

Planting Seeds



Hakone Grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola')

With her *Reichsmarks* tucked in her pocket, six-year-old Trudi walked three kilometers to the Sandhofen stationery store. The owner, an old lady wearing a black dress and faded apron, looked up from her figuring when the little girl pushed open the door. Trudi, just big enough to look over the counter, asked for colored pencils.

The woman peered over her glasses at Trudi. "Sorry, no colored pencils today."

"When will you have them? Maybe next week?" Trudi asked politely.

"Maybe." She answered, shifting her attention to help an adult.

The next week Trudi again walked to the store. "Have you any colored pencils?"

"No, we still don't have any." The owner turned around and disappeared into the back room.

The third week Trudi asked, "Colored pencils?"

The owner glared at her, "No."

Trudi had asked everyone in her small German village of Blumenau for colored pencils, but ended up drawing pictures with a few used stubs, not at all her fantasy. She coveted a set of perfect long pencils in varied colors.

Junghans, the grocery store across the street from Trudi's house, supplied the village's daily needs. For anything else, the villagers had to travel to Sandhofen, a town with paved sidewalks and numerous stores. Her country, however, was enmeshed in World War II and few frivolities were available; even necessities like food and shoes were rationed.

After three weeks of trudging back and forth to Sandhofen, Trudi was willing to buy anything similar to a colored pencil set, but the store shelves were empty. Then she remembered how her mother had solved the problem of outgrown shoes. With most of the leather reserved for the war effort, each person was allotted only enough shoe stamps to buy one pair of shoes a

Blue Holly (*Ilex x meserveae* 'Blue Prince')
 Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Fat Albert')
 Canna Lily (*C. edulis* 'Pretoria')
 Hakone Grass (*Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola')

