

Down to Earth

By Alice Wessels
Burlingame

This date is the time in May when all home gardeners who are gardeners find it next to impossible to keep from spending an amount of the grocery money on seedlings, perennials and shrubs. Not until May 20 do experienced gardeners realize that they can trust tender annuals outside in the garden row.

Most of us enjoy purchasing the boxes of seedlings to herald the spring. They will enjoy their location if they have half an inch of rich soil with well-rotted manure, peat moss incorporated into the soil. Don't forget to keep "pinching" off the matured blooms which show they are tired of life.

Many folks enjoy planting the Giant Swiss seeds in the first week of August with shade protection and plenty of protection until they germinate. Later the first of October they may be planted in their permanent location, and they will enjoy a "winter overcoat."

MANY OF US are stunned at the prospect of planting a new yard. Krillium, the new wonder plastic which will break up clay so that it is porous and easy to handle, is just beginning to reach the retail market.

As it breaks up the clay it forms passages for the water to penetrate and, of course, air can reach the roots of plant material which is very important. Germination of grass seed should be normal if the soil is rich.

This plastic has been tried by various experimental stations in agriculture and they have shown that over a three-year period the clay has not returned to its original state. Such good news for gardeners makes this holiday find a very exciting challenge.

IF YOU WANT a quick growing tree in your yard remember the Chinese Elm. It has one short-coming... susceptibility to wind damage. If you wish a super hedge which will be dense and fast growing to the extent of around 20 feet plus... plant Chinese Elm.

In order to assure dense growth near the ground don't forget to cut off some of the top growth early each spring. If you need a good shade tree for your grounds don't overlook the beauty of a sweetgum tree. It has a profile similar to a maple, has a healthy heritage, and in the fall the leaves, which resemble a maple, give an all-over effect of a Christmas tree as all shades of coloring at this time of year are represented.

ANOTHER TREE to consider for shade is the sycamore. The fruit is interesting, as it is a ball which hangs by long threads and is easier to observe in the winter silhouette.

Avoid the use of a willow tree as soon the roots will undermine the surface of the city lot and take all the moisture you would like to use for fine plant material. Willows are all right if you are planning for a few acres.

In Birmingham we have such fine gardeners, Mrs. Sheldon Marshall, 1870 Webster, is one of the growers who would qualify as outstanding. As I approached her in her yard (which comprises two lots), she was placing her compost in an electric processing machine and out it came pulverized.

SHE BEGAN her pile last fall of garden waste leaves, etc. and placed in the large heap; lots of bone meal, granite dust, superphosphate, lime and manure. The precious pile of humus is earmarked for her vegetable plot which is heavy and indicates lots of clay in its base.

Mrs. Marston had a large area of red raspberries, strawberries and asparagus. The vegetable plot will have tomatoes, carrots, peppers, and corn.

She has a rose acacia tree in bud. It is a moss locust and will have a rosy pink, pebble bloom in June.

The tree roses in the yard gave a pleasing vertical line to contrast with the low growing varieties. In the last of November, after a good hard frost, they are trimmed and placed flat in a trench about 12"-15" deep.

LATHRUP VILLAGE NEWS
By BETTY DWOREK
PHONE SOUTHFIELD 3362

Annual Club Luncheon

The annual June luncheon of the Lathrup Woman's club will be held on Tuesday, June 3, at the Birmingham Country club at 12:30. Cards will follow the luncheon for those wishing to play. Mrs. Robert C. Ofenstein is general chairman, assisted by Mrs. Verne Blake, Mrs. Brew G. Haneline, Mrs. Robert Gordon, Mrs. E. T. MacCracken, Mrs. George Rostow, Mrs. Thomas H. Myers and Mrs. Charles E. Pollard.

Officers for the coming year are Mrs. E. Nelson, president; Mrs. Conrad Bloom, vice president; Mrs. Robert P. Canham, recording secretary; Mrs. Richard Cogger, corresponding secretary and Mrs. LeRoy Jarvis, treasurer.

Friends of Library Elects New Officers

At the annual meeting of the Friends of the Library, the following officers were elected for the coming year: James Tobin, president; Thomas Adams and Henry M. Foley, vice-presidents; James Bowersford, treasurer; Mrs. Thomas Sharples, secretary; Mrs. Howard Liverance, asst. secretary; and E. V. Watkins and Mrs. Cassius Miller, directors.

Serving on the nominating committee were Mrs. Harry Gruber, Jeanne Lloyd, Fred Fox, John Graham and Henry Whiting, Chairman.

Guest speaker at the annual meeting was Dr. Walton H. Cole, a member of the State Library Board and minister of the First Congregational Church of Detroit. He spoke on the inspiration of the libraries as openers of doors to thought and a place where ideas are made available to all.

Hazards from Fallen Wires

The danger of wires always present. During storms there is a greater likelihood of finding a wire dead hanging from a pole or lying on the ground. A "live" wire looks exactly the same as a dead one. There is no way of telling from the looks of it whether it is carrying electric current or not.

The Number One safety rule in all such cases is always the same: NEVER, UNDER ANY CONDITIONS, TOUCH A FALLEN WIRE.

Sometimes a wire is hidden in tall grass, and you may step on it without seeing it. The wires may fall across a metal fence, changing the fence and making it as dangerous as the wire.

IT MAY FALL across a radio aerial wire, an overhead or a telephone wire, and touching the ordinarily harmless wires will give you as bad a shock as if you had touched the electric wire itself.

A wire may fall in a puddle of water in the street or alley, in which case that pool of water becomes something to avoid. Occasionally a wire may fall on an automobile, imperiling the person who tries to get in or out of the car. A person inside is usually safer if he drives the car away from the contacting wire without setting out.

Children should be told these facts about electric wires, but the precautions should apply equally to adults.

A SURPRISING number of persons still attempt to wrap dangling wires around a pole, or move them out of the way by using a garden rake, broom or wooden handle as a tool. THESE PRACTICES ARE UNSAFE. The wise thing to do is to keep away from the wires entirely. Just stand guard at a safe distance and keep others away.

Send someone to telephone the electric company. In a short time, one of their line crews will appear on the scene to repair the trouble.

BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT
WE HEARD IT SAID BY—
MRS. W. SCOTT PURVIS, 1447 Henrietta—"I think it is wonderful that our boys and girls are getting the chance to pay their respects to General MacArthur. He has been one of the most colorful figures in the military history of the country and it seems to me his visit here will give the children a memory to cherish for years."

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Church Groups Meet
Circles 1, 2 and 3 of Thronate Community church will meet on Wednesday, May 28, at 12:30 noon in Fellowship Hall. A hot chow mein luncheon will be served by members of Circle 3. Mrs. Robert Shaver is chairman.
Officers for Circle 1 are Mrs. Paul Nash, chairman; Mrs. Byron Holmes, co-chairman; secretary, Mrs. Clare Messenger; Mrs. Claude Porter, treasurer.
Circle 2 Mrs. Robert Steger, chairman, Mrs. Edwin Blake, co-chairman; Mrs. Gerard Kasch, secretary and Mrs. Roland Koppin, treasurer.
Circle 3 Mrs. Richard Stone, chairman, Mrs. Thomas Myers, secretary and Mrs. Edwin Schlipfel, treasurer.

GAA at Camp
Girl's Athletic association of the Southfield high school will spend from May 23 through May 25 at Camp Nahelu near Ortonville. There will be about 60 girls from this area attending.
Officers are president, Elaine Nash of Goldengate Drive; vice president, Ellen Schriber of Sanybrook; secretary, Sally Moianov of Filmore and treasurer, Marilyn Peters of Sherman. Miss Ruth Clements is the sponsor of the association.

Lathrup Locals
Mrs. David Brown of Wilshire

will be hostess to the duplicate bridge club when they meet at her home on Thursday for dessert and cards. Players will be Mrs. John R. Jones, Mrs. David Strat, Mrs. Robert Dymont, Mrs. Robert Bailey, Mrs. George Paige, Mrs. Clark Miller, Mrs. Louis Toussaint, Mrs. Yeld Blue, Mrs. James Wheeler, Mrs. Clare Smith and Mrs. Fred Gouline.
Mrs. Edwin Blake and Mrs. E. W. Shaver attended the Congressional convention in Grand Rapids, May 20-22.

Young Musicians
Lathrup Junior Musical group met at the home of Miss Barbara Pierce recently. Miss Carol Heyro and Miss Grace Herr were hostesses. Bob Carson director of the Southfield high school band, was in charge of the program. Entertaining were Bob Sproost, on the drum; Pat Fisher, flute solo; Ernest trio by Gordon Hart, Bob Muthel and Richard Bedmar; trumpet solo, Mariene Sternberger; flute solo, Barbara Sieble; Miss Diane Berres gave a piano solo and was accompanist for other musicians.

Call Midwest 4-1100 to place an Eccentric Classified Ad.

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