

DOWN TO EARTH

Some Seeds, Plants Can Still Be Added

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

It still isn't too late to plant castor beans if you are in a new place and wish an enclosure with a "young hedge" which will be anywhere from three to eight feet high.

Plant these annual seeds in full sun and at least three feet apart. They are grand for covering up a compost pile location, a place where you burn paper, or a view which you would just as soon close out. At this late date place a little fertilizer where the seed is planted. The seeds can be purchased at any seed stand.

At a recent meeting at Michigan State college of landscape architects the honey locust and the American Linden were named as the most satisfactory substitutes for the American elm. Don't forget the sweetgum tree as a shade tree with character.

Have you noticed the handsome sycamore tree at the end of the intersection of Westwood and Maple? The coloring on the trunk really catches your eye and my guess is that it is 50 feet high.

This sycamore tree is also known as a "plane tree." An outstanding characteristic is the scaling off of the bark in an irregular fashion. The leaves resemble a maple in shape. They are good because they tolerate drought and difficult growing conditions. The bark is almost creamy white and peels off in small plates which are dark brown and fissured.

with rotten wood. The oak is particularly susceptible to lightning. A beech tree doesn't seem to attract lightning too often.

By now many of you know you are really working with problem soil, especially if you have lots of clay. When you head for the soil to hoe remember for the soil to be in proper working condition it should be only slightly moist.

I have seen soil conditioners really improve the condition of clay. Therefore if you want to set up an experimental area turn the soil over with a fork and then mix the conditioner into it. The soil must be dry when you apply the conditioner, so water it moderately after treating.

SANDY SOIL cannot be improved by a conditioner. This type of soil needs humus to give it "body" to hold water around plant roots. The person with sandy soil surely should be an avid follower of the compost method of making humus from raking, leaves and waste greenstuff.

Synthetic conditioners do not increase the growth of soil microorganisms as your organic matter will do for you when placed in the soil.

A synthetic conditioner will fix the size of the soil aggregates quicker than organic matter. Because of the porous structure of the soil treated with a conditioner it will dry out quicker in the spring and will warm up earlier for spring root growth. Transplanted plant material in this type of soil will establish roots quicker than in a heavy humus material.

MANY WITH new home grounds will be interested in sowing rye seed in September to make a cover crop and next spring or when the growth is ten inches high it can be plowed under to enrich the quality of the soil.

The American Rose society has published the ratings of the roses

for 1953 and turning immediately to the floribundas which gives all of us so many weeks of constant flowering the white, summer-onset rates high.

The highest count for the pink roses went to pinkie white china doll rates highest in the red-scarlet-ermison category.

Modern packaging of roses is so well done that even now, if you have an open place in your planting and want to place a rose plant, you can do so if you treat the operation like the moving of a soufflé, allow good drainage, water well and cover the new rose bush with a bushel basket for at least five days.

AT OHIO State university, where they have done so much work on rose development they have mulched with four inches of finely ground corn cobs for several

seasons with good results. They have also found that the best fall pruning the greater the bloom the following spring. As for their method of care for hybrids and floribundas they follow the following pruning procedure, woody canes, cut out dead wood, remove weak and spindly canes, and trim sparingly the remaining growth to improve the appearance. After a climbing rose blooms in the time to cut out the oldest



MRS. HENRY H. WOOD, JR.

French Tulle Worn For Saturday Rites

St. Hugo of the Hills was the scene of a ceremony on Saturday which united in marriage Corrine Anne O'Neil and Henry Hale Wood, Jr. The Rev. Francis Stack officiated at the 11 o'clock rites.

The bride was gowned in French tulle and a blue silk suit. Her hair was styled in a bouffant and she carried a large bouquet of white daisies and ivy. Her bridesmaids wore blue and white dresses with matching hats. The groom wore a tuxedo with a white shirt and a white tie.

Wood changed to a blue silk suit. They will motor through Canada and New England.

ATTENDANTS were Eleanor C. O'Neil, daughter of the bride, Adeline Cushing, daughter of the groom, and Isabel Seymour of Grosse Pointe, bridesmaids. They were gowned alike in coral chiffon halter-length frocks and carried white daisies and ivy.

Acting as best man was Frank E. Wood, Esq. of Dayton, O., Charles Booth of Pensacola, Fla., William Kimber and Maury Hageman, both of Ithaca, N. Y.

Mrs. O'Neil attended her daughter's wedding and reception, following at Birmingham Country club, wearing a peach blue chiffon, street-length dress with a matching flowered hat. Mother of the groom chose a pale blue pearl de-sole suit with matching hat.

For traveling, the new Mrs. O'Neil will wear a blue suit with matching hat.

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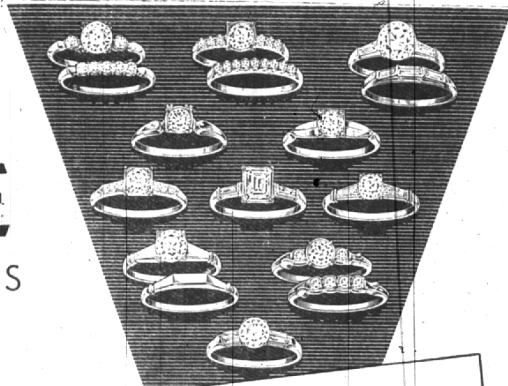
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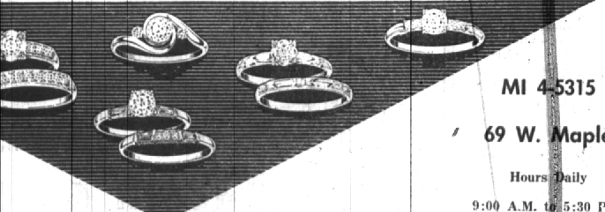
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