



# BEAUTIFY YOUR YARD AND GARDEN

## Early Preparation, Planting Necessary For Lawn-Making During Spring Of Year

Most authorities on lawn-making believe that late Summer and early Autumn are more suitable times than Spring for planting lawns. For various reasons, however, most lawns are made in the Spring, and where that is done extra early preparation and planting are important.

The first thing in preparing new lawns is to provide satisfactory drainage.

The next step is the grading. Poor grading detracts from the landscape scheme and produces an unsatisfactory setting for the house. The front lawn, especially, is graded not only to dispose of

surface water properly but also to produce an intimate relation between the house and the grounds. Any changes in grade are made on the subsoil. The top soil is removed, the necessary changes made and the topsoil returned to produce an even and uniform layer. Uniform topsoil helps to make uniform turf.

**Making the Seed Bed**

Now comes seed bed preparation. The seed bed requires soil that is fertile, loamy and is deep, uniform in character, of good structure, neither wet nor dry and well supplied with organic matter humus. If it is not certain that the soil is of good physical or chemical condition, a sample of about a pound of it may be sent to the State Agricultural College to be tested.

Soil rich in organic matter makes better use of the chemical fertilizers, because it withstands leaching of the plant nutrients. Organic matter serves as a reservoir for moisture, it releases the moisture to the grass roots when they need it and also helps to cut down the water bill in periods of drought.

**Sources of Humus**

If well-rotted farm manure is used at least two or three cubic yards, or from one to two tons, for each 1,000 square feet is mixed into the upper four or five feet of the farm manure. There are available there are substitutes on the market, such as peat moss and commercial humus. There are about twenty bushels in a bale of peat moss. One bale is used for each 300 square feet of lawn area. This amount will cover the soil one inch deep and can then be thoroughly mixed with the upper four or five inches of soil.

When native peat, or a high organic muck or commercial humus is used, it is applied at the rate of 1,000 to 1,500 pounds to 1,000 square feet of lawn area. There are also must be thoroughly mixed with the upper inches of soil. Peat and commercial humus are readily free from weed seed and from disagreeable odors and easy to handle.

The above-mentioned materials are not very rich in fertilizer value, therefore the wise lawn-maker incorporates a complete fertilizer with soil before seeding. Almost all lawn soils need it. About twenty pounds of a 4-12-4 or 5-10-5 commercial fertilizer are mixed with the upper two or three inches of soil before seeding. Later, after the grass has been growing for some time, top dressing of fertilizer high in nitrogen, such as a 10-6-4, are used.

When the fertilizer is applied is a fine opportunity to grubproof the lawn against Japanese beetles and also to keep out angleworms that make an uneven surface. This is accomplished by the use of at least five pounds of arsenate of lead per 1,000 square feet of lawn area. Arsenate of lead has also been found good to help control the growth of chickweed. The arsenate is a poison to be handled with care.

After these materials have been added and thoroughly mixed with the soil, the area is raked level, then the seed bed is rolled. No matter how level you thought the surface would be, you will find that there are many mounds and depressions. These may be leveled off or filled in by a little raking. The process of rolling and re-raking is repeated until an ideal surface is produced. Then the surface is loosened with a slight shaltery, and just before seeding.

Now the time has come to do the seeding. The total amount of seed is divided into two equal parts. One-half is broadcast while the sower walks back and forth in parallel lines north and south until the first half-portion of seed covers the whole area uniformly. Then the other half of the seed is broadcast to cover the area again but in an east-west direction. By going over the ground twice in this way the seeding is one uniformly.

After the seeding operation the seed is covered lightly by raking with an iron-toothed rake. Then the ground is thoroughly rolled in very directions. Some people like to hasten the grass along with irrigation; others may want to let the turf do the work.

To hasten the germination of the seed, sprinkle the surface gently and thoroughly with fine spray, then keep the surface moist with light sprinklings. When the new lawn is up, frequent and light watering can be discontinued. Instead, thorough soakings depending on weather conditions, encourage the grass to become deep-rooted.

**Varieties of Grass**

The type of grass seed to use for the new lawn depends on the soil conditions, whether moist or dry, and whether the spot is sunny or shady. Cheap and "shot-gun" mixtures are expensive. It pays to obtain seed that is clean, pure, and of a high germination, even at a few cents more a pound.

Tulip bulbs will flourish in any part of the United States where the soil and climate permit out



## Tulips Prized As Spring Flowers Because Of Charm, Fragrance And Wealth Of Color

Because of the variety of color they give to our gardens and homes, Tulips are among the most highly-prized Spring flowers. They bloom at a period when there is a shortage of other flowers, but this fact, though contributory to their popularity, is not the principal reason for their being such universal favorites. The charm of colour, statelyness, wealth and fragrance which is theirs, allied with the comparative ease with which they are grown and their adaptability, have made them popular flowers.

For more than three hundred years, Tulips have continued to increase in favour, and now this native of southern Europe is truly an international flower.

A few flowers can boast such a lengthy period of steady expansion in cultivation, nor such a momentous event connected with their history as the craze, dubbed Tulipomania, which swept Holland soon after the bulb had been introduced there. This is the tercentenary of the year when speculation in Tulip bulbs was rife and Tulipomania gripped that part of the Netherlands which has since become the largest bulb-producing centre of the world. By way of Austria, the Tulip reached Holland early in the seventeenth century, and was soon claiming the attention, more and more, of enterprising individuals in the dune-land around Haarlem. The district

was found to be suitable for the Tulip; the flower proved fascinatingly popular, and prices began to rise.

Attracted by the prices that both the bulbs and the flowers were making, speculators entered the market; values quickly appreciated and the demand exceeded the supply. The lucky possessor of a few bulbs of a rare variety could command a fabulous figure for them, and a new variety was the equivalent of a fortune. The situation became ridiculous; merchants normally sane and successful lost their heads and bought bulbs with reckless abandon. Often they bought bulbs from men who had not yet received them from a previous seller, but that didn't matter a great deal for the buyer had not always sufficient funds to pay for them. Anyhow, he was hoping to make a handsome profit on the resale. Some went so far as to part with all their worldly possessions to augment their insufficient supply of money in order to make up the purchase price, and it was not unusual for a man to exchange his house for a single bulb. Chickens were counted before they were hatched, and many a seller found himself unable to keep his commitments; then the wavering market began to crumble. The gamble, starting in 1636, was at its peak in the following Spring, and then prices came tumbling down from the dizzy heights, leaving a trail of poverty and ruin. The pricked bubble of inflation brought

chaos in its wake, and Government intervention was needed to prevent a far worse catastrophe. Amongst the records of the period, housed in Dutch museums, are numerous pamphlets and several artists' paintings depicting the Tulipomania, in addition to reproductions of Tulips. From these paintings it is seen that self-colours were evidently of little moment and that striped and fancy flowers were the cause of the furor. One of the most illuminating relics of the period is a printed price list issued in Haarlem, early in 1637. It reads like a bulb merchant's dream, with prices for single bulbs ranging from a few hundred guilders up to 4,200. Amongst the choice items in the list are one bulb of Viceroy, 3,000 guilders.

Other records extant show the foregoing prices to be fairly moderate. One bulb of Sämper Augustus sold for 5,500 guilders, and three bulbs of the same variety together made 30,000 guilders.

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## Chats With The Master Gardener

**1. Plan Garden Early**

Probably the most important step in making a garden is planning it. Of course, people who garden in a hit-or-miss way sometimes come out all right, but it's been my experience that, when planning, pays real dividends in extra beauty. One friend of mine—a man who's famous in his community for the wonderful effects he gets in just a small space—told me he always knows exactly what he's going to do with every square foot of his garden before he turns the first forkful of earth.

If I were you, the first thing I'd do in planning a garden would be to make a map of it on a big sheet of paper. And I'd make it pretty carefully to scale, so as not to overlook any space that could contribute to the beauty of my garden. On this map I'd locate the permanent things, such as trees, shrubbery, and the house. If you have a pool or a rock garden, put them into the map too. Then, around these, plan the size and shapes of the flower beds.

One of the best ways I know to get gardening ideas is to read seed catalogs. They'll not only give you a wonderful selection of flowers and plants to choose from, but they'll give you a very good idea as to which are best suited for the climate you live in, which will grow best in your kind of soil, when you should plant each variety, and when you can expect each one to blossom.

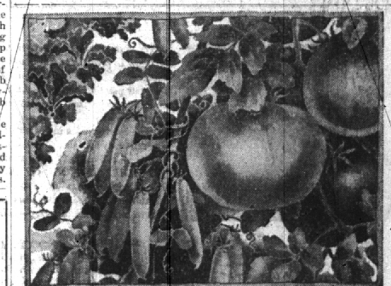
When I read seed catalogs I

keep a list of the flowers and other plants that appeal to me. And I'm always careful to include some new flowers that I haven't grown before. I've found that one of the most delightful experiences in gardening is in finding new faces in my flower beds each year. It's just like making new friends! When you have decided on the flowers you're going to grow, the next thing to do is to plot on that map of yours where you're going to put each variety and how much space you can budget for each. There are a number of things to keep in mind. Some flowers grow a lot taller than others, and the shorter ones have to be set in front where they can be seen. And since flowers don't all blossom at the same season, each flower bed should be planned so that it will have a pleasing variety of flowers in bloom at all times through the summer. Color combinations have to be considered, too.

**Feeding Most Important**

Here's an important thing to remember about your soil. Your growing things depend on it to supply them eleven different food elements, every one of which is essential for healthy growth. From time to time these food elements become exhausted from the soil and have to be replaced. . . because growing plants, just like growing children, can't be strong and healthy without a complete balanced diet. To avoid all risk, I feed my garden a complete plant food—one that I can be sure will supply all eleven of the needed food elements in scientifically balanced proportions. It pays to give everything you grow a square meal.

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