

Suburban Gardener

Try Astilbes-- Showy Plant, Elegant Foliage

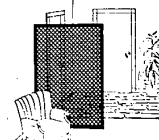
By BETTY FRANKEL
Astilbes are attractive perennials with flower clusters that look like cones of luscious pink cotton candy. They have elegantly divided foliage of a rich deep green and tall plummy stalks of bloom which are displayed during June, July and August. These showy looking plants are easy to grow but need a rich, deep, moist soil. They grow in either sun or part shade. If in sun they must be watered abundantly during dry weather. The plants may be planted in either spring or fall but, once established it is best to leave them undisturbed. They will then grow lovelier each year and in a few years will develop into large clumps that will be a spectacular sight in the summer garden.

They may be used effectively in the mixed perennial bed or displayed against the foundation evergreens in front of a house. Since they thrive in moist situations they are especially attractive when planted at the edge of a pool or pond or small stream. IN ADDITION to the native species of astilbe which come from China, Japan and Korea, there are numerous hybrid forms. Colors include deep garnet red, rosy lilac, peach pink, flesh color, and many other shades of red and rose as well as the more frequently seen candy pink. "Deutschland" has pure white blooms on two-foot spikes and



Build a Room Divider

ROOM dividers are a great invention. They afford privacy and add to a room's appearance. For example, in many homes the front door opens directly into the living room. Set at one side of the door and extending into the room even a short distance, a divider screens off the room significantly. Adding a slate or similar floor inside the divider is helpful, too. It provides a place for wet over-shoes or rubbers and saves carpeting. Construction of a room divider is simple if you use a pre-fabricated design which lets through some light and air but still is a privacy screen.



Two patterns, Cloverleaf and Camelot (pictured), by Museonite Corporation, are attractive and easy to use. With grooved moldings which are readily available, the home craftsman can put the divider together quickly. The smooth-surfaced hardwood takes any finish. Moldings and panels in various sizes are available at lumber and building materials dealers.

Patio Hints Bring More Usage

The big move to the outdoors has begun. From now till October, most home-crawling families will spend an increasing amount of their time on their backyard patios, for meals, entertaining, work, play, reading or "40 winks." According to Robert Jacobson, outdoor living specialist, many families aren't making full use of the opportunities their patio offers for taking life easier during the summer. He passes along a few suggestions on how to get more out of outdoor living: ● Only the most enthusiastic sun worshiper will stay on the patio when the rays of the sun beat down on it. Addition of an aluminum patio cover will make the patio comfortable and usable all day long. ● To make the patio even more usable during the evening hours when insects are a problem, consider the installation of screen panels along with the patio cover. ● Set aside a portion of the patio where the man of the house can do his summer carpentry and other chores in cool comfort. ● If your teenagers are attending summer school and the house is too warm for study, get up a desk, chair and book-

- Don't put your outdoor furniture away when the summer ends. There are many warm days in September and October when the cool shade of the patio will come in handy.
- Eating on the patio is not just fun on weekends, it is just as enjoyable during the week. Serving breakfast on the patio in the cool of the morning will get the family off to a good start.

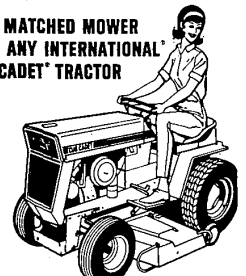


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