

BEATRIX FARRAND  
LANDSCAPE GARDENER  
~~124 EAST 40TH STREET~~  
NEW YORK

1650 Orlando Road  
San Marino, California  
January 27, 1937

Miss Anne Sweeney  
314 East 163rd Street  
New York, N.Y.

Dear Miss Sweeney:

You did indeed choose the right year to desert California in winter as the eastern and Florida papers have doubtless been chortling over our cold rian storms and general misery. It has really been pretty bad and I fear the loss to many little farmers will be very serious. Some of the lemon orchards near San Bernadino look as though they had been blasted under a blow-torch, and while the papers try to console us *and* say that the trees are not seriously injured, I have my doubts in a good many districts and without doubt the young orchards have perished. I hear from Mr. Russell that the weather in the east has not been cold so perhaps in every way this has been a good year to make the exchange.

We are sending you the corrected cards for the catalogue house list and are keeping a working copy here, but if you do not find it too heavy a task to make a carbon copy of the list for us when you make your own final list we shall be immensely grateful. The cards sent you this time are of the trees and shrubs. The next dose perennials, wild and cultivated, and if this start proves a sufficient prop to you perhaps you would prefer to go on and make the full list yourself. It seems to me quite desirable from the point of view of information to include the accent for pronunciation on the cards and to also add the approximate native habitat. Of course each card may later be made to include the family to which the plant belongs, the quality of the soil it needs and its height and spread, but it seems to me that these brief cards will at least serve as an identification and later they may be expanded to the full biography of the plant if this be thought advisable. It would seem to me perhaps wise to make a sort of glossary sheet in which the general method used in making up the cards could be explained. For example, notes on the accents, the Latin synoymys, the common name under which the plant may be known in certain districts, and so on. It would seem to me also wise to say that our nomenclature was taken from Alfred Rehder's "Manual of Cultivated Trees and Shrubs Hardy in North America" published by the Macmillan Company. If it is thought desirable the page number of Rehder might be added to the card as taken from a definite edition. The edition from which our page number is taken is the 1927, but I think there are other more recent printings. The other main authority is Bailey's "Cyclopedia of Horticulture". This has been used for plants not included in Rehder's "Manual of Cultivated Trees." Where names are not included in either Rehder or Bailey they are taken from "Standardized Plant Names". Frankly I do not consider the Standardized Plant

Names a high class scholarly book of reference. It is merely a handbook for nurserymen and commercial gardeners and does not rank with either Bailey or Rehder, but it is sometimes useful in getting the common or local name of a plant. Bailey's Hortus, which has sometimes been used, is also a less good book of reference than the Cyclopedia, as it is often too condensed.

My suggestion would be that you try to find the plates of the various shrubs, trees and plants and flowers from places like the National Geographic Society, the Perry Pictures, and certain semipopular books such as American Wild Flowers in color. A book which costs about three or four dollars, of which two copies might be bought in order to be able to cut out the back to back illustrations. With regard to the annuals, as there are so many of these the little bouquet or wreath idea might work well for these, grouping the ones together which normally flower at the same time, so that instead of having twenty or more separate pictures for annuals such as petunias, ageratum, zinnias, and so on, they might be combined into an attractive garland on a big card with the names of the flowers radiating from the garland itself. I do not know whether this sentence will make sense to you but it expresses the idea which you and I discussed at Casa Dorinda.

Let me know how things go with you; whether or not these notes are a sort of prop, and if not call back to me for further help in whatever direction you feel it most needed. Possibly the easiest pictures to find will be those of the American wild flowers and the common cultivated garden flowers. These I will feed out to you in the next dose.

It seems likely that even Casa Dorinda got a good drubbing in the last cold weather as the hibiscus, copo d'oro, and many of the bignonias and all the bougainvillea are reduced to the hard wood. Perhaps it will teach us to use the material which is growing locally at our doors and on the California hillsides and which the Blaksley Garden is created to display. Casa Dorinda seems so empty without you and I look back with pleasure on our autumn days together. With best regards and hoping that you have escaped the fashionable cold in the head or flu, I am

Yours very sincerely,

Matth. Farrand  
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