

in Birmingham It's ANNUAL

Lawn and Landscaping Time

Now is the time when everyone of us can know the thrill of making something grow! It may be a flower pot geranium. It may be a sloping little rock garden at the side of the house. It may be a big, rambling garden of an acre or more. To guide you in your gardening plans—we've planned this Special Page . . . chock full of news, facts and figures about growing gardens most successfully.



Gardeners' Corner

(This column is conducted for The Eccentric's readers by Mrs. Marc F. Eaton, Box 16, Bloomfield Hills. Questions on gardening matters may be addressed to Mrs. Eaton and they will be answered in the Gardeners' Corner of directly by mail.)

SOFT WOOD CUTTINGS
The best time to make softwood cuttings is in the spring. The term "softwood" means growth that has just been made. Many rock plants, perennials and shrubs can be propagated in this way. The procedure is to cut off the end of the branch to four or five leaves. Make the cut just below a node (the place on the stem from which leaves grow).

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and kept in pots until next year.

If there is a question of using rooting substances, the instructions should be followed. Root forming substances often enable amateurs to have success with otherwise difficult plants.

ROSES
Roses should be dusted with a substance like Massey dust before rainy spells. Massey dust is a combination of dusting sulphur (4 parts), arsenate of lead (1 part) and a little nicotine sulphate. There are also many ready mixed products on the market for these pests. Be sure you understand the directions. There is no remedy for rose chafers, except hand picking them and knocking them off into a jar of kerosene. However, cutting the ground under rose bushes is said to help control them.

PRIMROSES
After primroses have finished blooming, it is the time to divide them. Cut off the roots until they are about a hand-breadth long. Plant the roots spread in a fan shape. Cut the leaves back well.

MEETINGS
June 8—Birmingham Branch National Farm and Garden Community House. Spring flower show.

Start seeds of all the perennials as early as possible.

Make successive sowings of beets, lettuce, beans, and radishes.

Scatter grass seed on thin spots whenever it looks rainy.

Don't relax in the campaign against bugs.

You can have hardy chrysanthe-mums in the open ground this fall if you start early flowering seed now. They give fine late fall cutting material.

Storm Plays Pranks
BANGOR (MPA)—During a recent storm, a charge of lightning ripped through a light switch and receptacle cover in a Bangor township farm house, then traveled outside where it lit a board off the end of the barn and burned out one bulb of a two-bulb yard light. No serious damage was done.



Vegetables to Plant in June

What chance has the June planted vegetable garden?

This is a question asked by many a late starter these days, and the answer is—good. Almost all of the vegetables can be planted with success in late June. Some of the cool weather leaf crops, such as lettuce and spinach, will not do so well, but almost any of the root crops, the vines, etc., will thrive.

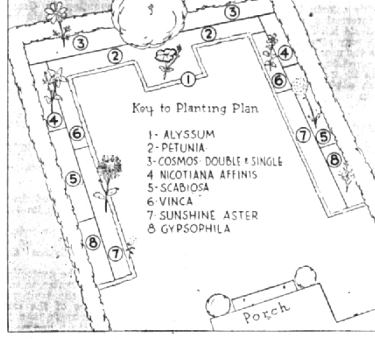
Here is a list of vegetables that can be planted even in July: Kale, sweet corn, carrots, bush squash, beans, summer and fall radishes, celery, cabbage, turnips, Swiss chard, beets, egg lettuce and endive, and the artichokes are no doubt others. Remember, when sowing late, always sow early quick maturing varieties.

Length of Season
The thing to remember about late planting is the length of the season. In some of the extreme northern climates, where the season is very short, some of these vegetables might not be successful if an early frost gets to them. In practically all communities, however, the list may be planted with complete assurance well into July.

The short season may be compensated for by forcing your crops with good care, plenty of moisture and plant food. The fact that the weather is warm will cause them to germinate quickly, and if fed properly, or if planted in a rich soil they will make considerably faster progress than the spring planted crops.

Sweet corn is one of the best crops to plant late. It is a fast grower in warm weather, and although an early frost might get the best of it, the chance of success is well worth your efforts. If the corn is planted in a rich soil it will not be affected by a slight frost.

A Formal Garden of Annuals



For the tenant in a rented house, or one who has just acquired a new home, a beautiful garden can be grown from seed soon late in the season.

A formal design is suited to such a garden, near a house. It harmonizes with the building and lot lines and the flowers can be arranged in a pleasing balance of both mass and color without any touch of stiffness.

The simplest formal pattern of flower beds can be made, the more surely it will please. It is a serious mistake to attempt to dig gardeners, to attempt a somewhat novel or intricate pattern of beds that will be a curious rather than beautiful. The flowers are retired to second place, and the whole effect suffers.

A simple plan, in good proportion, which can be immediately comprehended, centers interest upon the beauty of the flower which is the purpose to be sought.

The plan above suggests such a garden, which has an axis centering on the porch of the house, with a tree as a terminal feature. Such an axis is important in a formal garden; it should center on a porch, a door or window, and at its other end there should be something to take the eye, if not a tree, then a birdbath, an arbor, or some other feature.

On either side of this axis there should be a general balance of both mass and color, which is most easily proved by duplicating the plantings on each side as the plan suggests.

Of the flowers recommended in the plan, Alyssum and nicotiana are fragrant, and will provide an extra attraction for evening visitors, when the fragrance is most intense. There are many other flowers which can be grown in such a garden, and various color schemes which could be developed.

late planted garden must have extra care in order to bring it to maturity in a shorter time, your June or July plantings will be successful. Good cultivation, plenty of moisture and an application of pounds of balanced plant food to each 100 square feet, are the three watchwords.

Okra Adds New Taste to Dishes

Slender, spiny plant, is a tasty root with a distinctive flavor which is used in soups and stews. It is very hardy, and like its cousin the parsnip, may be left in the ground all winter, and dug up for use whenever needed.

Okra is another good seasoner to give new tastes to old dishes. It can be grown in northern gardens if started indoors and then transplanted.

Celeriac, the rooted celery, gives the celery taste to cooked dishes much better than celery itself. It is good for salads, and will keep well over winter.

Younger Generation Doesn't Know Trains

DETROIT—Sixty out of 100 East Detroit High School students saw the interior of a railway train for the first time here recently when they inspected equipment in daily use on the Grand Trunk Railroad. Of the 100 youngsters from the motor city, only 18 had ever slept in a sleeping car, only 10 had seen the interior of a train, and only a round dozen had eaten in a diner. Not one had ever stepped on the footplate of a locomotive.

Grow Asters from Seed, Say Experts

Many florists now grow asters from seed sown in the open ground, without transplanting, claiming that such plants will grow more vigorously than those started in a hothead or greenhouse, and subjected to the check of transplanting.

If you are willing to wait a little longer for flowers, and enjoy them in the late summer and fall, this is a good method to use. The seed can be sown in rows in the cutting or vegetable garden. Care must be taken to sow thinly, and when the seedlings come up, they must be thinned, so that one plant stand about six inches apart. Plants without transplanting the plants have greater vigor, they escape the ills which often so like to attack asters indoors, and are much more resistant to the troubles that asters have encountered so frequently in recent years.

If a wilt resistant variety is sown in this way, there will be increased vigor, since such varieties are bred to defy the wilt, one of the principal aster troubles.

Many of the finest new varieties are wilt resistant, the latest having won honorable mention in the All America trials for 1940. It is Aster Rose Marie, a rose pink early plant, with high fluffy centers and long narrow petals on flowers 3 1/2 to 4 inches in diameter. It is basal branching type, producing long, stout stems, and is excellent for cutting.

Wilt resistant asters are not all resistant to the yellows disease, but florists have found that where such varieties are grown from seed even outdoors, a majority of the plants will escape the yellows infection even where it is prevalent.

Kohlrabi Similar To the Turnip

Kohlrabi is similar to the turnip, and is often cooked in the same way, but is sweeter. They are especially valuable in sections where turnips are difficult.

Eggplants are usually available on the market, but can be easily grown at home. When breaded and fried in butter they are one of the finest garden delicacies. Don't start them until the weather is warm.

Chinese cabbage, or celery cabbage, as it is often called, is gaining in popularity and would be a welcome addition to your regular list of vegetables, especially the fall crop. It resembles egg lettuce, but the leaves are more firm and cabbage-like. The stem salad material, also delicious when boiled.

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Leeks Do Better If Transplanted

There are many uncommon vegetables which grow easily in the backyard. Some of them should be tried every year to see whether you like them.

Leeks are cousins of the onion, highly valued by Europeans. They are tried, sometimes baked, and next year, give it a dress of plant food when you stop cutting.

better if transplanted. Use a dibber to do this, and instead of filling in the hole, let the rain wash soil in gradually.

Save a few gladiolus bulbs, those that have the shortest sprouts, for mid-June planting.

Don't out the asparagus too late if you expect an equally good crop next year. Give it a dress of plant food when you stop cutting.

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