



by
ALICE
WESSELS
BURLINGAME

Down to earth

Food helps build strong plants

Lately, because we have found that it is difficult to predict the weather, some of us have become doubting Thomases about meteorological forecasts.

But we do know that in Michigan we can have hard winters in which the weak plants succumb rather than battle the elements. Therefore your job isn't completed when you plant a tree, a shrub or perennials. You have to feed the plants, be aware of watering, when necessary, and be sure you have placed the treasured plant in the right location.

One of the quickest ways to feed the plants is by root feeding. The "meal" gets right down to the roots immediately. The fertilizer is diluted through water in your hose so in the process water arrives to aid dry roots.

Good healthy plants seem to have the ability to battle the elements. People get upset when they begin to lose a valuable plant, but, upon questioning, have never given it follow-up concern since digging the initial hole.

ARCHITECTS AND HORTICULTURISTS should get together. For instance, if you have a wide row overhanging what do you plant under it? It isn't always a matter of watering, light is important too. After all, you don't find owners ready to constantly stay home all season to be sure the soil doesn't turn to dry powder. A sprinkling system isn't the entire answer either.

I have seen some possible solutions by using plants in pots, or perhaps a rock composition, a la Japanese.

If you are beginning to plan for fall planting remember that trees have different profiles. They can have the profile of a vase, maybe pyramidal, or erect (columnar). Selection should take profile into consideration. One of my favorite erect columnar trees is the English oak (*Quercus Fastigiata*). They have two excellent specimens in the formal perennial garden, north of Cranbrook House. Wonderful effects can be achieved when using them as

they march upright like soldiers.

Mrs. Seth Slavson recently opened her garden for Wellesley College and, along with the delightful design, she had placed shrubs and perennials in such judicious places. For instance, at abrupt corners she had ferns and chickens. Forget-me-nots were present here

and there, always causing a garden admirer to recall special gardens with these plants tucked in surprise places to welcome you.

THE PERENNIAL CANDYTUFT (berns) with its chalk white flowers caught everybody's eye.



At Meadow Brook

The Modernaires with Paul Kelly Jr., and Ray Eberle join Tex Beneke and his orchestra for songs and music made memorable by Glenn Miller in Meadow Brook Music Festival Friday, July 20. Farmington area residents can board a bus in town to take advantage of group rates offered by Farmington Community Center for four evenings of music in a package-priced ticket. Reservations are being accepted now for the festival events on July 6, July 20, Aug. 10 and Aug. 22 by calling the center, 477-8404.

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Racquetball lessons offered through FCC

The Farmington Community Center, in cooperation with Court Time Racquet Club, is offering racquetball lessons in a 10-week course designed for the beginner this summer.

Students have an option of days and times.

Morning and evening classes will be held on Mondays, beginning June 25. Evening sessions will be held on Tuesdays, beginning June 26, and morning sessions on Wednesdays, beginning June 27.

All classes meet at Court Time, 24385 Halstead Rd., just north of Grand

River, in Farmington Hills, but registration and payment is to be made at Farmington Community Center, 24765 Farmington Rd.

Fee for lessons and court time is \$25 per person.

Classes are designed to teach the basics of the game, rules, various shots, strategy and etiquette.

Each session begins with a 30-minute group class, followed by an hour of court play. A babysitter for children over the age of 2 is available.

Reservations will be accepted by calling the center, 477-8404.

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