



BEAUTIFUL YOUR GARDEN

Announce Member Schedule For Flower Show At House June 11

Mrs. Aaron H. Webster, chairman of the June 11 flower show at the Community House, sponsored by the Birmingham unit of the National Farm and Garden Association, announces the schedule for members of the local unit. Many valuable prizes will be awarded winners at the show, open to the public from 3 to 7 p.m. on that date. In next week's issue of The Eccentric the schedule for non-members and children over 15 years of age will be given while at the June 3 edition of this newspaper the schedule for all children under the age of 15

will be published. Members' schedule for the flower show is as follows: Section A. Special artistic class. Mrs. Charles Welch, Jr. in charge.

- Class 1. Table Setting.
- a. Buffet.
- b. Place Setting (table to be reserved or furnished by exhibitor. No flat silver permitted).
- Class 2. Budget Table.
- a. Set for two. Not to cost over \$1.25 including appointments and cloth. No flat silver.
- Class 3. Show Boxes.
- a. Study in one color. (By request. Call Mrs. James Mack).

Section B. Artistic Arrangement Surgery

Mrs. C. Theron Van Dusen in charge.

- Class 1. Arrangements under glass (inverted glass or Terrariums).
- Class 2. Miniature Arrangements.
- a. Under three inches (over all).
- b. Three to seven inches (over all).
- Class 3. Two arrangements in contrast. (Any two contrasting emotions expressed. N.B. limited to previous ribbon winners).
- Class 4. Modern Arrangement.
- Class 5. Wild Flower Arrangement. (N.B.—watch prohibited list).
- Class 6. Arrangements in pairs of containers.
- Class 7. Arrangements in which flowers and containers are in shades or tones of one color.
- Class 8. Mixed flower arrangement in kitchen container. (container to be of any material).
- Class 9. Flowering branches in brass, copper or pewter containers. (Arrangement of stems to be considered in judging).
- Class 10. Self expression. (anything in flowers presented in your own way.) (N.B.—open only to those who never have won a ribbon).
- Class 11. Arrangement of leaves in any container.
- Class 12. Flowers or foliage in glass containers. (Arrangement of stems to be considered in judging).
- Class 13. Poppies. Class 7. Lilacs. Class 4. Any other garden flower.
- Class 10. Any rare or unusual flower.
- Class 13. Collections—three of a kind. (N.B.—number of kinds and quality of blooms to count. The each kind separately.)



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'Do It Now' Is Motto Followed By The Successful Dirt Farmers

Editor's Note: Mrs. F. H. McKissey, of the local branch of the National Farm and Garden Association, kindly consented to write an article for The Eccentric on how to become a successful dirt gardener. Her story appears below.

Many articles have been written on "Don'ts for gardeners." It is now the kind of advice I can think of one most important "do" that it, "do it now." No doubt someone's dirt will be repeated in this article, but I shall try to stick to the theme of "Do It Now." If you really want to become a successful dirt gardener, make your motto "Do It Now." One way to do this is to have all your garden supplies on hand and in handy places.

First of all, when you are studying seed catalogues in the dreary month of February, make up your mind to order early, and then do it now. Take note of the garden gadgets, and buy early the ones you most need. However, I will leave that to you to decide. You may acquire so many tools that the layout becomes confusing. When you have your tools so impressive that your husband has a nightmare, in which he sees home full of garden tools that he cannot get in the house, then you probably have too many.

If you are a real dirt gardener, you will have a trowel, the most important of all tools, just outside each door. With such a tool on duty, a pesky dog will be uprooted before it grows too sturdy. If you are not a real dirt gardener, that has established itself in the wrong place can quickly be placed where it belongs.

To be sure, if you just returned from a bridge luncheon, you are not dressed for transplanting even one flower. Therefore, it would be wise to have your garden shoes located just as handy as the trowel. Mine are galoshes, and minus the afternoon stockings, you will be ready to put them on. Mine are galoshes, and minus the afternoon stockings, you will be ready to put them on. Mine are galoshes, and minus the afternoon stockings, you will be ready to put them on.

Do you have pruning shears? If you use them now on that bush that is crowding its neighboring plant. If you don't like the shape of your lawn, prune it to suit you. Do it now—or any time except just previous to the blooming period. Don't wait for the whole day when you are going to spend in the yard. The chances are that you will be too tired to do any pruning after you have done some cultivating.

Have the watering can waiting under a bush up in any inconspicuous place. When you walk into your garden and find a plant nodding its head, water it immediately. It can't wait until tomorrow for a drink, and if your watering can is conveniently located you won't have to ask the plant to wait until tomorrow.

Popularity Of Marigold Varieties Makes Them "Public Annual No. 1" For Next Year

International Horticulture. In looking over the introductions for the 1937 season we cannot help but be struck by the preponderance of Marigold varieties offered. 1937 is undoubtedly a Marigold year, and it seems safe to assume that in 1938 the Marigold will also be "Public Annual No. 1." From among the large number of Marigolds available stand out in the foreground. One is Marigold Gigantea Sunset Crown, the very largest Marigold ever grown, with sweet scented flowers that are loosely formed, full of centers with broad heavy petals gracefully overlapping, making a flower from 5 to 8 inches in diameter. The other Marigold which comes early to mind is Marigold Collette Crown of Gold, the early flowering, absolutely odorless-fogged Marigold, which was a Gold Medal winner in the 1937 All America Selections Competition. This lack of the Marigold odor in the foliage is undoubtedly a boon to gardeners and will noteably set it apart from all other entirely new types of Marigolds without the well-known pungent odor.

The Chrysanthemum-flowered Hybridize furnish the Marigold with still another type. The flowers are of medium size, some with quilled, incurved petals, others the imbricated type, others resembling the Guinea Gold type, and still others which are quite unlike the finest color and most interesting for home decoration. While Marigold Harmony is no longer strictly in the novelty class, it is still so popular that we cannot help mentioning it in a review of Marigold varieties. Its popularity remains unabated. Its very showy bi-color flowers so freely produced on the dwarf, early blooming plants, being one of the brightest spots of color in any garden.

CHATS WITH THE MASTER GARDENER

In the Lavender group the Giant Imperial varieties, White King and Coral King, are outstanding, both for their trueness to type and purple of color. White King is a pure glaucous white, while Coral King is a delicate apricot peach pink, an entirely new shade in Lavenders.

Among the recent Vetchen introductions we consider 'Crimson Glow,' a pure, soft-colored crimson variety, and 'Floradale Beauty,' outstanding. 'Crimson Glow' has a very penetrating color tone and makes a very brilliant carpet of color in a bed of flowers. 'Floradale Beauty,' on the other hand, has quite the largest flowers of any Vetchen yet introduced, and comes in a color range including shades of red and rose. 'Crisis Queen' and 'Spectrum Bed' are very fine varieties of last year's introduction.

Among the popular group of compact plants we consider 'Nierembergia Hippomanota,' outstanding. The very dwarf, compact plant, heavily covered from early summer until frost with the dainty lavender-blue, cup-shaped flowers. In the matter of length of blooming season, 'Nierembergia Hippomanota' can be compared with 'Zinnia Linearis.' Both remain in flower throughout the summer and are only stopped by the heavy frosts of autumn.

In looking over the collection of 1937 variety introductions, one can make no general statements regarding the type, but can happily conclude that plants of all types are being introduced for the gardens of the world, both the small, and the medium tall-growing home garden type, and the very large-flowered show type. All are receiving attention in the trial grounds and production centers of the gardening world.

FLOOD GETS GOLDFISH
Little Hinks printed himself at the office with a noticeable gap in his upper dentures. "Had an accident?" "No," he replied. "Only a row with my wife."

Safety First
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Don't Cut Too Short
Now, about cutting your grass—let it get three inches high in the spring before you cut it the first time. If it's newly planted grass, set your mower to cut no closer than two inches. If it's pretty well established, you can cut it down to an inch and a half. And it's wise to use a grass-catcher on your mowing, clippings left on the lawn tend to form a sort of mat that hurts the grass.

Highlights of Lawn Care
You remember I told you in our last little chat that weeds are the result of thin, sticky grass—and that the best way to improve the grass and get rid of the weeds is to feed the grass. I recommended that you use a complete plant food, one that supplies all eleven of the food elements your growing things need from the soil. And you remember I stressed that point that lawn feeding should be done good and early, so as to give the grass a good head start over the weeds.

Feed, Reared Early
By early feeding, I mean just as soon as the frost is out of the ground the first two or three inches. Try to analyze each spot and see what caused the trouble. If the soil had too much clay in it, so that it baked hard and the spade in some sand or fine-sifted shales to loosen it up. If on the other hand it was too sandy, that it couldn't hold water enough for the grass, you can fix it by mixing in heavy black loam or peat moss, or well-decayed mulch such as last year's dead leaves and grass clippings. Then mix in some complete plant food. If you're working on small patches of ground, use about one heaping tablespoonful of food to every square foot. On larger areas you can figure two quarts to every 100 square feet. Mix it well into the soil, working it down three or four inches into the ground. Then apply your grass seed, using the very best seed you can get, plenty of it. Scatter the seed evenly into the soil and water gently but thoroughly—and don't let the soil ever get really dry until the new grass is growing strongly.

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