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Meet

The author of the articles for this week's Focus is Betty Frankel, who claims that her thumb has been green since-she-was a small child.

'I've always loved plants;" Mrs. Frankel said. "I can't remember when I wasn't a gardener."...

MRS. FRANKEL, who holds a bachelor of science degree in botany from the University of Michigan, is currently writing her thesis toward a master's degree in landscape architecture. In fact, she and her three children are all enrolled at Michigan -each in a different field.

'I tried to talk my husband into taking-a-course-or two,"_Mrs._Frankel related. "I was all set to apply for a family rate."

No newcomer to Observerland



readers, Mrs. Frankel has been writing: for Observer Newspapers and for its predecessor. The Farmington Enterprise; for the past-16-years: She and her husband, Richard, have been Farmington residents for 18 years.

A NATURE LOVER -- "I enjoy hiking and walking in the woods" Mrs. Frankel also lists needlepoint, reading, bridge, attending concerts and plays and visiting with people as some of her favorite activities.

But this time of year, I get very impatient to get out in that dirt," she acknowledged. We know that reading her pieces in this week's "Think Green" will make you impatient too. Who knows? YOUR thumb may even begin to turn a pale shade of green.

Choose All-America Selections For Superior Flowers, Vegetables

The seed catalogs and seed racks are filled with hundreds of tempting offerings. Some are old favorites and others are new introductions that have been created by plant breeders.

How does the gardener know which varieties are best? One way is to look for the All - America selections emblem on the seed packets or in the catalogs. This little red, white and blue shield has been awarded to flowers and vegetables that have been tested and compared and have proved their superiority.

There are about 50 trial and demonstration gardens in various parts of the United States. They are generally located at seed companies, in public parks and on college campuses. In these, the new introductions are grown and compared with old established varieties and with other new kinds. Testing and evaluation-is-done-at-least-two-years-before the expected introduction of the new variety.

This year's All America Selections winners include a bright red zinnia, a golden yellow marigold and a hybrid zucchini squash.

Peter Pan Scarlet Zinnia, a silver medal award winner is a beautiful addition to the Peter Pan series of hybrid zinnias, and only the third color to be introduced in this unusual new

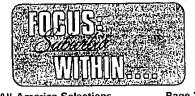
The other two Peter Pans are plum and pink -- both winners of All -America gold medal awards in 1971, when they scored higher than any other entries in the forty years of judging thousands of flowers and vegetables.

Peter Pan Scarlet Zinnia, the 1973 All - America winner, combines attractive large flower size with dwarf plant habit- a combination that more and more home gardeners are demanding.

Happy Face Marigold, a bronze medal winner, belongs to a class of hybrid marigolds popularly known as "hedging" marigolds owing to their neat, uniform habit of growth.

Look also for the 1972 award winners which include Carved Ivory Zinnia, Gold Galore Marigold, Summer Carnival Hollyhock, Ruby Ball Cabbage, Red Head Cabbage and Victory Cucumber.

Winners were Early Extra Sweet Corn, Southern Bell Hibiscus, Dianthus Queen of Hearts, Silver Puffs Hollyhock, and Little Darling Snapdra-



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