



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

Burpee was gardener's friend

Maybe there are some virtues in keeping your flower beds not completely neat. The reason being that the following annuals reseed themselves. In the springtime most of us belong to "the club" believing that it is the virtuous thing to clean every inch of the earth spotless, free from some growing starts.

You may be delighted to know that the following annuals reseed themselves: sweet alyssum, corn flower, larkspur, petunias, portulaca, nicotiana, clemens, cosmos, gallardia, dwarf marigolds and some varieties of sunflowers.

If you have a magnolia on your wish list, delay your purchase until spring when it is in active growth and even in flower. If an eager nursery person plants one other than in the spring be sure and get a year's guarantee.

THIS IS THE time of year to plant pansies for next spring's beauty. A cold frame is an ideal place to start the seedlings. Secure your seed with a good reliable company label whether from a seed display or by mail. You will be able to enjoy them very early in the spring.

You can start them in a specially prepared seed bed in a half shady location in your garden. In this selected spot you do not want the seedlings to dry out. Protect them with a plastic cover. You could also start seed for 1981 of violas, polyanthus and English daisies which spark any garden.

Gardeners recently lost a real friend of 87 years, David Burpee. He spent his entire life striving for new and better varieties of vegetables and flowers. He was world famous because of his integrity and genuine interest in the home gardener.

Your columnist has had the pleasure of being a guest in the Burpee home in Doylestown, Pa. There I ate golden beets for the first time, beautifully prepared by Mrs. Burpee. Personally, I like their taste better than the usual

red beets. Try them next year.

David Burpee's father, W. Albee Burpee, founded the seed company in 1876. Many firsts which we take for granted came from their trials. In 1939 they introduced the first hybrid flowers from seed for commercial sale in the U.S.

David Burpee wished to make the marigold the official flower of the United States. The white marigold, developed by an Iowa great-grandmother, Alice Vank, in 1975, received a prize of \$10,000.

Many honors were accorded David Burpee from professional and academic colleagues. As we enjoy our gardens today, it is important to note that it takes dedication for at least 10 years to introduce new plant material which has been tested and judged for excellence.

HARVEST TIME is upon us and here are some ideas you might try. Drying is one method dating back many, many years. If it is near the end of the season and you have pods on the vine, you can hang them up in a dry, airy place to dry. When they are completely dry, shell and place the peas or beans in the oven at 150 degrees for about 30 minutes. Then seal them in containers.

You can hang up ears of mature corn in a dry place (garage) and when they are thoroughly dry, remove the kernels with a twist of both hands.

Red peppers can be picked when they are red and mature. String them and let them dry. You can pull up the whole plants if you wish to dry them that way. When totally dry, store in an airtight container.

As your sunflowers begin to mature you will want to cover the heads with bags or the birds will beat you to the harvest. When the heads are removed, dry further and store the seeds in an airtight container.

Gardening can be just as challenging and educational as you make it.

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Thimbles opens Friday,

August 8th!

on the Lower Level of Twelve Oaks Mall in Novi. Come in and be sure to enter our drawing...by filling out a card, you could win a merchandise certificate for \$150.00 at our drawing on Saturday, August 16th at 3:00 P.M. Three winners will be selected and notified by mail—winners need not be present; no purchase necessary.



Thimbles

Lower Level, TWELVE OAKS MALL, Novi

Picnic slated at synagogue

A family picnic, sponsored by the Men's Club of Congregation Shaarey Zedek, is scheduled for 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 17. It will take place on the synagogue grounds.

Families of the Jewish community as well as those of the congregation may attend providing advance reservations are made.

A single family charge of \$7 will in-

clude food, drinks, games and participation in a drawing. Dr. Mark Diem and David Maiseloff are co-chairmen.

Reservations may be confirmed by calling Selma Lerner at the synagogue office: 357-5544.

In the event of inclement weather, the picnic will take place indoors in the Youth lounge.

Library party stars 'Alice'

The Southfield Public Library's Children's Division summer reading program plans a Welcome Home Party at 2 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 6 in the Parks and Recreation Auditorium.

A Southfield Repertory Theatre production of "Alice in Wonderland" will be featured.

For more information call the children's division at 354-9100.

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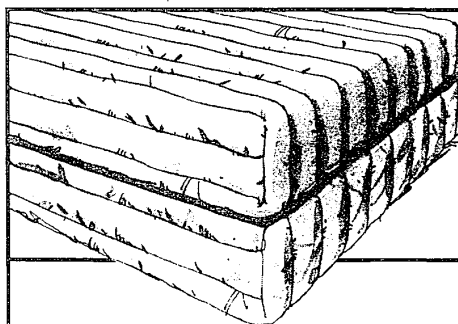
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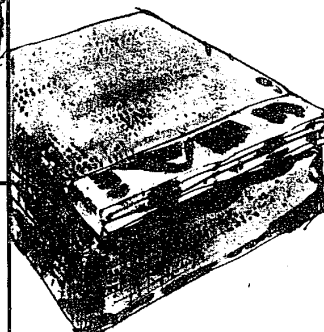
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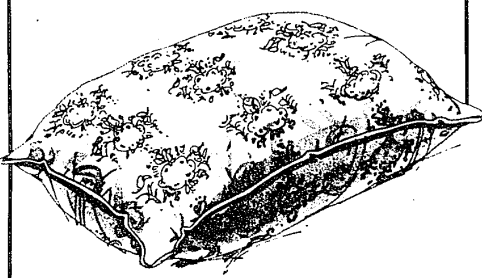
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