Hardy Seeds Can Be Planted Now

Gardeners who want to enjoy a full-length growing season should sow hardy annual seed just as soon as the danger of frost is past, reminds the National Garden Bureau.

In general, hardy annuals may be sown after Jan. 1 in Florida; after Feb. 1 in the deep South; Southwest and California; after Feb. 15 in the Border States and Pacific Northwest; and after April 15 in the Mountain States, North Central, Middle Atlantic and New England regions.

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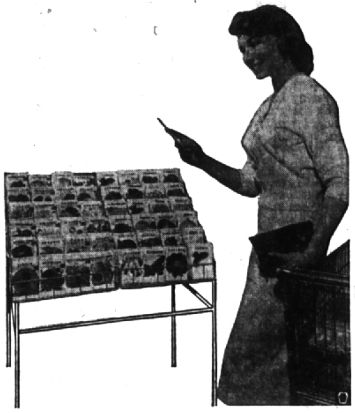

Garden Seed Racks Appearing in Stores

A cheering promise of Spring, which appears while Old Man Winter is still stumbling around, is the colorful garden seed rack which has now begun to bloom in many retail establishments here.

Only a few years ago, annual flower and vegetable seeds could be bought in only a few places. Now, they are found in supermarkets, gas stations, variety stores, hardware stores, drug stores and a wide variety of other locations, as well as in seed stores and garden supply centers.

The reason is that merchants of every description have found that garden seed racks help to build traffic by attracting customers with their colorful packets.

If the trend continues, garden seeds will probably be sold one day from automatic vending machines, so that people can purchase them at any hour of the day or night from even more locations than at present.

Next time you're on a shopping trip, take five minutes out for a little fun. Look for the garden seed rack in your favorite store and leaf through the dozens of beautiful packets. Annual flower and vegetable varieties are usually arranged alphabetically. In any case, the color illustration of the flower or vegetable variety on the front of the packet makes it easy to find.

Spend a few moments at the garden seed rack, and you'll find your spirits wonderfully lifted by this harbinger of spring.

If your tots are along with you, let them spend some time at the seed rack, too. Depending on their ages, they can learn a lot about flowers and vegetables from the display in a little time; or a lot about spelling from the clearly printed variety names on the seed packets; or a lot about colors from the variety illustrations, which are masterpieces of the printer's art.

Remember, too, that widest variety of garden seeds is yours when the packets first go on display. As the season progresses, supplies naturally diminish. Even if planting time is still some weeks off, you may find it worth your while to pick up some packets well in advance. They'll help you with your garden planning. You'll be better able to visualize exactly how your garden will look, when you can spread a few seed packets around your rough sketches.

Thanks to modern packaging and seed processing techniques, the annual flower and vegetable seeds you buy now from retail seed racks will be perfectly fresh when you're ready to sow them. And here's a tip: when you purchase vegetable seed packets, pick up a few extra to plant for home canning. You'll find that home canned vegetables, quickly and easily prepared with modern accessories, will help out your food budget all year.

Porch Meal Is Easy To Prepare

Perhaps the easiest and most pleasant of all outdoor meals is the one enjoyed in relaxed comfort on your own screened porch. It offers quiet, cool shade, summer scented air and unflurried, ready access to that source of supply—the kitchen. It permits serving hot foods and chilled foods chilled with a minimum of fuss.

The trick is to keep porch meals simple, the dishes few but ample in quantity. For example, a light zesty supper might be:

Sauteed Sandwiches
Crisp Salad Bowl
Prune Velvet Cream Cookies

This provides one hot dish, one chilled dish and a combination beverage-dessert. Serve the sauteed sandwiches fresh, hot and butter-browned. Between the slices you spoon a thick filling of chopped tart-sweet prunes, flashed with orange, and lightly sweetened:

Sauteed Sandwiches

1 cup cooked pitted prunes
2 tablespoons brown sugar
2 teaspoons grated orange rind
¼ cup orange juice
8 bread slices
1 egg
⅓ cup evaporated milk
⅓ cup water
Butter or margarine

Chop prunes; add sugar, orange rind and juice. Spread between bread slices, making 4 sandwiches. Beat egg slightly; add milk and water. Dip sandwiches into egg mixture. Saute in butter or margarine, turning to brown both sides. Serve immediately.

The salad can be a mixture of chilled greens, radish slices and chopped scallions, the whole tossed with French dressing.

Prune velvet cream is all tang and zing and tingle from the bottom of the glass to the top where it turns to velvet cream. Lively and refreshing, it's a beverage. Rich with cream, it's a desert. With it pass cookies from your favorite bake shop.

Prune-Velvet Cream

1 cup chilled prune juice
2 cups chilled apple juice
4 cups chilled gingerale
Heavy cream
Nutmeg

Combine prune juice, apple juice and gingerale. Pour over ice cubes in tall glasses. Then carefully pour a little cream on top of each glass. Sprinkle with nutmeg. Makes 6-7 servings.

TABLE TOP HEATER

A new 30-gallon table top gas water heater has been put into production. It is 36" high, 24" wide, 25" deep and has the same capabilities as an upright heater of equal capacity.

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