



BRIGHT RED, pink and white geranium plants centered the 20 tables for the dessert card party sponsored by the Walnut Lake Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. Pink and green streamers fell from the May pole which graced the tea table. Pictured with Mrs. John Bell, holding the plant and chairman of the party, is Mrs. George Bradley, left, hostess, and Mrs. R. C. Banker, president. It is the newly organized group's first large money making project. In conjunction with the project to help beautify Walnut Lake, the group also sells plants, flowering shrubs and trees. (Other items available are stationery and book matches with the Audubon bird and wildflower motif. Mrs. R. Browney is chairman of the ways and means committee.)

DOWN TO EARTH

Visit Noted Gardens To Learn New Ideas

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

About the middle of July I will give you the green light to pull up that comfortable garden chair, sit back and enjoy your garden. But at this date let's set up a well planned garden to give you a maximum of color throughout the season.

Before you begin to wish every hour of the day that you had a re-view of the excellent pointers made in the booklet, "Back Talk," from the GM employe information rack service.

This well written, illustrated booklet explains that we have 21 movable vertebrae, separated by discs which serve to absorb shocks and strains. If they are severely compressed a disc will slip out of place. Now you can avoid such a painful catastrophe by heeding some of the following advice:

LOWER AN object in your arms.

When carrying long objects, such as a ladder, keep the front end slightly higher and have your grip closer to the front of the object. When pulling something heavy, do so by using your body weight and legs, do not use your bent back to help you pull a heavy object.

When you are pushing, keep your back as straight as possible, push against the ground, leaning forward from the ankles.

Now, the next time your husband mows the lawn, notice if you can correct his position so that the task will be easier for him.

AS YOU reach for objects on the ground, squat, do not bend over.

The booklet gave as its parting word of advice: "People with weak hearts, high blood pressure, or those with lung diseases should not lift heavy objects."

As the progress of horticultural therapy is being presented to our

various county hospitals we feel that it is very important that our volunteers know the rules for correct lifting in order to introduce plant therapy as a positive benefit to patients.

Here is a psychological trick you will want in working out your garden plan.

It is very important to plan for a good primary border, plants which grow about six inches high and are next to the grass. If you have an appropriate selection of plants placed in their right exposure they will have a good effect, even though behind this border some of your perennials and shrubs have entered an uninteresting cycle.

FOR A shady location in front

of shrubs or perennials you can use forget-me-nots for an early show of interest. English daisies come in a white with pink coloring and will give interest. Ivy will crowd out weeds and will give a finished effect forever, only needing occasional clipping.

Doreenium or leopard's bane will provide a perennial six inch border, will bloom in the spring with daisy-like flowers and will die down to the ground in the summer. Still working on a shaded border, you will like Impatiens, an annual. Be sure and buy the low growing variety.

Of course tuberoses rooted begonias are very choice for this location and their flowers will provide corages for summer parties.

Hosta will grow 12-18 inches and will provide stunning foliage and late summer white flowers for that shady border accent.

THERE ARE always lily of the valley. Each year the soil they grow in should be top dressed with rich soil. Too rich soil will, however, mean an abundance of foliage and not many flowers. Lift and replant the bed every three years for best results. Think of all the friends you can have by sharing the excess plants. Too dense shade will cut down on the flowering quantity.

When you make a border in a sunny location you will have a wide plant selection. Now watch the potential height

May 13, 1954 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC Page 3

of the selected material and place them in the first row a measured trowel apart.

As you arrange these plants you may wish to put two of a kind next to each other and then one plant of a second choice, repeating the pattern.

You will enjoy sweet alyssum, ageratum, phlox drummondii (low growing and a collection of gay colors), crystal palace lobelia which will be an electric blue, petunias and verbenas.

A REAL treat is in store for garden lovers on May 16, 17 when they are invited to visit selected gardens in the Hantington Woods,

Birmingham and Bloomfield Hills area, as sponsored by the Detroit Garden Center.

When working with garden students I always advise them to get out and visit well done gardens to that they can come home and see how the plant material they have viewed can be adapted to their use.

These garden tours are deluged with persons who already have found out what a fine "way of life" they have discovered in beautifying their home grounds.

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