

Beware of Peddlers Selling Black Dirt

By ALICE WESELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Last week in our column we visited with Dr. R. Milton Carleton from Chicago who gave us some good meat advice relative to types of grass seed to use and emphasized the merits of the merion grass seed. Many of us follow Dr. Carleton's column on Horticulture in "Better Homes and Gardens."

He bemoaned the fact that so many new gardeners are "taken for a ride" by men who come to their homes, especially on Saturday afternoons, with loads of black dirt which they sell by the bushel. Not only is their soil of questionable quality, even though it is very black, but it is very expensive by bushel measure.

A telephone call to Police Chief Ralph Moxley assured us that from this date forward he will receive complaints from the citizenry about these pest humus peddlers.

HE WISHES that you ask them for their Birmingham peddler's license and if they don't have one, get the truck license and call the police. This is a good assignment for our local junior commanders.

Dr. Carleton says that new lawns can be built on a clay base. Sharps and buckshot sized gravel and some organic matter can be incorporated with the clay and over. It will be start out peony seeds in the last of Aug. and first of Sept. because

they demand a wide fluctuation of temperature. If the temperature is 70 degrees seeds just sulk.

Lettuce seeds need a temperature between 42 and 55 degrees for best germination. So, when we plant lettuce seed in midsummer the results will be nearly nil.

If you took those same seed in midsummer, mixed the seed in damp sand and peat moss and stored them for a week in the refrigerator or until they sprout you could sow the seed at an off season.

For the best results delphinium and double petunia seeds should be stored in your refrigerator as soon as you secure them.

IT IS experimenting with the plant material that makes this hobby of ours so interesting. I have two miniature rose bushes which were potted and brought in from outside. They are developing fine leaves and if what I read is true, there should be some fine miniature roses soon. Do you have some growing in your garden you can enjoy inside now?

The amaryllis bulbs are ready to burst into flower. It will be important to feed the plant with fertilizer every week after the flowers mature because it is during that cycle that the flower for 1955 will be forming.

Secure a porous brick and a metal pan 12x12x3. Place the brick in the pan, cover the top with a mixture 3/4 inches high which has in it 1/2 peat moss and 1/2 garden soil. Sow the seed on top of the brick and pour about one inch of water in the pan.

The brick absorbs the water and keeps the soil moist and all you have to do is keep the water in the pan. This method of seed germination is especially good for small hard to raise seeds (petunias, african violet, tomato, cabbage, etc.)

This idea was passed on to me and would be a fine interest project for patients in the field of horticultural therapy.

Have You Met . . . The new resident at 2347 West Maple road, H. S. Gidley? For the past 50 years, Gidley has been moving steadily north and west, coming from homes in Detroit, Highland Park, Royal Oak, Lathrup Village and finally, into Birmingham.

He has a son, W. C. Gidley, of 238 Washington road, and another son, H. Stephen Gidley, living at 27500 East California drive, Lathrup Village. Gidley has been with Pontiac Varnish company for over 25 years and at present is vacationing at Lake Worth, Fla., and Byron, N. C.

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



COY G. EKLUND has evidence of a successful fishing trip in Boca Raton, Fla. The sail fish measures seven feet in length and Eklund is having it mounted for the den of his new home at 1280 Fairfax. He is head of the Eklund Agency for Equitable Life Assurance Society in the Penobscot building, Detroit.

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Pell Hollingshead Works On Wesleyan Campaign
Pell Hollingshead of 1679 Washington boulevard, Birmingham, is working with a committee on the \$2,500,000 Development Fund Campaign now being conducted by Wesleyan University at Middletown, Conn.
Michigan state chairman for the campaign is Lynn S. Miller of Huntington Woods.

Have You Met . . .
Former Lansing residents Mr. and Mrs. Archie G. Bee of 17095 Dunblaine road? A tool service engineer at National Twist Drill and Tool company, Rochester, Bee is a member of the American Ordnance society, American Society of Tool Engineers and the Photographic Society of America. His hobbies are pictorial and color photography. The couple have two children, David G., age 10, and Spencer T., age 5.

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



Mrs. Burlingame

ALL SEEDS are dependent upon the correct temperature, both day and night, to bring them into growth. Therefore, we have to start our peony seeds in the last of Aug. and first of Sept. because

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