

Tips on Gardening

By Betty Frankel

ASTERS
Asters, blooming now in many Farmington gardens, are glowing like jewels. This annual flower, also called China Aster, has been a favorite ever since it was introduced into the gardens of the Western world over 200 years ago. During late summer and early fall the plants bear large shaggy heads of beautifully colored flowers. Colors range from white and pale pink through medium tones of rose and lavender to deep vibrant blue-violet and ruby-red.

There are early varieties that commence blooming in July, but most varieties begin blooming in August and continue until frost. The shorter days and longer nights seem to favor their blooming. Also, they flower best when nights are cooler. They do not thrive in hot, humid weather.

PLANTS MAY be raised from seed sown indoors in March, or from seed sown in the garden after the soil has become warm and dry. Seedlings should be set about one foot apart, or thinned to that distance. Plants sown directly outdoors will begin blooming somewhat later than those given a head start indoors.

Asters produce the best blooms when grown in fairly rich, moist, fertile soil, but will do reasonably well on rather light soil. They prefer full sun, but will tolerate light shade.

All in all they are not too demanding, and will accommodate themselves to a wide variety of growing conditions. The plants are very shallow rooted so the ground around them should not be cultivated deeply. A mulch of grass clippings, compost, or well-rotted manure is beneficial. The plants should be watered thoroughly each week during dry spells. Very large blooms can be produced by using a manure mulch or by applying liquid manure or nitrate solution each week after the buds have formed. For the very largest exhibition size blooms pinch off lateral buds and allow only six to ten terminal buds to develop on each plant.

THE CHIEF types include those with ostrich plume flowers, peony-like flowers, Giant comet, California giant, dwarf chrysanthemum flowered, and miniature pom-poms. In general the late flowering kinds are two to three feet high and widely branched with long strong stems, but recently bushier forms have also been developed. The former are better for cut flowers while the latter are better for bedding plants in the garden. The dwarf varieties are less than a foot in height and are very bushy and compact and laden with blooms. Plants with single flowers are occasionally grown and make charming cut flowers. The trend though, is to full flowers with curled, twisted ribbonlike petals.

Asters are lovely in the garden and may be used effectively in mixed borders combined with other annuals or with perennials. The more compact forms may be used as a mass planting to fill a bed or as an edging along walk or drive. They are often grown in the cutting garden because they are among the best of all flowers for cutting. They last a long time in water and the various colors have a natural affinity for each other, blending into beautifully harmonious color schemes.

ing sunlight hours and used by the plant during darkness. . . . Take cuttings of geraniums, coleus, and overgrown house plants. . . . Keep seed heads and faded flowers removed from annuals and perennials to prolong the bloom period. . . . Plant oriental poppies and iris while they are dormant. . . . Seed new lawns after the soil has been thoroughly prepared. . . . Early September is a good time to plant needle evergreens but before any planting is done make a careful study of the situation and make a plan that is simple but effective and that allows ample room for future growth. . . . Order peony roots for September planting. . . .

City Rejects Lowest Bid

The City Council Monday night went along with the recommendation of its department of public works and the city manager to buy a Ford tractor and front end loader even though it will cost \$366 more. . . . Early September is a good time to plant needle evergreens but before any planting is done make a careful study of the situation and make a plan that is simple but effective and that allows ample room for future growth. . . . Order peony roots for September planting. . . .

The total cost of the equipment will run \$4,768 which is within the amount budgeted, according to the city manager.

Bill Says:



"Economy — That's a way of spending money without getting any fun out of it."
Keep us in mind — We're easy to find.

CLAPPISON and CONROY
FARMINGTON INSURANCE AGENCY
13215 Grand River GR. 4-3511

LUSSENDEN'S LITTLE PLUMBER OFFERS



Free Furnace Checkup, Cleaning and Adjustment with Each Humidifier Ordered During August

Don't Breathe Starved Air!

New General 990 POWER HUMIDIFIER

- UP TO one gallon of water per hour
- NO MOVING PARTS—no pump, fan, or float to wear out
- CLOG FREE selenoid valve—has cleanable mesh filter
- NO HUMIDISTAT required—built-in selector control for "high" to "low" humidity
- REVERSIBLE installation—on any forced warm air furnace, either left or right side

Call for a FREE Estimate
Dry air is starved air. Just like plants need water so do you and

\$129.95 Completely Installed
ROBERT L. Lussenden
PLUMBING & HEATING
30740 W12 MILE RD., FARMINGTON, MICH.
Phone MA 6-1808

Professional Services

DR. M. L. HUTTON
Optometrist
Daily 9:30 - 5:30
Tues., Thurs. 9:30 - 8
Sat. 9 - 4
Eye Examinations for Children and Adults
33308 Grand River
Phone GR. 4-5125

VISION CARE FOR CHILDREN & ADULTS
CONTACT LENSES
DR. H. TEITEL
Optometrist
MON., FRI. - 9:30 - 5:30
WEEK END - 9:30 - 5:30
23354 Farmington Rd.
GR. 6-0880

REMEMBERS
Tomatoes ripen to the richest red color when the leaves provide shade for the fruit. Too much strong sunshine makes the tomatoes a yellow hue. . . . Mums, marigolds, asters, and sinulas are short-day plants and flower better as Fall approaches. . . . Pick corn in the late afternoon because sugar is manufactured and stored dur-

Heeney-Sundquist FUNERAL HOME

A Funeral Home For Over 75 Years
23720 Farmington Road GR. 4-5200

"A Pleasant Place To Dine"

FARMINGTON'S Danish Inn
RESTAURANT & COCKTAIL LOUNGE

Featuring "The Fabulous" **Pat Flowers** At The PIANO
Tues. - Sat. Weekly 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.

- Complete Dinners
- Business Men's Lunches
- Cocktail Hour 3:30 to 6:30 p.m.
- Kitchen Open til Midnight
- No Cover Charge
- No Minimum

FOR RESERVATIONS
PHONE GR-6-5320 (Closed Sundays)

32305 GRAND RIVER at BROOKDALE • Ample Parking in the Rear

SUMMER-FILL SPECTACULAR

ORDER FUEL OIL NOW AND SAVE!

With the approach of summer and warm weather it is very important that your fuel tank be filled. A full tank prevents condensation — which causes rust and corrosion that could mean trouble for you next winter—from forming.

CURCIO OIL'S "BIG 5" FILL PROGRAM
If you let us fill your tank, you will receive . . .

- SPECIAL BONUS OF LOW SUMMER FILL PRICES
- INSURED BUDGET PAYMENT PLAN (Connecticut General Life Insurance Company)
- 24-HOUR AROUND-THE-CLOCK KEEP-FULL SERVICE
- BURNER SERVICE
- METERED DELIVERY



Next best heat to sunshine
TRY SUPERHEAT AND START SAVING MONEY
CALL US TODAY
474-5110



CURCIO OIL CO.
INCORPORATED
32733 GRAND RIVER
FOR FUEL OIL DELIVERY Call 474-5110

HEY! MOM!!

We'll Get Your CHEVY Ready P.D.Q.* . . . For The Back-To-School Rush!



Don't Get Caught Stalled In The Driveway With a Carload of Kids (Yours and the Neighbors) When the School Bell Rings.

Bring Your CHEVY or Other G.M. Made Car Home to BILL ROOT'S for a P.D.Q.* Back-To-School Check-Up First. Our Service Staff Knows Their A-B-C's and Will Return Your Car To The Head of The Class.

The Lesson For Today Is To Remember That Only FACTORY APPROVED SERVICE by FACTORY TRAINED TECHNICIANS can assure you TROUBLE-FREE PERFORMANCE. That is what we offer. Why not call for a P.D.Q.* appointment today?

* (P)rompt, (D)ependable, (Q)uality Service

• OPEN SATURDAYS AT 8 A.M. •



BILL ROOT CHEVROLET
SERVICE DEPARTMENT
HERB TUCKER, Manager

Front-End Alignment ALL MAKES
Expert Collision Work

32715 Grand River Ave.
GR. 4-0500

Free Estimates Insurance Claims