

Maybe now, we can enjoy wildflowers

The other day a woman said to me, "Hurray, the county and state are too low on funds to mow the expressways, and now we can enjoy the wildflowers." (Take note of this comment, State Highway Department.)

It reminds me of seeing wildflowers along the highways of rural Europe, and red poppies among Queen Anne's lace were an "eye catcher."

So, like a bound dog, I looked up Burpee's current catalog and saw red oriental poppies (perennial). Going further for information, I found they like full sun and fertile soil. Our communities are filled with garden clubs. This is a good idea for highway beautification.

I am sure there isn't a landowner who would object to planting along the roadside to create beauty. Those ideas are catching, maybe if we could beautify our highways with colorful wildflowers other areas would follow.

AS YOU KNOW, for the sake of longevity, all flowers should be picked



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

In early morning or late afternoon.

To get good mileage from roses after picking, place in a tall container and pour boiling water around the stems. After a few minutes, plunge into cold water. Notice how much longer your roses will stay fresh.

For the various flowers you might cut from your garden, be sure and use a knife and make a slant cut. Don't use scissors as they pinch the stem together and you defeat the purpose of cutting to be placed in water. The pinch doesn't allow the water to rise and give rigidity to the stem.

When you cut some flowers you may

find they have gummy or juicy stems.

These stems should be singed over a flame to seal in the juices. Then immediately place in deep water in a cool place for a couple of hours or, better yet, overnight.

Not everybody who develops an "itch" gets it from poison ivy. Several common plants can give a person dermatitis. Wild parsnip can cause blisters which can last for two weeks and then after that you may have bed blotches for a couple of months.

It is being exposed to the wild parsnip plus the sun which creates the condition. This plant has a rosette of leaves close to the ground and the sec-

ond year can grow to five feet high with tiny green-yellow flowers.

WHEN YOU meet with horticulturists you will find they all have their favorite ways of growing for success. Quite a few gardeners plant by the moon. Several universities have found that there is a definite correlation between germination and growth with the waxing and waning of the moon.

A group of orchid hybridizers bred by the Hawaiian Moon calendar on only seven days of a month — on the new moon, the full moon, one day before the last quarter moon and two days before to one day after the first quarter moon.

Now, are you confused too? When you are breeding plants commercially for the "best" in categories, you adhere to unusual techniques.

In England, homemakers are eating a recent introduction called the "raspberry." It is a cross between a raspberry and a blackberry. It gets its name because it was hybridized in Scotland at a nursery adjacent to the River Tay.

'Treasure Trip' planned

The Farmington Community Center offers a Treasure Trip Sept. 28 at \$20 per person.

The fee includes roundtrip transportation on air-conditioned chartered motorcoach, a tour and time to browse through Materials Unlimited in Ypsilanti and Treasure Mart in Ann Arbor.

Materials Unlimited houses the largest collection of antique building parts in the Midwest in a spacious three-story warehouse. The 15,000-square-foot warehouse is a browser's delight full of carved mantel pieces, beveled glass doors, stained glass

windows and hundreds of salvaged antique materials.

Lunch can be taken at a choice of three restaurants within walking distance of the Treasure Mart, an Ann Arbor consignment shop. Antiques, collectibles and household goods, as well as quality items such as Limoges china and oriental rugs are sold in this store.

Treasure hunters will board the bus, leaving Oakland Community College parking lot off Farmington Road promptly at 9:30 a.m., returning about 3:30 p.m. Reservations will be taken through Sept. 17.

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Final payment due October 4, 1982

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