

Gardeners' Corner

(This column is conducted for the Baldwin Library, by Mrs. More T. Patten, Box 146, Bloomfield Hills. Questions on gardening matters may be addressed to Mrs. Patten and they will be answered in the Gardeners' Corner or directly by mail.)

HERBS
There is an exhibit of herbs at the Baldwin Library. You may study them from any angle. The mounted dried herbs are a help to familiarize yourself with the plants for next summer's growing. There are plans of possible herb gardens and there are old herbals on display. The amount of legend and superstition connected with herbs can be seen at a glance at the pages of an old herbal known as the *Garden of Health*. There is also a book with colored illustrations and one known as the *Practical Gardener* is one of the oldest garden books printed in America.

Formerly herbs were known to every gardener and every cook. It was possible to use them in a garden—negligible, although it is possible to use them in a kitchen-herb garden where their numbers can run well over 50. For ordinary garden a few will do. Chives are the best known. They should be planted by the plant, or rather beside (because they belong to the onion family). Next in use is thyme. This comes easily from seed. It does sage and summer savory. Tarragon must be had from a root or a cutting as the tiny tarragon does not make seed. A sprig of tarragon does wonders in cream soups and it is of course the chief ingredient in tarragon vinegar, and bear sauce. Chervil is practically unknown in America but it is used in a French soup and collection of "Fines Herbes" in France. It comes fairly easily from seed but not so well in partial shade. A cut of two or three can be used to advantage in mixtures of herbs. Sweet marjoram must be started early if you are growing your own. You can usually buy a plant later in the season. Basil is another easy annual herb that deserves more attention. It is the "tomato herb" doing wonders when added to tomato juice cocktail or tomato soup or sauces. Lemon balm (Melissa) smells a lot like citronella, but strangely when it is placed inside a grill or chicken it gives a delicious flavor not at all like lemon or mosquito coils. An edging of parsley looks well but an even one is harder to have than one would imagine. Parsley is slow to germinate, sometimes taking a good six weeks. Soaking the seeds before or pouring on boiling water after they are planted helps speed them along. A few of mint will spread all over the place if it is at all satisfied. A few seeds of dill and your herb garden is well under way. Remember that herbs like ran (except chervil) and a not too rich soil.

POT PLANTS
Examination of the roots of the plants that have been growing on your shelf all winter or of those recently purchased in small pots may show a thick web of roots. If so, the time has come to repot the plant in a larger size pot. If the plant is in a 2 inch pot put it into a 3 inch, if in a 3 inch one into a 4 inch. In other words do not suddenly change to a plant from a very small one to a very much larger one. The roots just won't develop well. Work the soil down between the old ball of roots and the side of the new pot with a stick. Remember to use broken pot pieces as drainage in the bottom of any pot larger than a three inch one. Once they are repotted thoroughly but do not feed it until the plant shows it is again growing well.

FLOWER SHOW
Plans for the annual flower show are going forward. It is to be held in Convention Hall March 23-31. Several local women hold important posts. W. D. Thompson is in charge of hostesses. Mrs. Lee Joslyn, registration. Mrs. Edith Forbush, announcing the list of judges accredited in flower arrangement and specimen bloom, among others from Birmingham and Bloomfield.

ROUGH WEATHER
The chilly rain comes teeming down to flood the world and turn it to a sea of mud. The trees so sodden and the grass so dead cower beneath the thick clouds overhead. The chickens stand inside their rain drenched coops and the wet dog shivers underneath the stoop.

The red calf looks for weeds along the wall and doesn't seem to mind the rain at all. The slow staid clumsy horses plot along. Their hides are thick. Their legs are stout and strong. Old Ginger and her yellow kittens close to the first and waste a day in sleep.

Dusk comes too early and the fading light merges into the inkness of night. Night, and the endless beating as if it would not ever cease again. Yet—surely as the storm clouds pass along, so will the grieving heart burst into song.

—BEATRICE McDONALD
Toleration is good for all or it is good for none.—Burke.
The more you know, the better we forgive; Who'er feels deeply, feels for all who live. —Mme. De Stael.

People's Column
The Eccentric is pleased to receive communications for this column. All communications must be signed. But signatures for editorial use are not required. Letters must be in the office by Tuesday noon for publication the following Thursday.

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Library Offers Variety of Books For the Gardeners

By LINDO MOORE
Perhaps it's because that February sun is a little brighter than usual, or because you heard a cardinal whooping rhythmically from a fence post the other day; or, merely because you caught sight of some incredible purple violets on a spring hat in a shop window. Whatever the cause, suddenly you're a victim of the gardening bug.

There is still snow on the ground which is frozen harder than a sidewalk, but you find yourself walking and shivering in a chilly garden and wishing fervently the warmer weather so you could really get to work on the garden.

One cure for a serious case of gardenitis, is, of course a nice warm day in April. The patient is provided with spade, rake, barrow, sack of bonemeal, several packets of seed and left to his own device. At sundown, he returns grinning to his bed to recuperate, fully cured by the time he looks at the garden until next August. Some of the seeds he planted so happily, will sprout in two weeks. So will a lot of weeds. In two months the garden will look like a nice lush cow pasture.

From then on whenever the "patient" looks into his garden he mutters something and immediately into an apartment where no one bothers about gardens. For scale has attacked the lilacs; the roses look distinctly droopy. He notices that the hollyhocks seem to be filling up the garden and dismally that the spring bulbs he planted two years ago did not bloom this year.

With just such a little bit of foresight and care this lamentable state of affairs might be avoided. The wise gardener does not wait for the gardening fever to become unbearable. Instead, he surrounds himself with seed catalogues and books and spends hours of winter weather happily planning the garden that this year is going to be really breath-taking.

For the most of us who are not gardening fanatics, the sight of giant tomes discouragingly on the propagation of rare types of hybrid tea roses, or some such rarified subject is apt to be a little depressing. All we need is a little book that will tell us how to grow a few flowers in the back garden without too much trouble.

Such a book is *The Incongruous Garden* by Mrs. Marg Wheeler Rush. This begins with elementary questions of soil and fertilizer and proceeds in a painless step by step into the intricacies of growing outside roses and rhododendrons. Other books for the beginner-gardener.

1007 Garden Questions Answered by Alfred Carl Hottel. Posed in question form such as might be asked by any bewildered gardener are most of the problems that harass the amateur with a hoe. Equally valuable are two other books by the same author: *The Book of Annuals*, and *The Book of Perennials*.

Four Seasons in Your Garden, by Fletcher Steele. A little volume that discusses the best treatment for the garden during each season of the year. The author also suggests the flower most suited.

Adventures in a Suburban Garden by Fletcher Steele. A little volume that discusses the actual experience of a suburban gardener—his trials and tribulations and well as satisfaction from a back yard garden.

More ambitious books dealing with garden design and landscaping include:

New Gardening for Old, by H. S. Orloff. Rehabilitation of very old gardens is a strong point. Also, stress is laid on the advisability of change and variety in ordinary gardens.

Garden Design, by Marjorie Cautley. The author stresses color arrangement.

Gardening, like any other art, inevitably leads to specialization and offers tempting fields for exploration. Books dealing with specialized fields are many. It is possible to list only a few here.

Shrubs, by P. F. Richardson, and **Hardy Shrubs**, by F. A. Waugh are both authoritative.

Gladious and its Culture, by A. C. Beal.

Culture of Perennials, by D. M. Cloud.

Bulbs for your Garden, by A. H. Wood.

The Propagation of Plants, by A. S. Fuller.

For the gardener looking for something different, there is the fascination of herb gardening. Easy to grow, their spicy fragrance is almost irresistible. Many herbs have romantic legends connected with them and folk lore credits them with curious properties. **What to Do With Herbs**, by C. Dennis gives directions for a complete herb garden. **Herbal Delights**, by C. F. Level describes many species of herbs and gives an account of their legendary properties.

With such a wealth of literature available, there is no reason at all why every owner of a plot of ground should not have a beautiful garden. It is worth a try, at any rate.

The books mentioned may be obtained at the Baldwin Public Library.

Glacial Deposits Aid Finns' Defense

LANSING.—Glacial action which has in the past scarred the face of Finland, is credited with having contributed greatly to the stout defense of the homeland which Finnish troops are staging. The famed Mannerheim line takes fullest advantage of the ridges of gravelly material deposited as the ice melted.

Similarity between the topography of Finland and much of Michigan which also bears witness to ice age invasions is pointed out by Helen M. Martin, department of conservation geologist.

Similar ridges, called eskers, occur in Michigan, perhaps the best known being the Mason esker which extends from a point just north of Lansing, to Leslie, stretching across Ingham county from north to south, one of the longest in the United States.

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