

DOWN TO EARTH

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Catalogue Time Is Here Again

This is the month when inveterate gardeners "take it easy" and enjoy the recent release of garden catalogues. There are a few choice selections I would like to point out for your benefit. Shady locations are always the bane of our existence, especially if the location is next to the home foundation or on an embankment where erosion control is needed. There is a three-foot shrub which does a good job. It will grow four feet in diameter. Stephanandra has bright green leaves which turn red-purple in the fall. You will like the fernlike shrubbery and the small, snowy-white flowers.

are red, and it is so dense that weeds are discouraged from growing thru it. If you are buying a specimen perennial, be sure to buy three to make a triangular placement. This, of course, is far more effective than one, and you avoid the polka-dot effect in your garden.



Mrs. Burlingame— Assume that every selection you make needs the sun, unless your catalogue states otherwise.

If YOU HAVE enough space in the sun on your rear property be sure to plan to have a Howard plum. Its fruit has the combined taste of a nectarine, peach and plum. One tree in your yard will handle the pollination problem. This tree likes cold weather and grows very fast.

Those who have to cater to certain brick shades of color in their home structure will welcome the yellow trumpet vine. It will want full sun and welcomes hot, dry weather.

For your sunny or partially shaded spot, be sure to include Diphysa, with its bright yellow daisy flower which comes out in early spring.

Often, if you have a terrace where the stone has been laid in sand, you would like to have a pebble plant which would give the effect of grass, requires no cutting and would never creep over to the shady side. Sweep a little rich humus between the stones and plant Arenaria. It prospers in crevices.

WHERE YOU HAVE a prominently located bed of evergreens, you may want a ground cover which will take over and prevent weeds from flourishing.

For that role I like Ajuga, which grows 3-4 inches high and has interesting purple flowers in May and June. If you place a metal strip around the contour of the bed, you can control the root growth and maintain the original shape of the evergreen bed.

You still want several plants of Hesperis Blue Caryopteris. These bright blue spikes will like a sunny, dry location. It likes the foliage you often have on cottage sites. It flowers late in the summer.

It was fair to see in England many of the original plants which were supposed to be introduced by our forefathers over here, including one of the finest shrubs of all, Viburnum Carlesophalum.

Musical Program Planned Sunday

Merry Music Makers will meet on the corner, Carol Johnson on Sunday from 3-4:30 p.m. in the clarinet and Mary Hawkins on Post and Mrs. Richard Post will also play. The musical program will include selections by George Ward by Linda Ball, Charles Holt, Jim Hohnmeyer and Julie Bennett. A string trio with Terry Bangs, Fred Post and Mrs. Richard Post will also play. Hostesses are Claudia Kessler and Mary Heller, 3160 Brad-ley way. Piano numbers will be rendered by Linda Ball, Charles Holt, Jim Hohnmeyer and Julie Bennett.

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