

DOWN TO EARTH

Warner Garden Has Many Usable Ideas

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This is the time of year to spread peat moss as a mulch on your lawn as a weapon against the hot drying weather in July and August if your lawn is new enough to not give a solid carpet of turf. This mulch, easily spread with a rake, will cool the roots of the grass for continued growth at this time.

I recently visited the garden of William M. Warner which is in a two year setting at 6323 Thurber, in the Wing Lake area.

This garden is a hobby for a busy businessman and, as Warner said: "I can't wait until I get home from the office at night and don garden clothes, for real pleasure in my garden."

The garden looks mature beyond its years and could be compared with a child which has been brought up with loving care. It tells the world by its performance that it is really loved.

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This is also known as a basswood tree and will grow over 50 feet high. You can always tell the leaves as they are leoparded in color. The tree is round headed, and dense. In the fall it has a yellow coloring. It prefers lots of moisture and is good for erosion control.

THE LINDEN tree was placed to give shade on the terrace against the structure wall, was a purple clematis in flower.

Around the entire property was a collection of evergreens, in fact approximately five feet deep. Warner gives all his evergreens foliage feeding at least once a month, feeding through a hose.

Peat moss is the rule of the day in this garden and how beautiful a generous dose of this mulching material makes the garden.

In the corner of the yard he has some Norway spruce six feet apart and beautiful with branches to the ground with a real blue cast to the needles.

Among the attractive boundary shrubs was a hazel nut. The American hazelnut will grow to around 10 feet high, is fairly disease free and is ideal for early spring forcing. I liked the appearance of the compact growth of the foliage was exceptionally attractive with its prominent veining, and you have a crop of nuts each year.

WARNER only trims his forsythia in February and uses all of the available cuttings for forcing.

Along the border was a sweet shrub which so many of us associate with old gardens because of its pungent flowers. As it is coarse you will want it for a border or massed planting and never as a specimen. It will grow eight feet high. Crushed, the flowers give off a spicy aroma. The branches have a camphor odor.

A prize was in the boundary planting, a red twigged variegated dogwood. In the winter it has very red twigs, quite decorative. Beside this fine shrub was the green twigged dogwood which also has a special dividend of color interest in the winter.

Opposite the breezeway and straight back in this narrow lot was a lineup of golden tinted arbutus.

In front of them was a solid row of red floribunda roses and in front of them tea roses, with the primary Warner being yellow marginals. Warner prefers black-and-white bulls as a mulch for his roses.

A Paul scarlet Hawthorne is a specimen which will grow 20 feet high and give a vertical interest to the narrow well-designed garden. Near the garden gate to the front of the property is a grouping of three quinces. The leaves with their clear shine are always a treat on this shrub.

AGAINST THE garage wall are the measured placing of lilacs and butterfly bushes. Near the entrance of the breezeway there are yews which have been trimmed for an accent.

There in a corner of the brick structure are tuberous rooted begonias which came up of their own



**PATRICIA E. MCGIRR
Graduate Nurse Tells Engagement**

The engagement of Patricia E. McGirr to Charles Kichen has been announced by her mother, Mrs. Allen McGirr of 730 Henrietta Street and the late Mr. McGirr. Charles' parents are Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Kichen of Royal Oak.

Patricia is a recent graduate of Mercy college of nursing. Her fiance is a graduate of Highland Park junior college.

No immediate wedding plans have been made.

Warner prefers to move evergreens in August. They are burr-appled and balled and by choosing this month they will have time to become established before the cold weather.

His beautiful lawn is top-dressed with peat in the spring and fertilized then, in July and in the fall.

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