

# Some Tips on Growing Perennials

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME  
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The American Nurseryman says the date for beginning spring grounds programs is when we hear the first robin. Gardeners should proceed with caution, as turf damage can be considerable from a metal rake.

Many of our perennials have to have a snug cover beyond the first call of the robin for "all gardeners."

SO ON THE first day of the lawn, start fertilizing your lawn.

If you have your lawn serviced by a company which has a large 72-inch mower, the appliance's weight will roll your lawn sufficiently. You will not have to roll your turf to level it off for spring.

Mrs. Harold Stevens, one of the finest growers in our region, has some fine tips to pass on about growing perennials.

FOR BEST RESULTS, renew your stock every two or three years. This can be achieved by re-



Mrs. Burlingame

setting existing plant material after division, or planting completely new specimens.

One variety she favors is the Alpine aster, which has a potential height of six to eight inches. It is good for the border or rock garden, with a blue-purple flower you can enjoy in May and June.

This is a tip for those folks who only have creeping phlox in their spring rock gardens.

ANOTHER PERENNIAL you rarely see, helenium, is a favorite of Mrs. Stevens. It comes into flower just before the mums. The flower is similar to the mum and comes in coppery tones. Specimens are around four feet high, and prefer a sunny location.

The little bob mum is another favorite of this grower. It is a low, compact bush of hundreds of cushion mums.

HALF-SHADY locations always make growers scratch their heads. Here you have lilies or gayfeather to give you tall plums of compact flowers.

The spikes will be four to six feet high, and provide a conversational piece for you.

Mrs. Stevens has found when iris clumps refuse to flower she can rectify the situation by cutting out the center of the clump and feeding it with fertilizer.

TO CONTROL SOIL for a given plant, which has definite culture needs, Mrs. Stevens sinks a large potato chip can into the location, well pierced for drainage.

Then she plants the "fussy" plant in the soil of its choice, which cannot be altered by continual leaching.

The best phlox in this class of plants is Sir John Flagstaff, with its intense salmon color and compact growth.

TO ASSURE a fine effect in perennial borders, Mrs. Stevens recommends for constant color Siberian iris, German iris, bleeding heart, columbine, Japanese iris, peonies, oriental poppies, delphinium, day lilies, phlox, rudbeckia, asters and dyanthemum.

You will admit that a visit with this good gardener has been a fine experience for all of us.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, births, parties are all news—all the society editor about them.

## Dancing, Bridge Lessons Offered To Forest Lakers

A lesson... one kind or another, is all the talk of activities at Forest Lake Country Club. Beginning last Friday and continuing every Friday night for an indefinite period, Arthur Murray dancing lessons are on the agenda. Mrs. Arthur L. Foltz, Jr., and Mrs. Ward A. Stoddard are co-chairmen of the class.

On the same day from 1 to three in the afternoon bridge lessons for beginners and an advance course will be available. These will be headed by Mrs. Ward A. Brown.

and Mrs. Richard R. Norris. Saturday night was a social event when members gathered for a bit of dancing to Irish tunes. Albert D. Ludwig and James McGuire were chairmen of the party with their wives acting as hostesses.

Janet King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William King, Jr., 32700 Bingham lane, and a junior at Hillsdale College, recently returned from the Little United Nations Assembly convention on the Indiana University campus. She represented Hillsdale College on the Colombian delegation.

## Have You Met...

The residents of 4185 Meadowlane drive? They are Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Kennedy and two-year-old son, David, who moved from Philadelphia, Pa. Kennedy is an engineer for Studebaker-Packard, Inc. Mrs. Kennedy enjoys gardening and her husband is a golf enthusiast.

## ★ Smile A Minute

"How kind of you," said the girl, "to bring me these lovely flowers. They're so lovely and fresh. I believe there is some dew on them yet."

"Yes," stammered the young man in great embarrassment, "but I am going to pay it off tomorrow."

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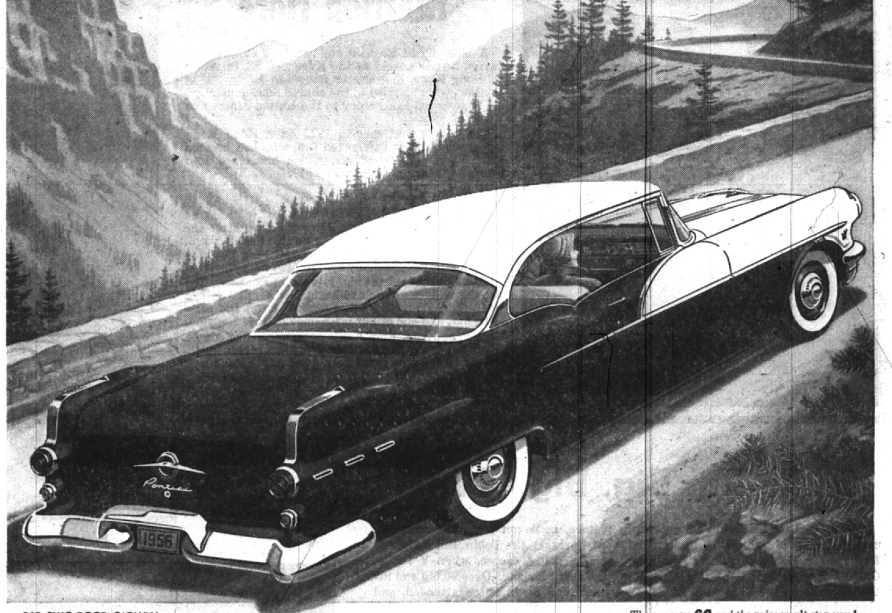
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