

# BEAUTIFUL YARD AND GARDEN

## Know Your Plants, Is Advice to All Home Gardeners

Gardeners who know their "plant psychology" can make flowers in the garden do things wholly foreign to their natural habit.

Dwarf, bushy plants, for instance, can be made to grow taller and more slender, studies show. And plants naturally tall and slender can be induced to assume a more bushy form.

Here's the procedure for "stretching out" bushy plants: Set plants closer together than usual. As lateral stems appear, prune them away. Having no space in which to expand sideways and with all their attempts at lateral growth halted by pruning, plants are forced to concentrate on central upward growth.

Try this with snapdragon, vinca, French marigold and hilltop zinnia. You'll find this procedure helpful when you wish to accommodate a large number of plants

in a restricted space. It's much better than throwing some of them away. It should be noted that blooming is not restricted by this treatment. In fact, plants tend to bloom more profusely when crowded.

Although larkspur is a comparatively tall plant naturally, this crowding technique can be used to make it grow still taller. Try it this summer and see if your neighbors don't ask you where you got the new variety of larkspur.

To shorten up tall-growing flowers, simply pinch of the main central stems from young plants. This allows the plants to concentrate on lateral growth. Be sure they have ample space and they'll spread out handsomely. Try this with African marigold, giant zinnia, or salvia. You'll find you can fill a larger space with a limited number of plants.

Two popular home garden flowers—koehia and balsam—are neither tall nor really dwarf. Yet they react readily to either the "stretching out" or the "dwarfing" treatments here recommended.

To make your hedge of koehia bushes a foot or two higher than ordinary, grow the plants close together, and trim away their lateral growth. Or to achieve big, bulging growth, keep the tops lopped off. Treat balsam the same way, and you will get some effects that will make your garden truly different.

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## Chats With the Master Gardener

### How to Rid Your Lawn of Weeds

I know lots of folks have given up hope of ever having a weedless lawn. And if I try to tell them they're likely not to believe me. But the treatment I'm going to prescribe has cured lots of lawns that their owners had given up for lost, and I certainly want to urge you to give it a fair trial.

In trying to get rid of weeds, the first thing to consider is this: A weed and a grass plant just naturally can't grow on the same identical spot. If you have enough grass plants, if your turf is thick enough, the weeds can't get started. But when your grass is thin, when it doesn't completely cover the ground, every little spot of weeds practically invites seed to lights and grow. And you know you can't weed seeds off your place; every breeze brings in a crowd of them. So you see why it is that if your grass gets thin you're sure to have a healthy crop of dandelions and plantains and other pests.

### Proper Feeding Essential

The real answer to this thin grass problem and consequently to the weed problem—is proper feeding. Because a thin, weedy lawn is a half-starved lawn, almost every time. Here's why.

All through the growing season your grass roots are constantly drawing eleven different food elements from the soil, and every single one of these elements is necessary for healthy growth. If you let even one of them run out, your grass will become thin and sickly, will begin to die out. And right from the weeds get going! So the first and by far the most important step in controlling weeds is to make sure that your grass has all eleven of these needed food elements.

"Very good," you say, "it sounds like a great idea. But how about weed roots that are already in my soil, just waiting to spring up and spoil my lawn?" Well, the answer is exactly the same: You see, grass roots spring up earlier in the spring than weed roots do. If you give your lawn a good square meal early enough—just as soon as frost is out of the ground—it will give your grass a head start over the weeds. And later, when weeds do crop up, your grass should be growing so strongly that lots of weeds will find it room to grow. They'll be choked out.

**Feed Early**  
Now, of course, I wouldn't want to promise that early feeding will make the grass choke out all the weeds in one season. But if you do it right, and do it early enough, it will cut the number of weeds so greatly that you'll feel like going after the rest by hand.

But remember to be effective, it must be done just as soon as the frost is out of the ground. And remember, too, that just any old plant food won't do. Manure, for instance, actually contains weed seeds, so that when you spread manure, you're just making the problem that much worse. I'd recommend that you buy a complete plant food, one that supplies all eleven of the food elements your grass needs from the soil. Apply it to your entire lawn, 4 pounds per 100 square feet.

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IT'S PLANTING TIME IN BIRMINGHAM

## Soy Beans Now Have Place in the Kitchen Garden Perennials Prove Favorite Type for Garden Planting

Something new for a kitchen garden is suggested from the extensive research that has pushed the soy bean recently into dozens of industrial uses as well as serving plantlets for the home as a food, feed and forage for its simple protein, vitamins and minerals.

"Meal, flour, and milk and such are typical forms of the soy bean in the kitchen in its food supplies. But the newest suggestion is to plant a short row of soy beans in the vegetable garden and try them cooked green on a table top."

Two varieties suggested by R. M. Megeer of the Farm Crops Department of Michigan State University include the 'Hanko' and the 'Easycook.'

"I won't guarantee that those who sit at the table will like the green cooked beans. Some will and some won't at their tables differ, but it is true that they offer a measure of vitamins and proteins."

The green beans are packed when they have reached nearly full size but should be still green and succulent. If they are to be shelled they are easier to shell if boiled first in the pod for 15 to 20 minutes. Then they may be steamed or boiled in lightly salted water. Some varieties cook as quickly as green peas, others take about the same time as lima beans.

The firm texture and dry flavor require only salt and pepper for taste for seasoning and perhaps some melted butter or crispily fried onions.

**Or Make the Gesture, Anyway**  
"Having," "My dear, did you never observe that designer take a woman's head to adorn many of your coiffures?"  
Her husband sneezed. "No, but I have observed that designer take many of my coiffures to adorn a woman's head."

**Russell F. Bany of Bany Flowers**  
Perennials have long been a favorite plant of garden lovers. Throughout the years they have earned a prominent place in the garden because of their many excellent qualities.

Presently a plant which can come for some time, two years, three, five, ten, indefinitely, others are chosen to decorative and they stand the test of time in good soil, and water in good soil, and they are easy to care for.

Some perennials will bloom the first season from seed if they have been planted early. Most of them, however, will not bloom until their second season. If you are impatient to include perennials in your plans for a certain season of the year, do not do so for your choice can supply you with healthy stock.

All perennials do not have the same flowering period. Some of them are in bloom in the spring, others in summer, and still others in the fall. Therefore, if it is possible, through thoughtful and careful planning to have a garden that will delight and attract you throughout the year.

You will find, too, that perennials require very little care after they are one year old in good soil.

So, why not plan to include perennials in your garden. You will find that they can be combined very successfully with shrubs, annuals and bulbs.

**Shall She Hang?**  
Guest—Only once in history has the personality of a great singer inspired a great chef in the making of a masterpiece when we got the recipe Melba.  
Eloquent—Oh, yes, but you're wrong there. What about the oyster Parfait?

**DOLLARS FROM HEAVEN**  
BIRMINGHAM (M.P.A.)—Not a penny from heaven! But dollars fell in Birmingham Streets one day this week. A good work company motor was waiting a store with a handful of currency and checks, worth more than \$500. Suddenly a gust of wind snatched the money from his hand and whirled it high in the air. As it fluttered to the surrounding streets, nearby persons recovered all but \$243.40, money was still being found in the yards for several days afterward.



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## Bright Cineraria Ideal Plant for Window Gardens

The Cineraria with its broad heart-shaped leaves and daisy-like clusters of bright blooms is just the plant to bridge the flowerless gap between the last of the winter season and spring blooms in home window gardens.

This plant needs lots of water and lots of light if it is to be kept in a healthy condition. A Cineraria in a six-inch pot if kept at room temperature will give off at least a quart of water every 48 hours, according to Walter Kleinschmidt of the University of Michigan Botanical Gardens. For this reason it is a good plant to have in a room as it adds considerable moisture to the atmosphere.

The Cineraria can stand both hot and cool temperatures, but does best at about 70 degrees. As it is an annual it cannot be kept over a second season.

In case the leaves begin to turn yellow before the blooming season is over, a little synthetic fertilizer should be added to the soil. If the plant is bothered by insects, care takers are cautioned never to use a strong spray solution on it. Instead, Mr. Kleinschmidt says, syringe it off carefully with water.

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