

Save Work, Plant Flowers then Lawn

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Some of our readers are putting in gardens on new sites. Remember to plan for your flower beds before you plant your grass seed. At the present cost of seed per pound you can save considerable money by following timely advice.

An item to be considered in your terrace. Decide on a size, then double it, as the new size of use. It is possible to buy large colored squares of cast cement for terraces. This can be placed in a pleasing design.

This surface material should be placed in at least six inches of gravelly sand, for winter weather reaction. Spread the gravel in the chosen area, with wooden strips at the boundaries to protect the lines. Bake as level as possible and water with spray nozzle. Run a roller over the surface to assure a compact level. Place terrace surface material on this in your chosen design.

WHEN bricks or cement slabs are in place, take a shovel and carelessly toss and over all. Sweep the sand so it will enter the cracks and your work is done.

Use immediately and all members of the family will enjoy your masterpiece.

With the new repellent sprays for insects you are assured hours of pleasure on this site. You may wish to leave an area next to the house on the terrace for planting vines and gay flowers. We are all proud of our Birmingham elm trees, so remember every citizen is a G-man and should be on the alert to report any unusual wilting, yellowing or browning of foliage. Our city forester will give immediate attention to all calls.

THIS IS the time of the season to fertilize all trees, shrubs and perennials on your property. Select a non-burning fertilizer, make a circle of fertilizer, four to six inches from the trunk. Rains will gradually dissolve the food and feed the roots.

Of course I assume that you have already fed your lawn and seeded it so that healthy grass thickly matted will squeeze out the weeds.

By the way, always know the north side of your home and be careful about the plant selection as this exposure is best for many evergreens as well as flowering material. Baldwin library can supply source books to insure you of making an intelligent investment of your plant dollar.

A NEW WHITE petunia on the market this season is popcorn. It has an immense white flower which will be very good as a specimen for accent. Maybe you have already discovered that for rhombs of color in a massed effect, smaller sized flowers will give you more bloom for "the long haul."

Many folks find that their garden goes rather "dead" in July. Day lilies present a real challenge for the fancier who would like to start a new plant hobby. You will want to know the potential height of those you select so that varieties will come for their own right, full accent. Moonbeam, regal lady and ivory chalice are four feet high.

You will like this category of plants because they multiply rapidly. They like the sun and part shade. If you plant them on the east or north you will benefit from the bell faces looking your way. They can be moved any time of the year if you remember they need the care of a "souffle."

ONE OF THE choicest varieties you can secure is colonial dame which is a soft apricot color with a ruffled petal. The center is a darker color of the apricot.

Ming too will only grow 18 inches high so you will want to place it toward the front of your flower bed.

As you are making new flower beds remember sun in the morning will give you the best results. If you are cutting out a new location consider the sun and shadows to give you the best results. You will want to have a flower bed at least four feet wide for best results.

IF YOUR flower bed has a sandy consistency it will need humus and peat moss added so that the water can be held around the roots for sufficient time to benefit the plants. After all, nourishment enters the roots in a fluid form.

There are two vines I would like to mention. Five leaf akshia is dainty but fast growing and tolerates part shade, its texture is handsome. Then do not forget the Oriental Bitter-sweet (Celastrus Orbiculata).

This plant has showy orange yellow fruit in great quantities. Enjoy your work in your garden, work for a short period each day, dedicating this interval to a period of relaxation and take a time to solve your problems. When you work in your garden with this attitude the entire preparation and results will give you the inner dividends and peace of mind which is rightfully yours.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale-Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.



BROWNIES OF TROOP 329 of Adams school took advantage of Birmingham roadside ice cream stand to cool off during the balmy spring weather. Pictured from left are Elaine Bishop, Elizabeth George and Natalie Adams.

Berkshire Branch To Have Plant Sale

Executive board of Berkshire Branch, Woman's National Farm and Garden Association met Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Paul Jackson on Greenwich drive. Mrs. Norman J. Ellis, 7425 Lahser road, will open her home for the regular meeting of the branch on May 3 at 12:30 p.m. Members will bring their own box lunches and the hostess will serve the beverages.

Following lunch, a bake and plant sale will be conducted by Mrs. John McKenna, chairman of the ways and means committee.

Program Committee

Anna Marie Patters of 2383 Big Beaver road is a member of the program committee for the annual honors convocation at Merry college. A unique feature of the May 5 event will be a student symposium honoring Plus X whose canonization is scheduled for May. Second part of the program will honor distinguished college students of the year.

Wayne Style Show

Dorothy Zeller Gates of Beverly Hills is on the ticket committee for the spring bridge party sponsored by Women of Wayne university alumni. Special features of the party will be a luncheon and fashion show, to begin at 12:30 p.m. May 4, in Crowley Milner's third-floor auditorium.

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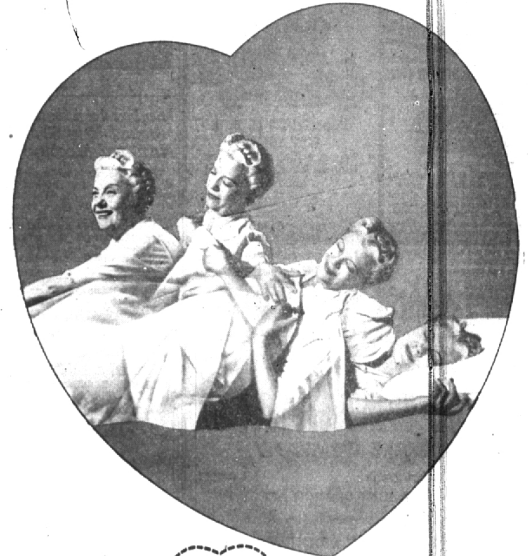
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