



down to earth
**Alice Wessels
Burlingame**

New seeds will produce treats

No doubt your seed orders are in but you can always enlarge your garden ideas if space allows. If you are still looking with pleasure, through garden catalogs, here are some suggestions.

There are two melon selections from the Burpee catalog which you will enjoy trying. Ambrosia muskmelons are just like the famous Howell melon, which housewives trot all over town at harvest time to secure. A second muskmelon, Sweet 'n Early, has orange flesh, small in size, early to harvest, and has a corky netting. The latter characteristic is important when selecting a good melon at the grocery.

Northrup King, 1500 Jackson St. N.E., Minneapolis, Minn., 55413, has a sweet corn seed, "Honeycomb," which is unusual. Every fourth kernel has a honey color and possesses a different type of sugar than the others. This corn retains its fresh, sugar taste for three or four days after picking, an unusual trait.

Many of us will be enjoying unusual beauty in plants as the Cranbrook House and Garden Auxiliaries plan to sponsor a trip to the Florales 1980. This is the first time this show has been on the American continent.

THE SITE IS MONTREAL. Departure time is June 9, return in three days. I have been to world flower shows on the continent. Surely, over here, we can compete and display superb beauty on the island created for Expo. Those interested can make inquiries at Cranbrook House, 645-3147.

Back to gardening. You hear a lot about mulch and its value to your garden site. Here is a tip for you to weigh. When you are giving your garden a

good start, whether it might be perennials peeking their fresh green heads out of the earth, or seeds which you are starting, remember it is important to keep the soil warm to encourage root growth.

Therefore, if you can keep the beds unmulched until the third week of June, your plants will have a better start. There has been considerable research on this technique.

Now comes a time when you want to mulch to hold down weed growth and for aesthetic reasons. Do it, but not when you want to push early spring growth. If as a mulch you use ground bark or any wood product, remember this type of mulch is hungry as it deteriorates.

To prevent it from robbing your mulched plant, you have to fertilize frequently to offset the mulch to hold down weeds. Will the roots get enough moisture?

SOME OF YOU ARE concerned about taking a soil sample because you are dissatisfied with your growing results. Here are the instructions from the county agent's office, 858-0887. For \$4.75 they will mail you a special soil box with instructions for filling. Then you fill it by instructions and mail it to the Soil Science Laboratory at Michigan State University.

Again your columnist is on the soapbox. How wonderful it would be if one of our retired gentlemen gardeners would take instruction on soil analysis and analyze soil for area gardeners as a sideline. Here is a job which could be done locally. McClain-Ball used to provide this service.

Weavings exhibited at art association

The Michigan League of Hand Weavers wants to bring innovative fiber art into a facility where it can be more readily seen.

Such an endeavor will be realized when the League exhibits the combined

work of its 25 guilds, of more than 300 fiber artists, at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association from April 12-30.

Jurors for the show are Sherry Smith, head of the fiber department,

University of Michigan, and Lillian Pierce, designer with Ford and Earl. All members of the league were invited to submit work, and a variety of accomplishments — fiber structures, three-dimensional weaving, architectural cro-

cheting, macrame and weavings incorporating flexible metal — will be shown.

A reception to meet the artists is April 12. For further information, call 644-0866.

OU to host saxophone symposium

The saxophone as a jazz and classical instrument will be the subject of a saxophone symposium April 13 at Oakland University. High school and college musicians are invited.

In addition, the Ohio Saxophone Quartet will give a public concert that evening at 7 p.m. in Varner Recital Hall.

The symposium and concert are sponsored by the OU department of music in conjunction with the North

American Alliance of the World Saxophone Congress.

Presentation and performances by artist-teachers, instrument and music displays, and a student performance forum will be held.

Symposium registration begins at 9:30 a.m. in Varner Recital Hall and the program starts at 10 a.m. The fee is \$2 per person, including admission to the 7 p.m. concert. Concert admission

only is a \$1 donation payable at the door.

Faculty for the symposium are James Dawson, OU, James Hill, Ohio State University, John Sampen, Bowling Green State University, Sam Sanders, OU faculty member and Detroit jazz artist, Donald Sinta, University of Michigan, and Elaine Zajac, Eastern

Michigan University.

The Ohio Saxophone Quartet performs many styles of literature including transcriptions, French music, and contemporary compositions. The repertoire includes all major works for saxophone quartet. Members are Joyce Brunton, James Hill, John Sampen, and Theresa Witmer.

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