

Well-Planned Garden Assures Flowers Constantly In Bloom

A well-planned garden assures flowers at all times, attractively arranged in pleasing color combinations, the American Seed Trade Association points out. Planning the flower garden in advance provides as much fun as working out an itinerary for a vacation tour, it adds.

The first thing to do is to draw a rough outline of your garden plot. Write in the names of flowers varieties just where you want them to grow. Allow ample space on your diagram for each variety since a mass of color usually is more effective than a mere spot.

SEVERAL GOOD SIZED clumps of delphiniums, for example, in different places along the background are likely to be more attractive than one large delphinium plant.

If you use color to indicate the approximate location of the plants, they should be sprinkled over the diagram, not stretched out in straight lines.

Flows of flowers are advisable back in the color garden, but seldom in front where the general appearance of the garden is important. There let your color and variety blend together with intimate irregularity. The result will be most effective.

THE NEXT STEP is to choose the varieties most suitable for your garden. There are several things to consider.

First is the height to which the flowers will grow. Tall-growing varieties belong at the back of the garden, and low-growing varieties at the front.

Among the best of the tall-growing background varieties are delphinium, cleome, cosmos, hollyhock and African marigold. In the foreground, some people prefer a border of one variety all along the garden.

Another important point is choosing varieties so that some flowers will be in bloom at all times. Flowers that bloom earliest in the spring are perennials, whose roots lie dormant over the winter and re-emerge early the next spring.

This revival takes place before the ground is warm enough for seeds to germinate. Obviously, the early blooming of

perennials must be planned for a year ahead.

If seeds are planted in the spring there may be some blossoms late the first season, but the first real blooming will not occur until the following spring.

THE NEXT TO bloom are the hardy annuals. Their seeds germinate much earlier than those of other annuals. When hardy annuals are sown in early spring, they are the first to bloom after the perennials.

What about color? This is a matter of personal taste. The inexperienced gardener will be relieved to know that color is not that vital. A garden planned without a single thought to color is beautiful.

Nature sees to that. However, as a gardener becomes more familiar with growing flowers, he naturally comes to prefer some colors over others. And, as his taste develops, he plans his garden accordingly.

Zinnias Are Easy To Grow

Zinnias maintain their popularity year after year because they are so very easy to grow and produce so many brilliant flowers.

Seeds are best sown where blooms are to be produced. There is no advantage in sowing them early in spring because they won't sprout until the temperature reaches 55 degrees. After that, they'll pop right up.

Once up, they should be thinned. Dwarf zinnias, like Thumbelina or the Buttons (Pink Button, Red Button) should be left with plants six inches apart. The tall varieties call for eight inches between plants, while the giant cactus, or dahlia-flowered types, need a full 18 inches without competition to develop fully and bloom their best.

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Window Boxes Beautify

Attractive window boxes of colorful flowers or lush greenery will greatly help to beautify your home, and will delight the eye of passersby, points out the Society of American Florists.

varieties of potted green plants make for a very attractive window box in a shady location. Philodendrons, ivy and ferns provide a good combination.

The trick to growing flowering or foliage plants in window boxes is in choosing the right plants for the place you wish to beautify. A sunny or shady location calls for the display of different kinds of plants.

Petunias and geraniums, for example, are ideal for sunny locations. Generally speaking, flowering plants like an exposure between full sun and light shade while foliage plants prefer the shade.

In some locations, it may be possible to display a combination of flowering and foliage plants.

A mixture of different

Walnut Suites Keep 'em Cool

The warmth and beauty of American black walnut is playing a subtle but increasingly important role in American business life these days, interior designers report.

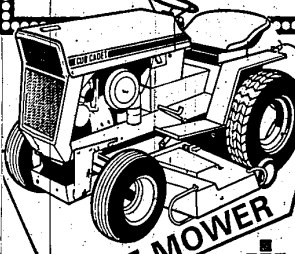
More and more offices, both in new and older buildings, are being done in attractive walnut that be-sprays comfort, friendliness and quiet dignity.

Walnut paneled offices equipped with handsome walnut desks and accessories have long been the symbol of business success. Now, however, not only the V.P. saloon but general offices and smaller offices are receiving the walnut treatment.

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Arrange Flowers In Water Glass

A common kitchen water glass is an excellent container for cut flower arrangements this spring.

With a few easy preparations, a water glass may be used for even rather formal arrangements as well as for everyday home decorating.

The Society of American Florists say when using a clear glass make certain the flower stems are an attractive element in the total design. There should be no confusing crisscrossing of stems, it adds.

It is important for the entire arrangement to have firm support, and for each stem to be held in a stable position. Opague containers usually are filled with crumpled chicken wire. However, with a clear glass, this is not attractive.

The Society offers these suggestions for solving this problem:

USE GREEN FLORAL tape, wind it around a florist's wire. Cut the wire into two pieces, the length determined by the diameter of the glass, measured an inch or so from the top, plus enough additional length at each end to shape into hooks. These hooked ends fit over the rim of the glass, with the two lengths running perpendicular to each other.

Next, crumple chicken wire into a shape that exactly fits the glass' top portion. No mechanical aids should be evident in a finished flower arrangement, so this device must be concealed. One way to do this is to wrap a long heavy tie least around the chicken wire—

Home Prices Up As Costs Soar

House prices jumped dramatically between 1955 and 1966—but land and labor costs are mostly to blame!

Land prices have multiplied an astonishing 1 1/2 times, while labor costs have risen approximately 52 per cent. Federal Housing Administration figures show an average cost also took a healthy jump, up 25 1/2 per cent.

On the other hand, prices for construction materials rose only 5.3 per cent during the '65-'66 period. Cost of lumber showed only a modest six per cent increase while plywood prices actually declined.

Glass Reduces Loss Of Heat

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