Long Awaited Planting Has Finally Arrived

Gardening is basically a contest between the gardener and the plants on one hand and the weather on the other. The contest arises from the desire to grow plants from totally different climates in our unpredictable and variable one.

We try to grow sweet peas and garden peas in a cool spring season that is often too short for good results. We try to grow tomatoes and petunias during our hot summer with too little time for them to produce much of crop.

With some plants, we can beat the weather by starting them inside and then planting them outside when the weather is suitable for them. Where this is not practical, timing becomes extremely important.

* * *

THE EARLIEST seeds to plant are peas, both sweet and garden; larkspur; head lettuce and Bibb lettuce; poppies, either Shirley or Iceland; spinach; stocks and mustard.

In planting these seeds, there are several points to keep in mind. The first is that a well-drained, loose soil will give best results. These soils dry rapidly and warm up easily. A warm soil, for the season, will speed up root growth and help sprouting too.

A second point, in planting early seeds, is to have a soil that is well fertilized. These plants make a rapid growth and a lack of plant food will slow them and prevent them from making enough growth before hot weather arrives and checks them naturally.

A rich soil is best, but if there is none available, add some well rotted humus or peat and some quick-acting plant food. An application of fertilizer in liquid form will provide the necessary plant food. Avoid using manure, sludge or similar materials as they require hot weather to release their minerals.

A practice of professionals and some home gardeners is to turn the soil in the fall in such a way that beds are made with shallow ditches in between. The ditches let the spring rains drain off without keeping the surface soil too wet. Where a small area is involved, raising the soil surface in a bed may be helpful in providing good conditions for early seeds.

* * *

IT IS POSSIBLE to start some of these varieties inside, but several of them do not transplant readily -- such as peas, larkspur, poppies and spinach.

Also, peas are generally planted in large amounts so that starting them indoors becomes too large a project.

As a rule of thumb, it can be said that all of the ones listed should be planted in April. Sometimes the seeds do not sprout because of a cold spell. However, this is better than waiting for the right weather, as the seeds can start as soon as the weather turns warm without being delayed until a weekend provides the time needed to plant them.

A problem that may arise in planting early seeds is that the soil may be too wet to prepare properly. This can be overcome by selecting a place where the surface few inches are well drained even though the lower soil may be wet.

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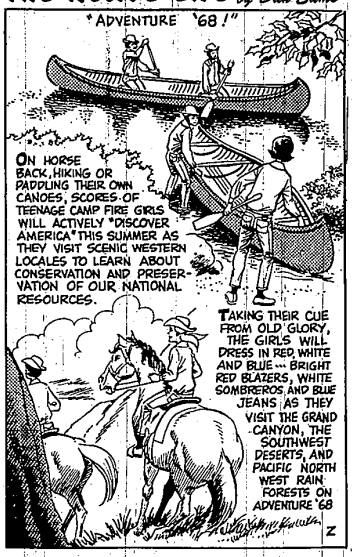

Robert Weaver To Head U-M Commencement

ANN ARBOR--Robert Weaver, the nation's first secretary of housing and urban development and the first Negro to serve in a presidential cabinet, will address some 5,300 graduating students at The University of Michigan on April 27.

U-M's largest graduating class will be saluted at the 10 a.m. commencement ceremonies in the new University Events Building.

Among the graduates will be about 3,000 receiving bachelor's degrees. About 170 will be awarded doctor of philosophy degrees, nearly 1,200 will get master of arts degrees, and some 900 will receive graduate-professional degrees in law, medicine, dentistry, public health, social work, and business.

Weaver will be awarded an honorary doctor of laws degree.

* * *

THE SECRETARY WAS named to his post by President Johnson when the Department of Housing and Urban Development was created in 1966. He had previously served six years as administrator of the Housing and Home Finance Agency.

But his public service dates from 1933, the year before he earned his doctor of philosophy degree from Harvard University. From 1933 to 1937 he was adviser on Negro affairs for the Interior Department, and from 1937 to 1940 he was special assistant to the administrator of the U.S. housing authority.

In the early days of World War II he was an assistant in the Office of Production Mobilization, War Production Board. Before rejoining the federal government in 1961, he was with the Whitney and Ford foundations, the New York State Housing Division and Rent Administration, and the New York City Housing and Redevelopment Board.

He has also taught at New York University and Columbia

State Trooper Of The Year Is Selected

Tpr. William C. Allen, 33, of East Lansing headquarters, has been named Michigan State Police "Trooper of the Year" for 1967.

Allen becomes the seventh winner of the annual Gerstacker award which is bestowed for outstanding community service or heroic action.

The five other nominees were Troopers Richard E. Brantner, Jackson, Royal K. Gaddy, Paw Paw, Harold J. Keena, Wayland, James E. Reed, Flint, and Charles R. VanLente, Alpena.

Allen was chosen for his outstanding contributions to community service in assisting in the organization of fire protection association in the Alpena area and for other good public relations activities.

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A Gardener's Calendar For The Spring Planting

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

Are you doing any planting this spring? Just as the birds sense when it's the right time to fly north, gardeners seem to have an instinct about planting.

When the willows are veiled in bright chartreuse and the forsythias turn into fountains of golden yellow, the gardener has an uncontrollable urge to get out and dig and plant.

Shrubs, grass, flowers, vegetables -- everything from minute seeds to towering trees is going to be planted. It is a busy season and the work schedule depends on the weather. It's helpful to have a "timetable" of what to plant when.

* * *

SEEDS OF HARDY annual flowers such as alyssum and bachelor buttons can be planted outdoors now. Cool-weather vegetables such as peas can be planted, also.

Wait until the middle of May to plant tender flowers and vegetables outdoors. If the soil is not warm, their seeds will rot.

This is the planting season for trees and shrubs. Try to get them into the ground before the leaves come out. Early spring is the best season for planting fruit trees and thin-barked trees such as birch and dogwood.

Evergreen trees and shrubs, both needle and broad-leaf kinds, can be planted later in the spring. Mid-May is an ideal time for them.

Plant roses that have bare-roots while they are still dormant. Potted roses can be planted at any time during the growing season.

GRASS SEED germinates best in cool weather, and should be planted as early in the season as possible. If the ground can't be prepared in time, it is better to put in a temporary lawn of annual rye grass and plant the permanent lawn in early fall.

Perennial flowers can be planted starting in late April. Seedlings of annuals can be set out after danger of frost is past in late May.

Bulbs of tender summer flowers such as canna, dahlias, gladis, and begonias can be set out in late May or early June.

Follow nature's schedule and spring gardening will be more leisurely.

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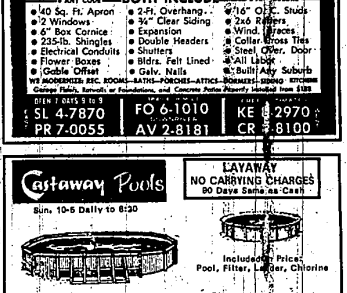

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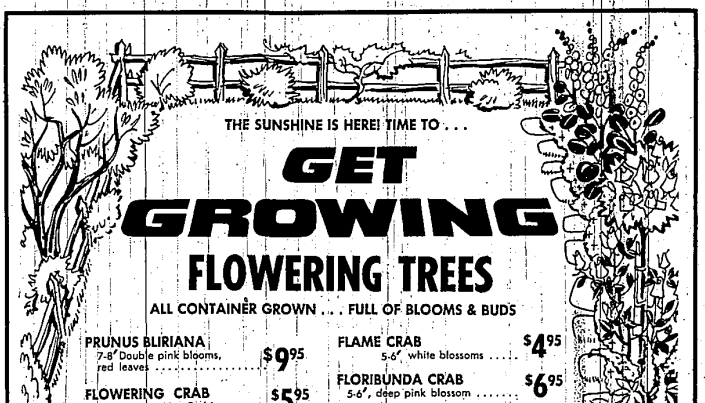

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