

Youngsters Respond To 'Garden Therapy'

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Many of us from this area this summer are working a half-day each week in the fields of a 4-H group of boys who are patients in the hospital. This project to direct their material for competition at the opportunity to be a part of the fine 4-H program, is sponsored by the local branch of the National Farm and Garden association.

The entire project is directed by a psychiatrist and is prescribed as "medicine". Yesterday while the boys were planting melons, Mrs. Pauline Marson of 24011 13 Mile road had them use tall juice cans, pierced three holes in the bottom. These were sunk in the ground so that the rim was only an inch above the surface. A melon plant was put each side of the can about three inches from the lip. About three tablespoons of fertilizer was placed in the can which was then filled with water. In the future only water will be placed in the can so the root level will be assured of water.

THOSE with ranch homes will be interested in planning to secure a magnolia macrophylla, which always should be planted in the spring. It is rare in these parts with leaves 18 inches across and it is always a good idea when you wish to use fine plant material to ask your growers to tag a fine specimen "sold" while growing during the season. Then have it planted in the can at the appropriate time. Don't let your supplier sell you substitutes to lower his stock inventory! Baldwin Library, through the "Plant Buyers" guide can locate all material for you. Yesterday visited the neighborly enterprise of the R. C. Scotts at 774 Kennesaw and their next-door neighbors the George Morrises. They have a lot between them which is "a sight". Each owns a portion of the whole so together

they have worked out a very pleasing result much in keeping with the yards on Kennesaw. The low center part of the lot was left to be developed as a sunk-garden while the low part at the rear was filled to correspond to the level of neighboring yards. Within the lot are many very, very tall trees trimmed high but meaning that the roots will rob planted grass and flowering material of food, and offer shade, too.

TREE TRUNKS were placed at the top of the sunk garden area to hold the bank and to later become naturalized by plants growing over them. Some stones were placed on the north side to give interest but yet primarily hold the bank.

This team garden-beautification began three years ago. The garden is beautiful at all times of year with the tulips and iris plus the big massing of impatiens on the north bank which delights in such a location. Right now yellow evening primroses predominate. Primroses come in for early attention and ferns assure a constant texture interest. The Scotts have Kerria japonica in their shrub row which likes three quarters shade and could be planted to give some vertical interest in the neighboring garden. The June flowers are orange-yellow. Leaves are a yellow-green and in winter the shrub branches are an interesting green.

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THIS SHRUB can be propagated in the summer by taking soft-wood cuttings, cut at the "joint" and remove any leaves which would be beneath the surface of the soil. Dip the prepared cuttings in a hormone powder to assure rooting, and firm in the soil, under a sheltering shrub.

The Southard garden at 6530 Red Maple Lane is always a "must" for garden lovers every year. This year I took my garden class there. They liked the white fringes tree in the front yard. It is unusual with its long drooping white flowers the first week in June but is slow growing.

They have a few specimen of moutain blue spruce which is the choicest of all evergreens and is very, very blue in color. These are always used as specimen. They are slow growing.

Southards have a hedge of Clark giant french lilacs on the south side of the boundary between the houses.

MRS. SOUTHARD is the garden who plans the color views from her windows to complement the colors within the rooms of her home. Her Rosa hugonis which grows like a shrub and has yellow flowers by the hundreds, complements the coloring in a guest room and the canes of the plant form a tracery effect across the windows.

Canadian hemlock (Tsuga Canadensis) provide important accents. This evergreen is a broad pyramid in shape and has branches which sweep close to the ground. This evergreen likes part shade and moist loam for soil. Be sure and allow plenty of room if you use it for its future growth. It has a very important place on acreage. On their property they have many choice specimen of flowering fruit trees. The Southards stress that it is important to hold back on fertilizer the first year after establishing ornamental trees. It really harms them to give them too much fertilizer the first year. In their garden they have taken "the bull by the horns" and have planted many of the acid loving plants such as rhododendrons, azaleas, etc.

They report good luck with flowering year after year, the test of successful culture. Roses are very important in this garden and are placed opposite every Monday and are fertilized twice a year so that when it rains the water will leach the peat moss of its acid content. The plants are fertilized around April 1 and the middle of July with a good all-purpose fertilizer. They have a seldom used shrub which will bring memories to many garden lovers, the sweet shrub (Calceanthus Florida). The flowers are reddish brown and some flowering peninsulas.



MRS. STANLEY R. SAUNDERS, Mrs. Norris A. Host and Mrs. James R. Ewing pack the Host station wagon for their trip to Mackinac Island. The Grand Hotel will be the scene of Gamma Phi Beta's national convention July 1-7, with Mrs. Saunders as chairman of the printing committee, Mrs. Host as official delegate, from the Birmingham chapter and toastmistress for the formal banquet, and Mrs. Ewing as social chairman. Mrs. Horace G. Colwell, secretary of the convention, will also go from Birmingham. Retarded children has been adopted as the official social work for the society.



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