No Garden Space? Try A Flower Fall

Do you long for a flower garden, but find you lack the one precious element necessary for its cultivation: a plot of earth? There are ways to solve this problem.

Even deep-city dwellers can transform bare and barren outdoor corners into places of dramatic, flower-filled beauty.

* * *

WITH MAXIMUM ingenuity and at minimum cost, a bald cement wall, a bare fence or a tiny balcony can become the focal point for a setting almost as lovely as a miniature English country garden.

How? With a flower fall.

Visualize a grouping of five long plant boxes really attached --one above the other--to an outdoor trellised framework, to a fence or a cement wall.

In the highest box there are red trailing geraniums, in the next white petunias, in the third --just below eye-level--blue ageratums, in the fourth red petunias, and in the planter closest to the ground, pink wax begonias. This colorful cascade of fragrant blossoms is a flower fall.

The size of each flower box depends, of course, upon the dimensions of the area the entire grouping will cover. They might be from three to five or six feet long.

For the most dramatic, flowing effect, be certain that all are of uniform size. Front boards are tapered, or angled so that plant boxes are narrow at the bottom and wider at the top.

This allows the flowers abundant sun and light. Box construction must be strong. If made of redwood or rot-proofed pine and provided with drain holes, they will last for at least five to six years.

* * *

BREATHTAKINGLY lovely beauty is available at the florist shop--and at modest cost.

Trailing red geraniums are the ideal choice for the top box of your flower fall. Long a favorite potted flower in this country, the geranium is most often thought of as a fairly heavy, upright plant.

But there are many different varieties, and one of the loveliest is the trailing geranium which grows rapidly in cascades and falls.

Blue ageratum, incidentally, is an ideal choice for the eye-level box. Not only because of its beautiful color, but also because in contrast to the trailing blossoms the growth of its flowers is full and compact.

* * *

THE LAZY MAN'S way to create a flower fall is to leave the flowers in their pots and place directly into the tiered plant boxes. This method will suffice, providing flowers receive sunlight and normal watering care.

But, there is a better way if you have just a little extra time. Put a mixture of one-half soil and one-half peat in the plants boxes.

Then unpot your geraniums, petunias, ageratum and begonias and plant the flowers in this mixture.

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Seed Pods Great For Bouquets

Interesting forms are found in many seed pods -- the boon of dried-flower arrangers. The pods are gathered long before they are open, then transported to florist shops for fall and winter arrangements.

There are the spearlype Catalpa, otherwise called the Indian cigar plant; the round-formed iris and roseacacia; pods; honesty pods, globe-thistle, poppy and Chinese lantern pods; tulip tree, sumac, milkweed, eucalyptus, and lotus pods.

The Lotus pod resembles a brown beehive with big round seeds in each open pocket.

Soak; Don't Sprinkle

One thing that every vegetable and flower needs in order to grow is water. If Nature fails to provide it in form of rain, the gardener must step into the breech.

Sprinkling plants doesn't do much good. It just wets the surface of the soil causing plant roots to grow toward the moisture and then risk injury from the sun because they are too close to the surface.

Thorough soaking to a depth of 5 or 6 inches is the kind of watering that makes a real difference to plants.

Flowers or vegetables growing in rows can be irrigated by letting water run between rows, but gushing water will wash soil away. To break its force, a board can be placed under the hose, protruding well beyond the end of the hose. The resulting water flow will be gentle.

Allow the water to run for an hour and then investigate the depth to which it has penetrated by digging a hole to see how many inches are dark with moisture. Knowing the time the water has been running and the number of inches depth to which it has gone in that time will allow you to determine how long the water must run to reach the plant roots.

Receives Orders

Indian companies have received major orders for telecommunication equipment from Britain, Brazil, East Africa, New Zealand and the United Arab Republic.

Roots Indicate Health Of Plant

Whether your shrubs and trees will be healthy and beautiful depends largely on whether the roots are sturdy.

Fertilizer should be applied in a way that will permit plant roots and absorb it rapidly and easily.

If you apply fertilizer to the soil surface, some of it may not reach the roots.

* * *

THE FOOD elements first must dissolve in water before the feeder roots can take them into the plant.

By supplying water, plant food and good drainage, you guard against dangers from drought, starvation and suffocation.

And remember, a healthy plant not only is more attractive, but it is more resistant to trouble from insects and disease.

One way to feed roots is to bore deep holes around the plant, partially fill them with water to dissolve the fertilizer, or wait for rain.

Another way is to use plant food cartridges.

* * *

ONE ROOT feeder device (Ross) connects to the garden hose, and has a transparent chamber for plant food, a water valve and a 27-inch pointed tube.

Plant - food cartridges are loaded into the chamber and the tube is pushed into the ground under the drip branches (outer-branches) of the plant.

When the water is turned on, it dissolves the food cartridges and carries the solution to the feeder roots.

This method feeds, waters and aerates at the same time.

Feeder roots are beneath and a little beyond the outside branches of a plant, 15 to 30 inches under the soil surface.

Improper watering by hose may encourage roots to develop close to the surface where they will dry out in summer sun and wind.

Try Smoking Pot

Having cook-out guests with different preferences in "rare", "medium", or "well done", steaks and hamburgers?

Build charcoal fires in several clay flower pots and cook your barbecue meats "to order" and avoid mix-ups.

Large pots from eight to 12 inches make ideal individual habachis. Set them on matching saucers.

Now is the Time To . . . Plant a Full Grown Tree

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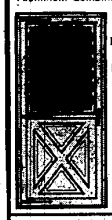

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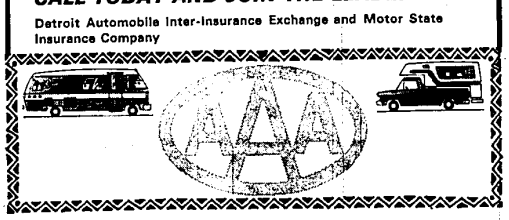
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