

Get Ready for Spring and Gardening

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

This time of year the inveterate gardener can be compared to the experienced fisherman who enjoys conversation regarding his hobby. Our memories have a way of making the descriptions of our "pet catches" take on a glowing appearance.

In our area we have a plantsman who is constantly uncovering the unusual in plant material. It is always possible to pick up lots of new ideas when you talk to Al Goldner.

Many of the lilacs we will see on the market will be coming from northern California and it is important that the gardener be warned.



Mrs. Burlingame

ed that it will probably be a year from the spring season before blooms can be expected. The best results can be expected if you place your lilacs in full sun.

NEW QUINCE shrubs have been hybridized to assure owners of larger flowers. These shrubs with their glossy green leaves, outstanding all summer, are a good selection for use as a

foundation planting, especially in front of a ranch home. They should be placed three and a half feet apart.

Remember to consider the color tones in brick if this provides a background and keep away from red quince shrubs. They prune very nicely to be maintained at four feet.

For that location in full sun you will want to plant the superb shrub, *Viburnum Carolepalum*. Its performance can be described in superlatives. It will take the worst winter weather we are apt to have in Michigan.

THE GROWTH will be rapid to around six feet and it will have an abundance of white clustered, fragrant flowers, like snowballs, five inches in diameter. In the fall the foliage will be a brilliant red. Each year if you plan to add

an outstanding plant to "your arboratum" you can't help but have a collection which will be conversational material for all visitors.

Those who feel that during colorful fall days their garden looks drab, will want to plant *Viburnum Setigerum*, a real show piece with masses of bright red berries.

The leaves are interesting in their elliptical shape. This shrub grows to about 10 feet high. Remember that bright berries on a tree can give as much beauty as a cycle of bright flowers and your bird friends will reward you by ferreting out insects which often are on the trouble list.

THE CHASTE TREE, which really resembles a shrub, will be a favorite because it flowers from August until frost. It has a fountain effect like a huddle and has an abundance of blue flowers. It dies back to the ground every year, but will grow on the root for the following spring at a rapid pace. The cuttings of this shrub make very artistic bouquets.

You will always play safe if you

assume that all shrubs require full sun unless otherwise stated.

Many of us are partial to *Hypericum Hidotea*, a shrub which makes an excellent hedge with a potential of three feet. This shrub has sultry yellow flowers in July at least two inches in diameter.

By this time you have probably gathered that it is possible to have a colorful collection of shrubs which can give you a performance throughout the summer and assure you of cut flowers.

If you have a sunny area rather protected from the winter's blasts, you will surely want to grow blue spiraea, carpatensis. It has lavender blue flowers in August and provides interest among the perennials.

For those who have a shade problem there is a ground cover, *polygomom reynouardii*.

It grows six inches high and has an interesting shiny green leaf and pink flowers.

At this point of my interview I asked Goldner, "What do you think of pachysandra as a ground cover?"

"It is my Number One favorite because it will take dense shade. Pachysandra will always grow successfully if the grower remembers it needs an original setting of 50-50 organic material and peat

moor and it appreciates lots of water."

Goldner says Baltic ivy runs a close second for ground cover. He had found that it does best when it has some sun during the day.

This column ends in the middle of our interview with this experienced plantsman, so next week we will continue to write about his favorite shrubs and trees for new settings.



HAZEL PECKINPAUGH DUNLOP

Speaker Presents Unusual Effects In Table Settings

Hazel Peckinpaugh Dunlop, author and lecturer, and a representative of the J. L. Hudson Company, will be guest speaker at a meeting of the Birmingham Branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. The Feb. 14th meeting at the Community House is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Mrs. Dunlop's topic will be "Decorative Tables for the Home," a presentation showing how clever and unusual effects in table settings may be obtained when arranged with imagination. Stressing color, table coverings, appointments and china, she will discuss the use of fruits, vegetables and foliage as well as flowers for decoration.

Mrs. Frank Walsh has chosen "Garden Lilies" for her flower hint of the month. She will speak particularly of the hybrid and less common varieties.

Mrs. Richard Farricker will make a special arrangement for the tea table at which Mrs. Robert Poole, Mrs. L. W. Robertson, Mrs. John Maynard and Mrs. H. G. Wood will pour.

Mrs. Carl Abbott is chairman of the day and among those helping Mrs. Verie Perry on the tea committee are Mrs. A. M. Browne, Mrs. W. E. Lewis, Mrs. J. E. Ross, Mrs. Bonny Gray, Mrs. Roy Washburn, Mrs. H. J. Kennedy, Mrs. Edward Sammut and Mrs. Ormond Wessels.

The "Home Gardeners" will meet at 10 a.m. of the same day at the home of Mrs. Hood Lake.

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