

# Garden Experiments Add Zest to Hobby

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

In our community we have many interesting retired citizens. One of these is president of Birmingham Rotary, Clarence Vliet. He takes a great deal of pride in being a fine gardener.

Many years ago he wrote his master's thesis on the effect of ultra violet glass on plants and upon human beings when it is used in windows.

He found that plants in a window where there was ultra violet glass were larger and healthier than those in a window of ordinary glass.

"What is in the soil to influence the plant growth?"

This question has been interesting growers for generations and has been the impetus for experiments which have resulted in the common growing practices we all employ.

When John and I buy fertilizer we should study the contents as printed on the container, so that we know the plants the right food material.

The three major elements controlling the growth of plants are nitrogen, phosphorus for beautiful flowers and potash, essential for the formation of fruits.

Now in the soil we have many minor elements that are important for well rounded results.

THESE MINOR elements are necessary but are present in small amounts, like vanilla in cake. Vliet has been fascinated by the importance of these minor elements. A report in a German journal said that if a grower took sodium molybdate, an amount the size of a navy bean, mixed it in slight quarts of water and then poured it over the soil after planting seed he would have fabulous results.

This sprinkling was done only once a season. Vliet tried it and says of his test:

"When I finished sprinkling the solution over newly planted potatoes I finished up the can with a few drops around tomato plants and near some old corn. After the first frost I began to dig my crop and in some instances I would have 10 potatoes out of one hill. One hill yielded 12 pounds.

"AS MANY OF the Rotarians are golfers and talk a good game over the lunch table it was fun showing them my score for a hole-in-one in a vegetable basket.

"In one instance I picked 54 tomatoes over newly planted corn. They were grown on gravelly loam. Garden peas and the glads showed surprising results."

Does it aid a greater assimilation of chlorophyll and attract more power from the sun? These are the questions you ask yourself when using this minor trace element. Atomic waves affect plant life so there are exciting days ahead as you follow developments.

THIS YEAR ONE of the science magazines reported that a thin solution of sugar on the leaves of tomato plants had marvelous results in California.

Right now I imagine many of our readers have my reaction. I am going to try some sodium molybdate on house plants, annuals and where I have two shrubs alike I will sprinkle a solution around the base of only one to see the results in flowers and berries.

AS FOR the sugar syrup on a tomato leaf you will be seeing a tomato plant among the flowers this year.

Let us continue last week's discussion of good trees for you to consider since early spring is the time to go to a good nursery and tag your choice tree.

BEFORE YOU consider planting any willow in city property caution. It is very dirty and undermines the entire property soaking water. It will rob you of a fine garden.

If you have must soil due to drainage consider the little leaf Linden. It makes a beautiful shade tree and will accept adverse city growing conditions.

I'm quiet about elm this season. Let's skip the planting of these trees to hid our city faster until we know that the Dutch Elm disease is not filtering too close to Birmingham for comfort.

Many are concerned about the early appearance of bills above the ground. Don't worry that habit has been going on for a good many years and no harm has been done.

over 20 feet tall. I like its pleasing shape. It has two or three different shaped leaves on one tree. Willows are only for those with acreage and erosion control to consider.

On the way to Pontiac you will see the yellow willow which is handsome with its prominent yellow twigs in winter. The Wisconsin weeping willow is outstanding.

Let's skip the planting of these trees to hid our city faster until we know that the Dutch Elm disease is not filtering too close to Birmingham for comfort.

Many are concerned about the early appearance of bills above the ground. Don't worry that habit has been going on for a good many years and no harm has been done.

over 20 feet tall. I like its pleasing shape. It has two or three different shaped leaves on one tree. Willows are only for those with acreage and erosion control to consider.

On the way to Pontiac you will see the yellow willow which is handsome with its prominent yellow twigs in winter. The Wisconsin weeping willow is outstanding.

Let's skip the planting of these trees to hid our city faster until we know that the Dutch Elm disease is not filtering too close to Birmingham for comfort.

Many are concerned about the early appearance of bills above the ground. Don't worry that habit has been going on for a good many years and no harm has been done.

over 20 feet tall. I like its pleasing shape. It has two or three different shaped leaves on one tree. Willows are only for those with acreage and erosion control to consider.

On the way to Pontiac you will see the yellow willow which is handsome with its prominent yellow twigs in winter. The Wisconsin weeping willow is outstanding.

Let's skip the planting of these trees to hid our city faster until we know that the Dutch Elm disease is not filtering too close to Birmingham for comfort.

Many are concerned about the early appearance of bills above the ground. Don't worry that habit has been going on for a good many years and no harm has been done.

over 20 feet tall. I like its pleasing shape. It has two or three different shaped leaves on one tree. Willows are only for those with acreage and erosion control to consider.

On the way to Pontiac you will see the yellow willow which is handsome with its prominent yellow twigs in winter. The Wisconsin weeping willow is outstanding.

Let's skip the planting of these trees to hid our city faster until we know that the Dutch Elm disease is not filtering too close to Birmingham for comfort.

Many are concerned about the early appearance of bills above the ground. Don't worry that habit has been going on for a good many years and no harm has been done.

over 20 feet tall. I like its pleasing shape. It has two or three different shaped leaves on one tree. Willows are only for those with acreage and erosion control to consider.

On the way to Pontiac you will see the yellow willow which is handsome with its prominent yellow twigs in winter. The Wisconsin weeping willow is outstanding.

Let's skip the planting of these trees to hid our city faster until we know that the Dutch Elm disease is not filtering too close to Birmingham for comfort.

Many are concerned about the early appearance of bills above the ground. Don't worry that habit has been going on for a good many years and no harm has been done.

## PLAY IT SAFE!

### Grass Fires Need Extra Precautions

If a vacant lot adjacent to your house has grown up with high weeds, every precaution should be taken when burning papers, rubbish, etc., on your property. With the coming of spring, the danger from grass fires will increase. Grasses and high weeds should be cut down and raised up as much as possible, especially away from garages, outbuildings and shrubbery. With a slight breeze a grass fire can travel further and do great damage before you can call the fire department.

If you have grass or rubbish burning permit. The man on duty will tell you if you are in an area where burning is permissible and the wind conditions are right to burn. If so, a permit will be issued to you free of charge.

DON'T BURN up your own or your neighbor's garage or shrubbery. "PLAY IT SAFE." Check with the fire department for a permit and approval then survey the area to determine the danger should the fire get out of control.

A garden hose and broom would be of great assistance in controlling a grass fire until the fire department arrived. Have the charged hose handy with the water shut off at the nozzle, prior to starting the fire. If necessary, you can quickly bring it into play.

Remember, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." BIRMINGHAM FIRE DEPT.

### Illness Delays Talk

Due to illness, the Rev. Merrill O. Bates, leader of the Unitarian Fellowship in Birmingham, was unable to address the group Sunday morning. His talk on "The State of Our Nation's Schools" will be given at the March 22 service in the Y building.

### R-O-W Violations Top Police Report On Feb. Accidents

Right of way violations is the big offender in accident causes in Birmingham according to the February report released by Police Chief Ralph W. Moxley.

His report showed this as a contributing factor in five of February's 31 accidents. Moxley added that this type violation had been present in 25 per cent of the accidents so far this year.

The February report showed three persons injured in two persons injury mishaps. Estimated property damages were set at \$5,800.

OTHER CONTRIBUTING factors listed were driving under the influence of liquor, following too closely, dangerous starting, from parked position, improper turns and passing, improper parking position and failure to turn on lights.

### Hills Camera Club To Shoot in Color

Color photography will be the theme of the Thursday, March 19, meeting of the Bloomfield Hills Camera Club in the Cranbrook Institute of Science auditorium.

Program Director Harry Turner announced that F. Edward, amateur naturalist, will set up his Michigan species of butterflies in natural setting for shooters. Color action shots will be possible of Judy Holbeck, ballet and toe dancer. The meeting will start at 8 p.m.

**BIRMINGHAM TRAVEL SERVICE**

Wherever you wish to go... we make all arrangements

Phone MI 4-5711 379 Hamilton

UNDERWOOD TYPEWRITER ROYAL SMITH-CORONA REMINGTON

Sales, Service and Rentals

Burroughs Adding Machines Office Supplies

FORBES PRINTING and OFFICE SUPPLY  
415 E. Frank St., cor. Ann  
Midwest 4-2224

Varsity Town Clothes

## style flash

Tweed takes the lead in Topper styling and you'll marvel at the colorful, wonderful Hunting Ridge and import tweeds we're showing in big favor, Big Sweep Raglan Toppers.

\$55.00

**Dickinson's**

BIRMINGHAM PONTIAC  
WABEEK BUILDING SAGINAW AT LAWRENCE



*By Rogers*

Lingerie

"TRILBY" — CHARMING GOWN WITH MATCHING PEGNOIR BOTH IN NYLON TRICOT

Matching nylon tricot pegoir. Rogers permanent pin pleats make the square yoke, short wing sleeves and hem flared, all with edging and insertions of nylon Val face in matching colors. May be worn with either the ribbon drawn through at the sides leaving the back full or sashed all around. Fetal Pink, Blue Belle, White. Sizes S-M.

9.95 14.95

**RB SHOPS**

Smart Feminine Apparel

42 W. Maple — Birmingham

Branches in Royal Oak — Ferndale — Mt. Clemens

THE MAGIC OF BLENDED Orlon BY Lady Kenlygn

Wonderful Orlon suit with the flattering curved lap, the frothy silk organza detachable collar... and a slim-line skirt with a perfect kick pleat for back interest. Inverted to wear now and on through the Spring in the best of fashion. Fully lined and exquisitely tailored. Priced to please, too! In Grey, Powder, Mauve, Pink, Caramel, Sizes 10-18.

\*A Dupont acrylic fiber

\$29.95

"THE" SHORTHY OF THE SEASON HALF-BELTED WOOL FLEECE SUCCESS

\$25.

Double-breasted and charming as can be with the "boxy look" to accentuate stick slim skirts! Virgin wool feather-weight fleece in Black—Beige—Red—Blue. Sizes 10 to 18.