

City Hall

Spring In City Gardens

BY RON REEVES

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The soft glow of magnolia blossoms against a spring sky, the brilliant red of a patch of anemones and the heavy fragrance of white hyacinths lining a path are evidence of the flower explosion taking place in the Santa Cruz City Hall gardens.

The flush of spring bloom is only the first of a series which will take place, changing in mood with the seasons.

The direction and work of City Gardener Todd Gresham have restored the gardens to a show place. He has held the post for two years and his efforts are now beginning to show in dramatic fashion.

Coming in now are the blooms of some 500 red and blue anemones, about 4000 tulips and sweet-scented hyacinths and some 2000 bright ranunculus. Joining in the spring show are azaleas, which had been setting nearly dormant until Gresham applied his horticultural magic. Scattered throughout the gardens are other spring-blooming favorites.

The spring show will be followed by another in the summer and a third in the fall. Even the winter will glow with color, Gresham said.

He prepared the beds with new soil and fertilizer when he did the extensive planting. He also has rejuvenated existing trees and shrubs, maintaining the old-fashioned flavor and charm of the gardens.

The progress has been recognized through an award of excellence to the city from SCOPE, the Santa Cruz Organization for Progress and Euthenics. Anyone who walks through the gardens can see the improvement. Many gardeners are taking tips from Gresham's work and following suit at their own homes.

Gresham has been in the horticultural field for 15 years and has been in the



A Flower Explosion At City Hall



Tree'n'Sea Living

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Photos By Vester Dick



held most of his life and majored in botany at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. He came to the city after spending 18 years on the Vetterli and Reinelt Nursery staff in Capitola.

Although his botanical interests are many and varied, his true love is the magnolia, and he has developed many new varieties. He is to present a paper on hybridizing magnolias later this month at an American Magnolia Society convention in Memphis, Tenn.

He said the some 25,000 magnolia seedlings he has produced are planted in gardens in many parts of the world, particularly England where preparations are being made to introduce some of the varieties into the commercial sales field.

Chances are that some of the best varieties eventually will be springing forth in the city hall gardens.