

## Down to Earth



By  
ALICE  
WESSELLS  
BURLINGAME

# Don't skimp with seeds

It is a dismal thought to realize that we are nearing the end of the garden season. But maybe that is why we enjoy gardening in Michigan.

It doesn't extend to every month in the year. We don't have to worry about the lawn for many months of the year. We do have a bonus coming and that is Indian Summer.

People motor from all over to enjoy our leaf colors.

This is the time of year when you make a few notes for the next season. If you grow melons, be sure and use Burpee's Ambrosia Hybrid seed, used for the famous Howell melons. If you grow corn, be sure and get Illini Xtra Sweet seed from Burpees. The corn is Sweet seed from Burpees. The corn is four times sweeter 48 hours after picking. Everybody in the trade is talking about these two selections. Do make an effort to grow the best.

You may be disappointed in your soil quality for optimum results. Make a compost pile this fall for next spring's soil enrichment. When you pull up "spent" annual flower plants to be based on your compost pile, don't shake off the soil from the roots as those soil morsels possess bacteria to hasten decomposition of leaves.

A small quantity of fertilizer will be a plus factor while water, which comes with the weather, helps to complete nice smelling rich soil for use next year. Of course, a few pecks in the pile with a garden tool to let the air into the mass from time to time will hasten decomposition.

This is chrysanthemum time and remember you can buy plants in flower now and place them for year after year pleasure. Next year, they will come up with twice as many "starts" around the edge of the original plant and you will have an unlim-

ited number of new plants to plant and share.

As you know, we pinch out the top growth of mums prior to the bud set time and all of those cuttings can be rooted and planted. Right now, I can see dollar signs dancing before your eyes as you can see growing mums as a profitable business.

Some of you have vegetable seed forming on your plants. You may wonder if you should save the seed for next year. The answer is no. The best vegetable seeds are hybrids, and you run too big a chance of having your crops revert back to some weak ancestor.

If you have seed left in a packet, store in a container in your refrigerator. For the use of second year seed, you should plant them thicker the next year as the germination won't be as good.

We have many choice places to run off to for a quick trip, and your columnist with a love of music went to Cleveland to hear the Cleveland Symphony play at the outdoor location, the Blossom Music Center.

Not only does this orchestra enjoy a prime reputation in the world, but the outdoor auditorium could be tops also. The site is in a woods with numerous shelters with picnic tables as well as many tables placed in the beautiful woods.

There is a restaurant, but most people chose the picnic route. Many trolleys pulled by a tractor make parking easy. Two beautiful summer evenings of music by Saint-Saens, Tchaikovsky, Gershwin, Mozart, Debussy and Respighi made your columnist realize there are so many riches to be enjoyed if you reach for them with a feeling of appreciation.

## Family Life Nursery welcomes new staff

Family Life Nursery in Southfield will start the school year on Sept. 11 with a new teacher, Mrs. Barbara Ruskin.

Mrs. Ruskin is a mother of four children and a long-time Southfield resident. She received her BS degree in education from Wayne State University in 1961 and is currently working on an advanced degree in preschool and parents education.

Mrs. Ruskin sees the co-op nursery system as a fine opportunity for herself and parents alike. Besides just enjoying the teacher and parent working relationship, she said, the Greater Detroit Cooperative Nursery Council offers meetings and workshops for teacher and parent.

She finds that her philosophy of education works well in the co-op nursery classroom and prefers an instructed,

flexible curriculum with emphasis on ego development and socialization.

Using creative arts and creative movements, she leads the child to experiment with his own ideas to discover his particular creative abilities. Instead of always giving the children a definite model to imitate, she prefers challenging them.

Another technique involves the use of Koala bears from Mrs. Ruskin's huge collection. A special one is a puppet named "Pepi." While he talks to the group, he is especially valuable when used on a one-to-one basis to really delve for feelings. Through "Pepi," she persuades a child to express feelings he may not be able to say outright.

For more information contact Vicki Spellman at 647-5984 or Marjorie Federspiel at 355-3358.

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