

Plan a day to visit public gardens

July is often the month when visitors arrive and days need to be filled with activities. A visit to a garden or conservatory can be a rewarding experience.

There are many public gardens to visit in Michigan. Some are close by and some will require more driving time. Here are a few to whet your appetite: Dow Gardens, 1018 W. Main St., Midland; Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Rd., Ann Arbor; the Anne-Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory on Belle Isle in Detroit.

Other gardens open to the public on certain days and a little closer to home are: Cranbrook Gardens, 350 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills; Wisner Historical Home (Pine Grove), 405 Oakland Ave., Pontiac; and the Morris House, 1460 E. Jefferson, Detroit.

The Troy Historical Green, 60 W. Waukegan Road and Livernois, has a herb garden worthy of a visit. Don't forget the Detroit Zoological Gardens, Woodward and 10 Mile, Detroit, with gardens maintained by the zoo and the "adopt-a-garden" plots so lovingly cared for.

Several of these gardens are adjacent to historical homes and buildings. A call to determine visiting hours and admission charges may prevent disappointment.

If any readers know of a garden to add to the list, let us know and we will be happy to visit and to publicize it. If you plan to travel to a particular area of the state, we will be happy to direct you to nearby gardens.

When the company has departed, there is still work to be done on our property.

WEED CONTROL is an ongoing job, but if a routine is established, such as regular hoeing and cultivating to prevent weeds going to seed, next year the job may be easier.

Hoeing and cultivating (and of course hand pulling) will control weeds, but mulching is another method that also benefits the plants by keeping moisture in and around them. Biodegradable materials such as compost, straw, hay, ground corn cobs, leaves and newspaper have an advantage because in the fall they can be turned under to improve soil



down to earth

Marty Figley

structure and add nutrients.

Another plus for mulches is they keep crops cleaner by preventing muddy spatters and ground stains. They also prevent soil erosion, puddling and crusting. Mulches not only slow the evaporation of water from the soil, they also prevent weed growth by smothering weed seedlings and preventing light from reaching weed seeds near the soil surface. Usually this is most helpful in controlling small annual weeds. Large annual weeds and quackgrass and other perennial grasses may be a nuisance, but hoeing and cultivating will also keep them under control.

SOMETIMES AN ORGANIC mulch will provide an ideal home for slugs, which seem to be a universal problem. Slug baits or home remedies may work. My file contains several of these ideas; maybe one will work for you. Slugs love Purina Dog Chow Nuggets; a non-alcoholic "near beer" may work; malt sugar in wa-

ter, or you may want to try a half shell of a cantalope filled with very soapy water.

Other substances to use are: dry marble dust, crushed shells, diatomaceous earth, coal cinders, broken concrete, builder's sand, Measmull in granular form; and for soil low in pH, wood ash. A simple remedy is to pull back the mulch on a hot, sunny day and let "old soil" do the job.

Two gorgeous double hollyhocks are blooming profusely in the garden of Sue and Joe DeGroat of Bloomfield Township. Sue transplanted a clump of these favorites from a former residence and this year the plants are blooming like never before.

The largest pink bloom measures 4 1/2 inches across and 2 1/2 inches deep and looks like a tissue paper carnation.

The white stalk was laden with 34 blooms at one count last week, each one prettier than the next. Mother Nature is always full of delightful surprises.



Just folks

Tom Chapin (above) shares the bill with Judy Collins and Tom Paxton in a concert of folk music at 8 p.m. Tuesday, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival on the campus of Oakland University near Rochester. For ticket information, call 377-2010.



Going with the Flo

The Turtles with Flo and Eddie hit the golden oldie circuit this summer with The Rascals. They're appearing at the second Summer Solid Gold concert at 8 p.m. Friday, at the Meadow Brook Music Festival on the Oakland University campus near Rochester. For ticket information, call 377-2010.

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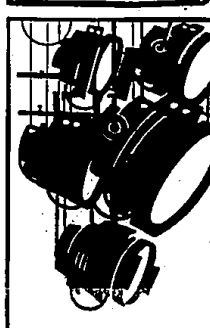
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