

HORTICULTURE

All-America Selections

► **THREE NEW** flowers and three new varieties of vegetables will have the title, "1955 All-America Selections," as a result of the annual competition for the world's leading new introductions of flowers and vegetable seeds.

Awarded bronze and silver medals as the outstanding new varieties that will be available for planting in American homes and gardens during 1955, the winners include a cockscomb, columbine, petunia, sweet-corn, muskmelon and snapbean.

One of the 1955 flower winners, McKana's Giant columbine, is the first perennial to win such an award in the last 18 years. The McKana Giant is described as introducing "taller, more bushy and stronger plants to support larger, extra long-spurred flowers."

The new columbine, awarded a bronze medal, comes in a wide range of clearer and richer blue, primrose, deep yellow, pink, red, purple, white, maroon and complementary combinations of these colors.

Toreador celosia, another bronze medal winner, is a huge crimson-red cockscomb. In this variety, it is reported, the foliage is lighter and brighter green and the heavy stems are flushed rose-pink. *Toreador* grows about two feet tall towards the end of the summer, and has a distinguishing feature in that the entire strength of the plant seems to go into the development of one colossal cockscomb.

The third flower winner, which also received a bronze medal, is the Prima Donna petunia, the rose-pink counterpart of *Ballerina*, the 1952 winning salmon-pink petunia. Prima Donna, a first generation hybrid, grows 12 to 15 inches tall and is almost solid in coloring. It is a giant fringed *grandiflora* type of petunia.

In the vegetable class, Golden Beauty sweetcorn and Pennsweet muskmelon were picked as regional "All-America Selections," while Seminole bush snapbean was chosen with the general recommendation that it can be raised wherever beans are grown.

Golden Beauty sweetcorn received a silver medal. It was developed by William H. Lachman, olericulturist at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass., and is best suited for such short growing season areas as the northern states, Canada and winter crops in south Florida.

Awarded a bronze medal, Pennsweet muskmelon was also bred for northern, short-season climates. It is described as a good producer of softball size fruits, with very thick and flavorful flesh. The seed cavity is especially small.

Seminole, winner of a silver medal, is the new disease-resistant, deep apple-green, round-podded bush snapbean. It was developed at the Everglades Experiment Station of the University of Florida. The plant is described as producing stringless pods, which are meaty, and which have a low fiber content.

The snapbean was chosen the best of the garden varieties entered in the competition.

The selections are made by "All America Selections," an independent, non-profit organization, with headquarters in Harrisburg, Pa., which is financed largely by the seed industry itself.

The organization tests new varieties sent to it in trial gardens all over the nation. After two years of testing, judges pick the outstanding new plants and award them either gold, silver or bronze medals.

Dozens of prospective new varieties from around the world are grown and tested each year along with varieties already being marketed for comparison.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1955

VETERINARY MEDICINE

Earthworm May Be Link In Swine Disease Cycle

► **THE EARTHWORM** may be the secret hiding place of the kidney worm, a swine parasite that costs American livestock men an estimated loss of \$72,772,000 a year.

Scientists, long puzzled over the whereabouts of the kidney worm during its early stages spent in the soil, have now successfully infected pigs in the laboratory with the disease by feeding them earthworms infected with the parasite's larvae.

If similar findings result from tests made under actual field conditions, researchers will have found the answer to the "missing link" in the kidney worm's life cycle. The possibility that the host is the earthworm is being explored by Dr. Francis G. Tromba, a parasitologist at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's experiment station, Beltsville, Md.

Pigs pick up the kidney worms by swallowing larvae or simply by lying down on contaminated ground. During dry spells or cold weather the larvae do not stand much of a chance for survival in the soil, but they could find favorable conditions by being picked up by earthworms.

At present, there is no known medicinal cure or treatment for the kidney worms which attack the liver, loin muscles and, on occasion, the blood vessels, kidneys and lungs of swine. This damage results in the need to trim expensive parts of the meat.

It is also reported in *Agricultural Research* (Jan.) that there is no known cure or treatment for the removal of several other swine parasites also being studied at the Beltsville station, which together with the kidney worm cause damage estimated at \$200,000,000 a year.

Science News Letter, January 29, 1955

SCIENCE QUIZ ANSWERS

105H-5; 105I-9; 105J-1.
105D-7; 105E-4; 105F-6; 105G-11;
102E-2; 105A-3; 105B-2; 105C-13;
102A-3; 102B-1; 102C-4; 102D-5;
Correct answers to Part C are:
97-3; 98-3.
Correct answers to Part B are: 96-3;
12-3.
Correct answers to Part A are: 1-3;
2-1; 3-4; 4-1; 5-3; 8-2; 9-3; 10-3; 11-3;
one point for each right answer.
check your answers. Give yourself
science aptitude test, you are ready to
Now that you have taken the

Science News Letter, January 29, 1955

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