receive attention first. Present information indicates that there should be vacancies before training programs are developed in specialized fields. There is a need now for technically trained horticulturists. It is not fair to criticize training programs unless the men and companies will hire the ex-service man when his training is completed. We want landscape men, florists and nurserymen to have educational committees to help work out practical courses in the vocational field, so that we are training men the way they will best fit into your job. Mr. George Kelly has prepared a two-year nursery training program that shows a lot of study and is practical and workable. Here the ex-service men would work directly with the nurseryman in obtaining his field training. The florists have not presented one, although this course could be well adapted to training greenhouse operators. If this type of training is permitted, then about half the man's time will be under the nurseryman's or florist's supervision in the field, where preparation for specific jobs may be possible.

Plans of Colorado State College

Training being considered now in Horticulture at Colorado State College is (1) vocational horticulture, trades, practices and skills; (2) rehabilitation courses (mental and physical); (3) refresher training courses; (4) continuation of present four-year technical courses, and (5) special courses for disabled men.

1. Vocational Horticulture - practice in growing and handling crops, and development of skills related to such practices. Possibly will be used in cooperation with commercial establishments, growers and operators, in:

(1) Nurseries - growing, handling and selling;
(2) Floriculture - greenhouse crops, growing, handling and shipping;
(3) Fruit and vegetable production and marketing;
(4) Small-tract specialty growing - where partially disabled men may raise food crops, poultry and live comfortably and respectably with their disability allowances.

2. Rehabilitation Courses. In some cases it requires from six to twelve months for ex-service men to stabilize and adjust their thinking to civilian life. There is a definite therapeutic value for nervous disorders in working with and growing plants, which will reduce the time required for adjustment to civilian life. Occupational therapy is a new possible field which can be worked into horticultural courses.
Other courses may be developed in special types of disability cases. We have had one call already for a trained horticulturist to work with neuro-phychiatric cases at a Government hospital.

3. Technical courses will be open on a four-year course basis which will permit the optional selection of majors in floriculture, landscape design, vegetable crop production, and fruit production. These courses are already prepared and are similar to past courses of training at the college.

Courses for Disabled men

4. Special Courses for Disabled Men are also being considered. This is a possible arrangement whereby disabled men, such as one-armed or other types, can be trained in useful work. If you landscape men, nurserymen and florists have any jobs that a disabled man might do, let us know. Make an inventory of such a possibility in your place.

5. Refresher Courses - revise courses for seniors and graduates that went directly into the armed services but had no opportunity to gain experience. Courses are being planned so that ex-service men may have a definite selection of courses with freedom of selection of electives. Since most service men are technically trained, there should be more interest and attention given to cultural subjects of all kinds.

Ex-service men, at least the ones overseas, have jobs on their minds as about the number one consideration. They want permanent work, with opportunities for advancement, and in interesting fields of employment. They do not want humiliating charity types of employment or the rag-job. While some may want more money than you want to pay, there is a feeling that those, not in the army made high wages while they were in service. In any case, every attempt should be made to show patience, understanding and a willingness to cooperate with them during the period of adjustment from military to civilian life.

Research needed in ornamental horticulture was discussed, and a need was recognized for marketing research, particularly in connection with the development of fast air freight in the transportation of perishable products.

If gardening cuts down juvenile delinquency and is otherwise of great value in wartime, then it should be equally of value in peacetime. While gardening is now well organized, it is the right time to hold it together during the conversion period. Horticulture in Colorado has a fine future, and we are looking forward with hope and faith to the better things to come after the war.