

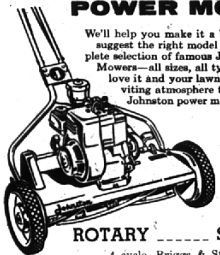
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DOWN TO EARTH

Parks Make Chicago a Beautiful City

A recent trip to Chicago renewed my affection for the town and its beauty. Analyzing my attitude I know that a strong factor which makes it a fine town for its large population is the beauty of its parks. I walked through a park area to observe their maintenance technique.

It was obvious that they were generous with fertilizer which assured them of good grass right up to the walks, the trees and shrubs did not look hungry for lack of a meal. A good pattern, plus a good knowledge of maintenance culture means low cost operation and a town with a park which increases adjacent property values.

Birmingham, have you expressed your selves to the members of the council. "Admire" our Shain park the next time you pass it. Recently visited the Best gardens at Michigan State university. This is the garden for teaching those who will follow professional horticulture. Came away with a few notifiers for our local gardens. If you have made a wall of broken concrete plant to plant climbing euonymus at the base of the wall and you will be assured of an evergreen effect over the structure cover the winter.

Another ground cover used effectively was wild ginger (asarum canadense). The leaves are kidney shaped and give the grower a change from the usual ivy, periwinkle, etc. Mr. Shupp had an effective border which I saw at his house which we couldn't identify and I located it at Beal garden. It is Cyrene Euphorbia. The plant is grown as a primary low border plant in three quarters shade and the new and

old growth results in two shades of green which is as ornamental as any flower and is bound to cause inquires from visitors. I visited the garden of Dr. John Hannah which has been reported previously. I did see a vine over a railing near their terrace which caught my eye. It was actinidia arguta or tara vine. It has glossy, dark green heart shaped leaves with red pedicels. It is free from insects and disease.

THE FLOWERS ARE white and produced in July, followed by greenish-yellow edible fruit as large as plums. This vine will take half shade and requires a moist soil (you can fix that factor). Your "Plant Buyer's Guide" at Baldwin library will tell you where to buy all of the plants I mention.

Another detail I enjoyed from this garden was a handsome white dogwood with a large kidney shaped bed of free form design at the base. It had metal striping to assure the initial pattern not being disturbed and the only planting in the bed was a mass of peychandara. You could duplicate this idea where you have three stretches shade.

Stretch Your Yard

Best way to make a small, hard-to-manage back yard into something livable and beautiful is to convert much of it into a wood-decked patio. The deck can be multi-level, to give added illusion of size. It can be inexpensive if built of ordinary grades of Douglas fir dimension lumber set on sturdy fir frames. Deck floor can be made of 2x4s set on edge or flat, or 2x6s laid flat with a quarter inch space between each board for water runoff.

When stone or brick edges rise above grass line, the operator could achieve a much closer cut—to within 3/8th of an inch—by edging with the other side of the power mower. This man should reverse his course.

Western Europe's expanding economy is expected to offer an annual market for more than 12 million tons of American coal for at least another half decade.

By ALICE WESSLES BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eclectic

Branch Holds Final Meeting

Riverwoods branch of WNFPA held its final meeting for the summer at the home of Mrs. Leon DeChim, 25405 Ingleside, with a dessert luncheon, plant sale and recipe exchange.

New branch officers elected in May include Mrs. Eugene Hill, president; Mrs. Hugh Joseph, vice president; Mrs. Fred Lordin, treasurer; Mrs. John Campbell, recording secretary; and Mrs. Leon DeChim, corresponding secretary. Several members are attending a class in flower arranging with Mrs. Seth Shawson as instructor.

AT THE MEETING it was voted

to send a teacher to the Higgins lake camp for one week to study conservation. Ruth Knight from Southfield 10 school, was chosen as representative.

It Saves Time

Looking for ways to save time in lawnkeeping? Use a lawn spreader to apply fertilizer and weed killers. Research reports spreaders are four times as fast as sprayers. The scientist found that even beginners could treat 1000 sq. ft. of lawn in 7 minutes when using a lawn spreader.

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