

DOWN TO EARTH

Seek to Recover Nursery Checks

Did you write a check to the Berkeley nursery, 2556 Coolidge, last Friday or Saturday? If you did, stop payment and then call the store.

Three Saturday night broke into the establishment, opened a safe and walked off with \$1,500, \$100 in checks, Howard Jewell, the store's manager, reports. He would like to recover the checks.

I defy anyone to find a place more beautiful than Michigan in Springtime.

This time of year my trouble is to find space to plant the seeds from the packets I collected in January. It seems like such a good idea at the time—winter garden therapy. Maybe I'm like the folks who go to Florida and come home

loaded with sea shells. (Speaking of sea shells, I can use unlimited numbers for hospital projects that use horticulture as therapy. Just leave them at our garage door. Many thanks.)

WE HAVE a terrace of grey ledgerrock, and this morning in the sunny locations I planted thymus serpyllum. This should fill in between the stones with a cushion that won't require care.

It seems to me that most of our rock walls are very uninteresting. Don't be afraid to place clumps of low growing annuals among the rocks. If you put some Canadian peat in the pockets, it will cool off the roots later. Bar Harbor Juniper with its steel blue foliage is good. Francy leaf geraniums are too. Dwarf roses add interest. Primulas give a nice flower for the shady part of the rock wall, and their foliage is interesting. Try

some Iceland poppies for full sun. They are an annual, but once you plant them you are in business for life.

IN KENTUCKY last week I noticed that gardeners there hold their embankments by placing medium sized stones about a foot apart and planting ivy between the stones. It makes a handsome bank in sun or shade.

And it makes sense too. While the roots are becoming established, the stones hold the bank. Later the stones cool the earth for the ivy roots during the hottest weather.

Wait with that peat moss for your rose bed. It shouldn't go on until July first. You want to keep the soil exposed to the sun to encourage good root growth and rapidly growing branches.

SOME of the signs of spring are not so pretty. There is the truck which goes around selling peat moss by the bushel. The only way to buy this fine top dressing for the lawn is by the load, because if you buy it by the bushel your bill will be astronomical.

And the ads in the Sunday papers. Great quantities of shrubs for a pittance. I helped a well-to-do neighbor unpack such a bundle, which was delivered thru the mail. Nuff said.

Some firms a great distance away offer to make a design to fit your property then send you plants to fulfill the design. You pay on the installment plan.

MANY, many of our young people with new homes, eager to have pictures outside those picture windows, have fallen for a deal like this . . . only to find the shrubs puny affairs six to 12 inches tall. As a protection to Birmingham residents, door to door "landscape artists" must be licensed. Be sure you ask to see the license. If you live in the county, ask for their license anyway, and watch them scoot.

No Need for Big Lot To Grow 'Garden Spot'

You can't keep a good garden down, even though she's operating from a crowded city lot.

For the luscious fresh vegetables and delightful flowers in view, the incentive to plant seeds and watch them grow is too strong to resist.

Besides, it's fun and it's easy. But there are several points to keep in mind to insure the success of a garden. When sowing seeds, the size of the seeds generally determines the depth to which they are planted.

SMALL SEEDS are barely covered while larger seeds are planted at a depth of about four times their diameter. If too thinly sown, the hazards of garden life may cause vacant spaces in a row while if sown too thickly, there'll be the

chore of thinning the seedlings out later on.

So follow the instructions on the back of the seed packets when sowing seeds and you can't go wrong.

Seeds should be sown when the soil is only slightly wet. If the soil is too damp, it may pack and

form a crust which the seedlings can't break through.

AFTER THE SEEDS are covered with soil, firm down by pressing with the back of the hoe or by treading lightly over the ground. The sump the soil, and a good watering once a week will do the rest. Then wait for the harvest.

For lawns: work an inch-thick layer of peat granules into the earth with a fork. Then rake lightly and sow seeds.

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