

# Now about the white marigold



down to earth  
Alice Burlingame

We have a contingent of readers who are enjoying winter sports up north. Our "lake land" is an excellent source for pieces of driftwood. When cleaned up and the wood waxed, this makes excellent containers for cut flower arrangements as well as plants.

Driftwood as informal containers for flowers has sales appeal for garden club benefits. Ferns are beautiful planted in driftwood. Or, scoop out an area for low-growing flowering plants.

In most homes there are wicker baskets that some "saver" couldn't throw away. Recently I had a large gift of fruit delivered in a handsome wicker basket. Mine will be used to be a container for sundry small potted plants.

First it will be lined with plastic or aluminum foil covered with a couple inches of peat moss (the moisture from the moss will benefit the small pots of plants). It is wise to have the "composition" sitting on an attractive, appropriate size plate to protect the table top.

This is garden planning-dreaming time. Most ev-

erybody has shade trees to contend with when analyzing if flowers will take the site.

WE KNOW there are ground covers to fill that special need, but you may want to use irregular beds. Consider Impatiens, which are coming out in interesting shades of red, pink and white and begonias which can provide good accents.

We see so many interesting patterns in coleus leaves these days and they are an attractive eye-catcher when are grouped together. Don't forget that salvia can take lots of shade and new color tones are appearing on our spring markets.

With my years behind me in designing I find myself using clumps of one kind of flower rather than attempting the effect. Of course there are landscape situations which call for borders "to contain" taller plants such as perennials.

Review the contents of your refrigerator and if you have small containers of this and that "over the hill," remember that anything with a sugary base is a plus item for your compost pile as carbohydrates

found in sugar hasten decomposition.

I wonder, does it tell us something about ourselves? Too much sugar can break down our tissues, replacing the carbohydrates with fat.

BURPEES, the well-known seed company, had a contest a few years back to find a pure white marigold.

The company paid Mrs. Alice Volk, of Sully, Iowa, \$10,000 for her successful cross development of the perfect white marigold.

I have never tried it because I guess I am wedded to the gold color of marigolds. In other words, I expect specific flowers to satisfy me with specific colors — in this instance gold for marigolds.

Have any of you readers tried the white marigold and how does it satisfy you after years of expecting yellow marigolds? Please let me know. I am hooked on the psychology of color.

There is a new publication out which will be very helpful for you as you upgrade your home grounds, "Landscaping," Sunset Books, Lane Publishing Co. Menlo Park, Calif. 94025; 174 pages, \$9.95.

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