

Flower Border Serves Well in Garden Plan

A good flower border can serve many purposes. It can be used as a background or to separate your own garden from your neighbors. It will also be useful for cutting or for color.

Cutting flowers before they are faded or dry will give you more flowers and it will remove the unsightliness caused by poor flowers, reminds Fred B. Widmoyer, extension specialist in horticulture at Michigan State university.

The soil where a border is planted should be prepared deeply, Widmoyer advises, adding considerable organic matter such as well-rotted manure, peat moss, or ground corn cobs.

PLANTS SHOULD be spaced two-thirds of their height apart, the proper height being listed on the seed package. Such spacing will reduce the amount of weeding and cultivating that is needed in most flower beds.

However, remember that these plants are competing for light, moisture and nutrients. It may be necessary to fertilize and water more frequently when plants are that close together.

Widmoyer says the plants can be either purchased or started from seed. If you start them from seed, be sure the plants are started about three to five weeks ahead of the time required for transplanting out of doors.

PLANT ONLY GOOD, sturdy plants with excellent root systems. At the time of transplanting, water each plant with about one teaspoonful of a starter solution.

This is made by dissolving one tablespoon of a completely water soluble fertilizer in one gallon of water.

Insects and diseases can be controlled by spraying thoroughly once each week with an all-purpose ornamental spray. Your local nurseryman has sprays of this type.

Another reminder for effective flower borders is to plant in groups

according to variety. Put at least three plants of one variety together in each group. This informal planting is better than having a single plant of each color or planting in rows.

Plants Help Freshen Air

If you want a cleaner, healthier property—plant trees and shrubs, advises the American Association of Nurserymen.

For every pound of the dry weight of trees and shrubs in your yard, eleven cubic feet of pure oxygen have been given off; trees and shrubs also help prevent dusts from blowing on your property—the air always is cleaner on the lee side of a group of trees, it is stated.

TEMPERATURE CHANGES in summer at ground level during hot weather are always less on the well planted property, because the heat level largely is transferred from the ground to the tree tops.

Climate control of properties with hedges and windbreaks makes a big difference in the livability of home grounds.

MUCH INTERESTING data is being developed in the relation of trees and plants to health according to the nurserymen.

Plants of course are the world's sole supply of oxygen for breathing purposes, without them all human and animal life would in time expire, it is said.

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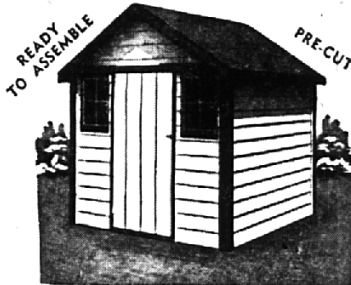
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