

DOWN TO EARTH

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Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Have Equipment Ready for a Calm day

With the windy weather we have had lately, gardeners have been held up with the treatment of their lawn for weeds by using a spray eradicator. Have your equipment ready to go for the calm day.

You will enjoy giving choice roses and small plants frequent nitrogen sprays to promote growth.

We know that such plant treatments have to be discontinued at the end of the first week in August, as there won't be too much soft growth to damage the plants with the first cold weather.

There is a new introduction this year which seems to have the plant fanciers talking because it will eliminate Japanese beetles which have always plagued rose growers.

Saw a handsome effect the other day on the west side, a house which was colored a soft blue grey, the owner had planted clematis vines to break the lines of a plain wall. They were a royal purple, pink, and orchid in color.

The stunning use of these clematis vines were seen at the southeast corner of West Lincoln and Sherwood. Many folks find that clematis gives an excellent effect when climbing up a lawn lamp post. One point should be remembered. They always like to have cool feet. Be sure and mulch clematis vines with peat moss at least two inches deep.

The Carlises at 3880 Oakhills road, built a long wall in their rear garden to give an accent between two sloping elevations. This wall is handsome, made from broken concrete and they planted Japanese Creeper at the base of the wall and now in its maturity it provides a handsome texture.

Japanese Creeper is a good choice because all of its qualities rate high. The vine has three lobes, the leaves are glossy and change to a brilliant purple and dark red in the Fall. This vine will take the most unfavorable conditions and clings readily to wood and stone. The leaves overlap like shingles. The variety Japanese Creeper Veitchi has very small leaves and would be appropriate for a backdrop of sculpturing.

IT IS EASY to propagate this vine by laying a strand on the ground and at intervals dump a glob of soil over the prostrate vine, then the next season cut between the mounds, remove the plants, then with healthy roots.

Now many are planning for shade trees to be planted after the leaves have fallen this Fall. Do not overlook the American Hophornbeam which is conspicuous for being very neat. It will grow to be at least thirty feet high and is often called an ironwood tree. The leaves turn yellow in the Fall.

At this date it isn't too late to take a tin can and make several holes in it and sink it near a tomato plant or some other specimen you are grooming for "brazing." It is very easy to fill the can with a nutrient solution which will seep out near the roots and frequent waterings can be controlled in this manner with a punctured can.

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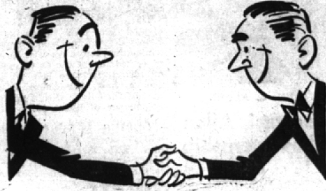
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