

# BEAUTIFUL AND GARDEN

## How to Keep Cut Flowers Fresher

Cut flowers may be kept fresh from 12 to 36 hours longer by adding a preservative to the water.

The preservative recommended by Walter Reichenbach of the University of Michigan Botanical Gardens is one discovered by Prof. Alex. Laurie of Ohio State

University. After experimenting with over 150 preservatives, Professor Laurie found that a solution of hydrosulfate of water, and a pint of hydrosulfate to a pint of water. Add one teaspoon of this solution to each one and one-half quarts of water, and is for every quart of a few drops to the average vase.

## Success of Crops Due to Variety, Gardeners Told

The success of many of your gardens depends on the selection of the right variety to meet the specific conditions of your garden.

This is particularly true with respect to tomatoes. If you live in a northern section, where seasons are short, you must be careful to choose an early variety of tomato so that you may be sure of reaping your crop before plants are killed by autumn frosts. One of the earliest of all varieties is Early Jewel, however, are only a few days later and have somewhat better quality.

Where seasons are longer, a late-bearing variety like Ponderosa or Beefsteak may be chosen, especially if one likes large, mild-flavored, almost seedless fruits.

If only a small plot of garden is available for your tomato variety, you should choose a tomato variety that requires comparatively little room. Dwarf Stone and Dwarf Champion are best, as they are somewhat tree-like in form and need not be trained to stakes or covered spars. They give a good medium-early yield of smooth fruits of high quality.

For an all-purpose tomato—one as suitable for table and salads as for canning or making juice—choose any of the following: Pritchard, Marglobe, and Stone, all red-meat, and Gulf State, yellow and globe, both mild-meat. Marglobe or Pritchard would be your choice if a disease resistant variety is needed, according to experts. They are both decidedly resistant to fusarium wilt and somewhat resistant to bacterial wilt.

## Many Amateur Gardeners Ask These Questions, Which Are Answered Here

[Editor's Note: Here is a list of questions compiled by Edward H. Laird, landscape architect, and answered by him, in reply to the many amateur gardeners who asked these questions each week. These are among the more common questions asked, and are of general interest for that reason. Mr. Laird points out.]

By Edward H. Laird

What flowering shrubs will bloom in the shade? There are many flowering shrubs that will bloom in the shade, but among those having conspicuous flowers are the following: Double-flowered Viburnum Rose of Sharon, Jetted Flowering Currant, Elder, Fatsia Sphenoloba, and, of course, Rhododendrons and other evergreen (acid loving) plants.

Will you please explain the difference between daffodils, jonquils, and narcissus? This is one of the commonest questions that is raised about these bulbous plants. Strictly speaking, the daffodils and jonquils are members of the genus Narcissus and are all therefore properly called jonquils or Narcissus. In common English usage, however, some are called jonquils, narcissus, jonquils, or daffodils.

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For flowers of this sort, the stems should be singed by holding it in a flame until thoroughly charred.

What should be used in the soil to nourish evergreens? Evergreens do best in a soil full of humus and organic fertilizers. Similar to the putting of soil, the soil should be well-aerated and moist. Well-rotted stable manure supplies this sort of fertilizer best and should be used as much about evergreens, and dug well into the soil around them when planting. It cannot contain some of the prepared plant food which are so common on the market.

What depth should trees and shrubs be planted? They should be planted as deep or slightly deeper than they were growing in the nursery. The depth can be determined by the soil line appearing on the plant stems.

Will you please explain why the hardy perennial flowers bloom at the same time each year? The blooming season of the different sorts of hardy plants both woody and herbaceous, is governed by the length of the growing season and the botanical characteristics of the plant. This culminates always about the same time each year.

Plants grown in greenhouses and annually started from seeds can be made to bloom at irregular seasons, but each of these has some one season at which it blooms much better than any other time.

How much lawn seed to use per thousand square feet? In the building of a new lawn, six to eight, preferably eight, pounds of No. 1 seed per thousand square feet. When reconditioning an old or thin lawn, four to five pounds should be used.

How much fertilizer should be spread on lawns and when? Fertilizer should be spread on lawns in early spring when the grass is coming out, and again in late summer or early fall.

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## Make Vegetable Plot Ornamental And Useful Too

In the past, a garden meant a vegetable garden. Not so long ago, it meant a flower garden. Yet the catalogs with their pages of tested seeds and selected varieties indicate that the kitchen garden has come back. Enthusiasts mention any number of points in its favor.

A supply of fresh vegetables from the home ground outcashes any purchased products in freshness and flavor. As soon as vegetables are gathered, they begin to deteriorate. For quality, say the kitchen gardeners, grow your own.

Moreover, it is possible to plant short rows that will yield a continuous supply of young crops. Vegetables should be tender, as well as fresh, to provide the finest flavor. Health is still another consideration, for the household with a vegetable plot will eat more vegetables, because they taste better and are economical and are ready at hand.

To the current interest in vegetable growing many general conditions have contributed. Thrift gardens, school gardens, budget plots, housing projects, wider knowledge of diet and health requirements, economic pressure among large groups in every community—these are some of the reasons for the attractive vegetable plots in the new catalogs.

There is still another urge, perhaps the most persuasive. No trophy of spade and hoe brings such proud satisfaction to the gardener as a basket of well-grown vegetables. The kitchen garden, tilled and watered and fed in something to bring a smile to the least vain. Ask the man who owns one.

On its decorative side, the vegetable garden is developing into an ornamental part of the landscape. It may be well-tended, if it is to look attractive. Its design may be varied, however, by flower borders, herb plots and a background of fruit trees.

ESCAPES VIA SHIRT TIE—Manning was taking Albert Bourdieu, 38, and another prisoner to jail. Bourdieu asked if he could stop at home and get a clean shirt, and his request was granted. Manning and his other prisoner waited outside, and when Bourdieu failed to reappear, the officer found he had escaped through a window. However, Bourdieu was recaptured several days later.

plant. Too, the tops may be cut back to reduce the height of the shrub, but there must be taken to preserve the natural form and branching habit. All cuts should be made as close as possible to the next lower node or branching point and if of any considerable size, paint over with any thick paint or hot tar. Spring flowering shrubs are pruned immediately following the main flowering period while late flowering shrubs are pruned in winter or early spring. The object is to prune so as not to lose the flowering buds.

When should annuals be planted? When there is no longer danger of killing frost, probably the middle or latter part of May.

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## Too Early Planting May Prove Setback Gardeners Warn

"Nowhere is the saying 'Haste makes waste' more applicable than in gardening. In planting your garden three weeks earlier than your neighbor you may be making your crops three weeks later than his.

The danger of having your plants frost killed is not the only thing to be avoided. Many times plants may not be killed, but they will be set back several weeks in their development by cool weather.

The specific case of a tomato grower in Michigan illustrates the point. He asked vegetable experts on what date to set out tomatoes. "June 1," they told him. But he wanted an early crop and, disregarding their advice, set out his plants on May 1. They were killed by frost. He set out more plants May

16. Although these were not killed, the cool weather set them back badly. In contrast, plants set out at the seed station on June 1 matured fruit 10 days before those set out by the gardener on May 16. Fortunately there are other more hardy vegetables which the gardener may plant early when he gets impatient to start his garden. Among them are broccoli, cabbage, onions, parsnips, radishes, peas and spinach.

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