

# Daisies can provide many dividends

Thursday, February 5, 1981

(FJ5)

Every time a new year comes on stage, we hear lots of prophecies, gardening included.

Arthur Clark, a well-known communicator, feels there will be new farming techniques developed on the seas as the wealth of the sea is being realized. In London, synthetic beef is made for 15 cents a pound.

The French are converting petroleum into protein. Today, we use micro-biological engineering to produce cheese, wine, spirits and other commodities. They tell us that 25 square feet of grass will regenerate air for one human being. The warning coming our way is to look out for psychological overcrowding of humanity.

All of these facts are tied into the information presented in this column, simply to realize that horticulture is an extensive field of interest.

When you visit the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, you feel as though you are in the "field" of tomorrow. Visitors are welcome and it makes a stimulating stop, easily tied to a stop at our National Arboretum.

This cycle in the column is dedicated to presenting stimulating ideas for beautifying your home grounds, things you may not have thought of before.

GLORIOUS DAISIES will give you endless beauty and as a perennial will grow to a height of between two and three feet. They will accept poor, sandy soil (ideal for northern summer homes), and competition from tree roots. But



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

remember, they like sun. These daisies don't object to dry soil (weekend gardeners take note) and they will self-sow.

If you want to be assured of flowers this season, start seeds about April 15. Otherwise, you can always buy plants at the market — and don't overlook Pontiac City Market, off Telegraph beyond Elizabeth Lake Road. Shasta daisies have snowy white petals with a yellow center. They will also come up year after year and will accept partial shade, but must have well-drained soil. They make an excellent splash at the end of the property, with the psychology of using white flowers to guide the eye to the end of the garden.

English daisies will be about six inches high and will give a spring and early summer blooming cycle. They like semi shade and bloom with red, yellow and white flowers.

PAINTED DAISIES put on a show in May and June, plus more dividends if you cut them back after flowering. They are colorful with white, pink and

rose flowers. With two-foot stems, they are excellent for a loose bouquet.

Consider daisies in your 1981 garden. You'll always have a bouquet to share with your guests. And, after all, isn't that what gardening is all about?

For indoor, potted plant growing,

have you ever grown scented geraniums? They produce single, petaled flowers if they are grown in good light.

Scented geraniums do best if only fertilized about every two months. If you snip off the terminal leaves, you could be sacrificing flower development.

It is refreshing when working with indoor plants to be able to lean over and pinch a leaf and enjoy the aroma, and the plant doesn't object. A window filled with just scented geraniums is a good winter tonic. A good source is Fox Hill Farm, 444 W. Michigan Ave., Box 7, Parma, MI 42929.

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