

Helpful Hints for a 'Perfect Lawn'

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The goal to establish a lawn free from crab grass and able to withstand hot weather is the program of many gardeners this month.

We have a local gardener, John Wolf, Juniper Court, in the new development of Adams, who has done a fine job with one and a quarter acres of Merion blue grass in less than a year.

As you know, your lawn seeds are an investment in this choice lawn seed for new installations and not for spotting of an established lawn.

Wolf secured a ton of aerocyanite 30 to 40 days before the grass was sown. He spread and worked it into the soil to sterilize and make it weed free.

Aerocyanite, a chemical looking like black shot, will give two years protection against weeds. This, plus the character of Merion blue, which has a rapid horizontal growth, will keep it from becoming a thick mat of grass, heavy enough to smother incidental weeds.

THIS GARDENER who has made his hobby and goal "the best lawn in Birmingham" has some good advice for those planning a lawn.

Merion blue grass lawns are heavy feeders of nitrogen and need fertilizer once a month. He has used three tons of fertilizer. He sets the blade on his lawn mower at 1 1/2 inches and enjoys his lawn cutting as he rides "over the territory" in a sulky attached to the mower. He has purchased 100 pounds of Merion seed.

The Wolf ranch home has a most attractive landscape plan with many useful plants. Here are some which I consider exceptional: Von Ehren juniper which is one of the best "spreaders", the arguta spirea, dwarf currant and the ninebark shrub.

More choice plants in the Wolf lawn in Birmingham" has some

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Paul Scarlet Hawthorns and hypericum, giving a "plus" quality to the property.

Our host wanted space for his garden tools and mixtures so copied a magazine plan he saw for a potting shed.

As the family haven't been in Birmingham too long from New Britain, Conn., they confess they miss the irregular topography of New England. When their yard was being graded they insisted that a New England hill be created with boulders, evergreens, etc.

AT CHRISTMAS time the evergreens on the New England hill were decorated and reindeer were placed on the crest, so all the community could share their Christmas spirit.

There is a handsome split rail fence to enclose the property and in one area the low land presents a drainage problem.

An inquiry was made as to a vine which would like moist feet and would be appropriate along a split rail fence. The answer was a trumpet vine.

This vine flowers in July and August with a glorious display of red and orange flower clusters.

As you ride around our Birmingham area you are aware of how much it means to many people to work in their outdoor living rooms and their pleasure to use a garden as a center for friendly visiting.

SUNDAYS ARE especially a time to share one's yard and it would be grand if blocks could team up and have a "gentleman's agreement" that clothes are not hung on the line on Sundays for the sake of those who want to enjoy their yards that day.

Hint: to mention this poisonous thought but we may yet have a frost. Remember that three layers of newspapers will give protection and May 29 is the safe date to place out annuals.

As you are reading out your purchase of plant material remember first to plan what you want your garden to provide in the way of beauty and maintenance investment. Your second step is to select the right plant material toward this end.



MRS. J. PATRICK SPELLMAN

The J. P. Spellmans Honeymoon in Florida

Barbara Bonds and J. Patrick Spellman exchanged rings and vows at noon, April 30, at St. Hugo-of-the-Hills, The Rev. Francis Stack read the rites before 200 wedding guests.

The bride was gowned in white organdy with appliqued flowers on the bodice and front two panels of the skirt. Graceful folds of the full skirt fell into a long train. Her headpiece was of the same appliqued flowers and she carried white carnations.

Peter F. Spellman, Jr., was his brother's best man. Seating the guests were Carl Hill, Jack Curran and William D. Bonds.

Barbara is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard H. Bonds, 732 Pierce. Her husband's parents are the Peter F. Spellmans of Royal Oak.

KATHERINE Bonds was her sisters maid of honor and bridesmaids were Mrs. Clayton Joyce, Mrs. Carl Hill and Mimi Commins. All attendants wore dresses of yellow with white polka dots, fashioned with large bows in the back. The honor attendant carried white carnations and double yellow daffodils and the maids carried

FOR HER daughter's wedding and breakfast reception at Rotunda Inn, Mrs. Bonds wore a blue shantung sheath dress with jacket. She had white baby mums.

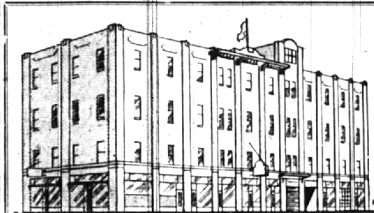
Mrs. Spellman had yellow orchids pinned to her navy shantung ensemble.

For traveling the new Mrs. Spellman donned a dark gray sheath dress with black and white accessories. After a two-week honeymoon in Florida the couple will make their home at 844 Hazel.

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