



Birmingham'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 Spring gardening plans—we've planned this Special Page... chock full of news, facts and figures about growing gardens most successfully.



Have a Wild Flower Garden at Home But Don't Rob the Woods to Do It

By DORIS T. PATTEN
The first hepaticas are blossoming. Soon they will be followed by bloodroot and trillium. Violets and columps are next. There are a hundred wild plants still to be found. Some are more showy than others. Some tempt us to pick them and, alas, many of these are the very plants that will surely die if they are not left to ripen on their stems.
Isn't it possible to enjoy the wild flowers without picking them or worse still digging them up and transporting them to our unsuitable hot gardens to die? At least resolve not to pick the following: Adder's tongue, Arbutus, Bloodroot, Bottled Gentian, Cardinal Flower, Columbine, Flowering Dogwood, Fringed Gecconia, Ground Pine, Holly Indian Moccasin, Indian Pipe, Lady's Slipper, Meadow Lily, Pitcher Plant, Trillium. Get the pamphlet "Wildflowers of Michigan" from the Michigan Department of Conservation or by writing The Eccentric Garden Editor. Read about the flowers in books available at the library. Try to own "Wild Flowers of Michigan" from the Michigan Institute of Science and look at the interesting groups of flowers set in their natural surroundings and grouped as they are found in nature.

Gardening with Wild Flowers
If you wish to have a wild flower garden don't rob the woods and meadows of plants you can't place in similar surroundings and don't buy wild plants from people who dig them up here and there. Several firms exist that cultivate and raise from seed flowers for sale. The Wild Garden by Margaret McKinney (one of Doubleday Duran's \$1 garden books)

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Yellow Tomato Won Silver Medal In 1940 Contests

There are several reasons why many home gardeners like yellow tomatoes. Some hostesses like their decorative appearance on the salad plate, alternated with red or orange fruits, against a background of green lettuce leaves. Yellow fruits and vegetables are considered to be especially rich in vitamins, and yellow tomato juice "Save our native flowers; don't destroy them!"

Quartern School Garden
Three years ago the sixth grade of the Quartern School launched upon a wild flower project. The fear of the school grounds is a natural habitat for wildlings, many flowers were already growing there. The pupils asked to them transplants from lots that were to be excavated and some brought plants from home gardens. Others brought plants (carefully chosen to bring no harm to future growth) from lots to the North. Caring for the plants brought pleasure and a real appreciation of what conservation means to the entire school. The Birmingham Branch of the National Farm and Garden Club at the disposal of each pupil the pamphlet "Wild Flowers of Michigan." Miss Audrey DeWitt of the Department of Conservation gave a talk and showed her slides. In other words, here is one Birmingham school that is well on the way to a lasting friendship with our Wild Life. The present sixth grade is anxiously waiting to see if any damage has come to the garden from a near by excavation. Soon, work in the garden will begin again, but in the meantime the enthusiasts have been invited to the garden of Mrs. F. H. McKinney.

Manure Criticized
Most plant experts consider manure more harmful than good for lawns. Large quantities of noxious weed seeds are broadcast in this way, and the lawn is an unhygienic mess for months after the first application. Use a complete plant food instead.

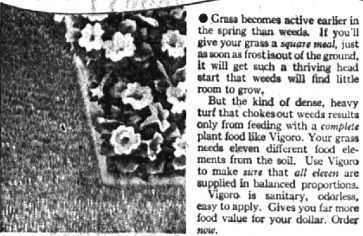
Flowers for Fragrance
Select a few flowers for fragrance. Stocks, nasturtiums, sweet alyssum, mignonette and the balcony petunias will bring new charm to your summer picture.
Short stems for cutting—Marigolds, snapdragons, calendulas, sweet peas, annual chrysanthemums, bachelor buttons, sweet sulphas, ten weeks' stocks and zinnias, and dwarf marigolds.
To grow after frost—Sweet alyssum, bachelor's buttons, petunias, marigolds, calendulas, candy-tuft, stocks and phlox Drummondii.

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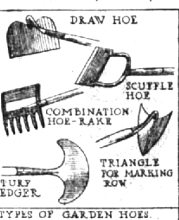
Gardeners' Corner

(This column is conducted for The Eccentric's readers by Mrs. Marc 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 as directly by mail.)

PLANTING OUT
The question asked us most frequently at this time is—When is it safe to plant out? Any plants that have been out-of-doors all winter may be moved any time that the ground is workable. Plants

The Right Tools Help Gardener

In the tool kit of the home gardener there are implements for various purposes just as in the golfer's bag there are clubs for varying distances. Of the gardener, as of the golfer, it may be said that his closest work is the most important. The trowel unquestionably is the most treasured tool of what may be termed a "dirt gardener"—that is, one who knows and loves the feel of soil, rather than being content with planning, directing and discussing garden operations. The trowel serves many purposes. Most important, perhaps, is the use in transplanting. Fully half the average vegetable garden, and more than half in the case of flowers, is composed of plants



TYPES OF GARDEN HOES

that have been moved from the place they started with the assistance of a trowel.

The trowel takes a gardener down on his or her knees; it makes him familiar with the things he grows and the soil they grow in; it is useful in the important job of transplanting, and in the finer points of cultivating; it is a tool that a gardener always wants nearby, and it should be a good one. Nothing is more useless than a trowel of poor material, which will bend or break at the very time strength is most needed. The expense of a heavy one of steel may be trifled over many years of faithful service.

The hoe stands second in importance in some gardeners' eyes. Many of different shape—square, pointed, rounded, etc. These are good, though an ordinary hoe will serve all purposes fairly well. The hoe cuts down weeds and stirs the top soil, leaving a dust mulch to conserve moisture. A wheel hoe in the garden of fair size will save time in cultivating between rows.

A pronged hand hoe in the small garden is as fast as the wheel type. It consists of three to five pronged teeth attached to a handle. It may be used in irregular plantings where a wheel hoe would be useless.

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that have been under cover present another story. In the first place they must be "hardened off," that means that they are put outside but covered at night and on cold days. Gradually the cover is left and behold—they are "hard." Annuals are not safe, however, much before May 15. Old gardeners designate the days about the thirteenth as those of the "ice saints." Laugh, if you like, but watch the calendar on those days. Another piece of advice about plantings that is as flexible as the season is to say that the weather is alright for outdoor seeding and planting when the maples are just "in leaf." One annual that is quite hardy in the fall, the Zinnia, is particularly apt to be frost bitten in the spring. Don't be too much of a hurry.

WINDOW BOXES
You can still find time on a nice rainy Saturday to empty and repaint your window boxes. Be sure to notice if you have allowed for drainage. If possible bore a few holes in the bottom and surely put in broken bits, cinders or the like at the bottom. Mix your soil with a little sand to further insure drainage and add some peat to hold moisture. When you plant your boxes think out whether the window is in the sunny or shady side of the house, and plant accordingly. Vary the type of plant, leaving some to trail over the edges.

EDGING BEDS
To tidy up beds an edger is a handy tool, but don't use a line tied firmly at either end of a straight bed or the bed will look wrong there before. If the bed edge is cutting out is curved, lay the hose along the edge of it and use it to guide the edger.

MEETINGS
The Bloomfield Hills Branch of the National Farm and Garden Club is planning a trip to the garden of Mrs. Stuart Foote in Grand Rapids on May 6. The garden has especially lovely daffodils and they should be blooming then. Mrs. Foote will give a short talk on daffodils.
Garden Center Lecture at the John D. Pierce Junior High School, Monday May 6, 8 to 10. (Topics for Decorative and Culinary Uses.)
Mrs. Marc T. Patten, Garden Center Pilgrimage at Tulip Time, May 18-19, 1:6-6:00 p. m. Ten gardens in Grosse Pointe—\$1.00.

For Real Quality Grow Vegetables

It takes less time to grow vegetables in a home garden than in the market; and the quality of the home product cannot be equaled by market vegetables.
One reason for this difference in quality is found in the germination in flavor which in most cases sets in when vegetables are harvested. Pinks, sweet corn, lima beans, pod beans, and many other vegetables lose more than half their delicious flavor within a few hours after picking. Within half an hour the difference is noticeable; so the wise home-garden owner picks her vegetables just before she cooks them.

For fragrance—Mignonette, alyssum, nasturtiums, heliotrope, nasturtiums, alyssum, Matthiola bicoloris, nicotiana, datura, ten weeks' stocks and sweet peas.
For hot situations—Sunflowers, heliotrope, portulaca, ice plant, petunias, balsam and annual galliard.

LETUCE EARLY
Lettuce is next to the earliest crop harvested in the garden. It is essentially an early spring cool weather crop. Therefore it is out of the way early. Plan the garden to start something along with the lettuce so that when the lettuce is used up the space it occupied will be occupied usefully with other garden material. It may be either with some other and later vegetable or with flowering annuals to brighten up the garden patch and provide bouquets later.

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PREPARE your garden and grounds now for the planting of small annuals later on. We will be glad to help you with any of your "Garden Headaches." HOWARD J. BELL GREENHOUSES 928 So. Woodward Phone 882

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