

DOWN TO EARTH Limited Budget Plans For Yard Landscaping

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

If you plan annuals for your garden remember not to start them too soon. April 8 is plenty early since the safe "take out" date in this area is May 20.

If you put plants out too soon you take the chance of killing frost, or if you start them too soon they will probably have weak stems.

On mild days before May 20 you can set out pots or flats of seedlings.

Many folks have bought a new home this spring and realize that after the front of the house has been planted, the remainder of the plant program has to call for a minimum expenditure of money.

To answer the many inquiries I have for "most-est." for the "leastest" let us plan a garden with these in mind.

If your back garden is devoid of plant material, survey the expense and note where you would like to block views to assure greater privacy. If you have a porch connected to the house you will be interested in planting a large shrub such as a lilac, nectar orange or Nanking Cherry which has dense and good view-blocking for a sunny spot.

IF THE PLANT to be placed in view is to be placed in semi-shade or full shade consider the five leaf yucca and the jet head shrub.

Don't spot shrubs hit-and-run around the yard without a reason and a design being considered. If you are placing the shrub along a boundary be sure and place them three feet in from your line and three feet apart.

If you need a vine on a fence to block a view use the silver lace vine. It will stand the heat of a red metal fence in the sun.

Am vine partial to the cardinal number and for a 15-cent package of seeds you can have a great show in the sun. This vine has leaves as fragile as the asparagus greens and flowers like red freziera.

In the shade the virginia creeper will give fine protection with red leaves for fall color.

ANNALS GIVE you the garden which just "whistles". Maybe that first dead you will want to establish a secondary around the property by making an 18 inch wide flower bed and placing annuals only in it. The first week after seedlings break the soil you have to be flooded to daily watering. Remember annuals want the sun.

If you take your courage in hand and pinch out the top of any plant transplanted from a flat you will have many more flowers later. Then later cut and pinch out for more and more flowers.

Petunias are nice but the larger sizes do not have as many flowers as the smaller flowered varieties. Supplicants of the annual I like best. This variety has so many unexpected colors to give you for arrangements. It will grow 18 inches high.

ZINNIA'S ARE wonderful. Read your directions on packets and order the potential height of the plant as they vary considerably. Ageratum gives a good accent near other flowers with its purple flowers. Crystal Palace lobelia are also purple and give a good accent.

For best results all annuals should be planted at least 10 inches apart.

If you have a treacherous spot which has half-shade, plant the tobacco plant (Nicotiana) which has a fresh smell after dark. The white colored nicotiana gives style to the garden. It will grow a good three feet high.

Salvia is a good fire red annual. It, too, comes in a very high and hot specimen. You may wish to try the blue variety of salvia.

Snapdragons are always a favorite and should be pinched out at the top to make lots of flowers and not a beautiful appearance.

VERBENAS CAN give you a collection of bright colors and are most effective when a mixed package is used.

Whenever you want a flowering crab in the yard and consider a fruit tree of two such as a sweet cherry and an apple tree.

So for this economical, colorful garden, plant with a plan. Stress annuals, dwarfing clematis, perennials, put in as many fast growing evergreens as the budget will allow and add shrubs which will bloom around the summer calendar and there you have a "heaven on earth".

A lovely garden for you need not be a wish for tomorrow.

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From where I sit... *By Joe Marsh*

Chip Pulls a "Pip"

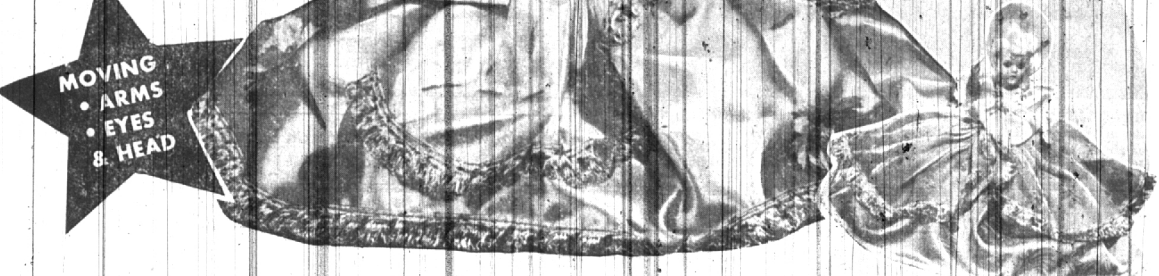
Chip Hanson is a clever commercial artist. Beside doing cartoons on our paper, he picks up "free lance" drawing jobs.

Right now he's whipping up posters for the Safety Campaign. They all have headlines like "PLAY IT SAFE!" ... or, "A LIFE WIRE CAN START A FIRE!"

Chip looked a bit sheepish yesterday. Didn't want to tell the why. Finally he blurted out, "I feel like a dope. Here I am in this safety program and the fire inspectors tell me my own studio's a fire trap. I've been stopping paint there for years..."

Joe Marsh

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