

Colorful garden book is preview of spring

By CORINNE ABATT

For gardeners who even now long for the sight of the first crocus, Better Homes and Gardens' "Complete Guide to Gardening" could ease the agony of the months ahead.

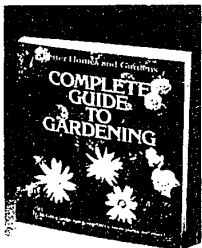
The new 552 page, hardcover volume has 520 color pictures — a dirty and at the same delightful trick to play on us frustrated gardeners who are in the winter of our year. The book is almost, but not quite, as refreshing as a trip south — certainly cheaper, \$19.95.

It's easy to follow for beginner as well as veteran gardener and covers all subjects that a person with a yard might want to know, from flowers, vegetables, landscaping, shrubs, trees, greenhouses, specialized gardens (rock, herb, wild, water, shady, desert, etc.) plus solutions to problems from climate to bugs.

CHARTS. ALWAYS IMPORTANT. In any book on gardening, are color coded for fast, easy reference and explanations on procedures are illustrated with simple to follow drawings.

Charts for the care and feeding of houseplants would be of immediate use to us who live in Michigan. For those who happen to have greenhouses, there's a greenhouse plant guide and for the less fortunate, ideas on how to improvise and turn a southern, indoor exposure into a sort of greenhouse.

The color pictures are, in fact, so lavish, and well arranged that a person who couldn't hold his head up because he didn't know a geranium from a del-



phinium, will no longer be confused.

While one garden book may seem as good as another and the old ones as valuable as the new ones, there are some special things to recommend this one, aside from the attractive way it is assembled.

It's done with today's lifestyles in mind. Gardens for tiny areas as well as large ones, vegetable gardens for busy people who don't have a lot of time and many ideas for using outdoor containers for flowers and vegetables in conjunction with a total landscaping plan or by themselves or a small apartment patio or porch.

For instance, there's a diagram for a vegetable garden, 25-by-30 feet. This space, according to the book should produce enough to feed a family of four

with ample left for freezing and canning.

Taking advantage of the suggestions for getting the most from this space, the reader will find he will do better with Swiss chard than spinach. Spinach production is limited, Swiss chard continues to flourish in warm and cool weather.

For the economy minded, broccoli is a wiser choice than cabbage because broccoli can be harvested a couple of times and cabbage only once.

These are the kinds of helpful bits of information which a lot of us figured out by trial and error and which can save the beginner time and effort. Mind you, nobody, is trying to kill spinach or cabbage, and if that's what you like, by all means, plant them.

IN KEEPING WITH NEW TRENDS, much is done in the book using flowers and vegetables in outdoor containers in conjunction with a landscaping plan or by themselves as answers to an apartment dweller's yen to garden.

As a part of a large plan, pots brimming with growing things are shown on porch steps, patios, along walks and around the flower beds. There was a time when a pot or two of geraniums on the front porch was good enough. Not any more, not with this country's blossoming green thumb population.

There may be more answers than most readers ever thought of questions for, but "Complete Guide to Gardening" is certain to brighten the spirits of gardeners on long winter days.

Diversified classes set to begin

The offerings will not be the standard variety when classes begin in January in Farmington Community Center.

Course offerings beginning Monday, Jan. 21, include Scott McCue's "Dramatics and Mime Instruction" for those aged 8-11. McCue is a drama teacher and professional actor who guides his students through the basic techniques of acting through improvisation and imagination.

His "Dramatics and Play Production," for those aged 12-18, covers movement, gesture, expression, diction and interpretation.

Peggy Freeman, a longtime sewing teacher in the center, brings "Sewing for Girls," also Jan. 21, back for the 8-12-year-old set. Young seamstresses explore hand sewing, the sewing machine, the iron, and how to follow a simple pattern.

Another class starting on Jan. 21 is Betty Schwehr's bridge sessions for advanced players, from 8-10:30 p.m. running for nine Mondays.

Mrs. Schwehr's beginners meet Wednesdays and Thursdays, beginning Jan. 23-24, and the intermediate groups gather on Wednesday, Jan. 24, to begin their classes.

"LEGAL RIGHTS for Women," with attorney Jo Ann Bowen Russu returns Wednesday, Jan. 23, in a four-session class from 7:30-9:30 p.m. She will cover legal topics interest to women in the areas of marriage, property, insurance, divorce and credit.

On the same day, "Investing in Antiques" begins, led by J. Jordan Hamberstone. Collectibles will be viewed and discussed for aesthetic appreciation as well as a hedge against inflation.

Ricky Dove gets his students ready

for the return of the Big Band Sound in a five-session course of ballroom, latin and disco steps beginning Thursday, Jan. 24. The 7:30-9 p.m. class is for be-

ginning students. Intermediate and advanced instruction starts in February. Beginning guitar with Ben Creech begins Tuesday, Jan. 29.



Quilter Dianne Little comes to Farmington Community Center to teach beginners from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Fridays, beginning Jan. 25. Mrs. Little is an instructor at Greenfield Village, both in quilting and textiles, and she is a member of the Spinning and Weaving Guild. (Staff photo by Randy Borst)

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