

Miracle Plant Con Men Appear In The Spring

Springtime opens the season on home gardeners and landscapers for miracle plant con men.

"Don't be taken in by these racketeers" is the warning sounded by Attorney General Frank J. Kelley, Agriculture Director B. Dale Ball and the Michigan Association of Nurserymen.

The public is warned against high pressure salesmen and mail order advertisers using fancy names for ordinary shrubs and plants and making exaggerated claims for their plant material.

Beware of glowing word descriptions and faked photographs of climbing vine peaches, giant climbing strawberries, 1,000 giant red roses on a single bush (unknown to horticulturists), flower shade trees that grow roof high in a single year, including the "Flowering Maple" that turns out to be the common silver maple with most inconspicuous blooms, etc.



PLAN EXCITEMENT -- Even the smallest garden can provide excitement for all members of the family. Turn the entire garden, or the corner of a larger garden, into the focal point for cocktail parties or an escape for quiet reading and meditation.

'Live-In' Garden Is Exciting Part Of Home

A thoughtfully planned garden can be the most exciting part of your home.

Whether you have only a small space of ground behind a townhouse or the gracious expanse of a suburban home, you can transform it into a site for a myriad of happy and relaxing activities.

Start your planning by determining how much area you have for leisure use. Then consider the activities that would be most rewarding to you and your family.

If the area is large, you'll be able to section it off into a play or recreation area for children or adults and a relaxing or entertaining area.

In a small yard, you'll want to use every inch of available

space to create a single activity area that can double for garden cookouts or cocktail parties and the scene of late afternoon or evening relaxation.

YOUR FIRST consideration in planning landscaping should be to create privacy for all your activities. In a large yard, trees and high shrubs or hedges are most desirable. Or you may need to install an attractive fence that will enhance your property and your neighbors' as well.

Climbing roses, morning glories, or sweet peas will add color to a wall or fence and bring its monotony.

Flowering shrubs such as rhododendron or Forsythia or

any of a long list of evergreen shrubs will provide an excellent transition between the height of a fence and the ground.

IF YOU HAVE decided to partition a large yard into activity areas, use small trees or irregular, flowing lines, which are immensely more interesting than straight, draftsman-like lines.

Flowerbeds should be planned in the same way. Plant a bed of bright colored flowers as focal points in various sections of the year. Let the rows bend and weave.

Beet For Every Palate

Beets are hard to beat as a vegetable because they're good to look at and delicious to eat.

Even youngsters with an aversion to other vegetables fill up on beets, especially if they're home grown and pickled while still tiny and tender.

Some varieties are grown not for their roots but for their quick-maturing leaves which many gourmets consider the most delicious of all greens.

But most gardeners use both tops and roots, serving them at the same time, as two different vegetables.

If you want beets for roots,

you'll be interested in Ruby Queen for fine flavor. In France, because it is the first hybrid beet of table quality, sprouts quickly and is edible only 56 days from sowing.

You'll also want to know about the new golden beet which has golden roots instead of red ones.

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The Green Thumb
By GEORGE ABRAHAM



Home grown onions! If you want some early green onions plant a batch of onion "sets".

Here's how we do it. Dig a six-inch trench, about eight inches wide, then pour the sets into the trench. They'll come up "thicker than hair on a dog's back" but you'll have a lot of tender green onions to eat, by early summer. By mid-July you should have some good sized cooking onions.

Gardeners who want the large, mild "hamburger" onions should set out the onion plants. These come in bunches of 50 to 100 per bunch. The yellow sweet Spanish is one of the largest; it also is a good keeper.

Last year many home gardeners were disappointed with their large onions. The bottoms filled out well, bulbs were good sized, but on the inside the layers were mushy and rotten. What happened?

THIS TROUBLE is called bacterial soft rot, a problem that creeps in during the growth period when it's warm and rainy.

There is no control for this. Antibiotics will do the job but they have not been cleared for food products by the FDA. Since the infection takes place during the growth period there is nothing that can be done

during harvest or post harvest period that is helpful.

TREATING GLAD bulbs: Many home gardeners still treat their glad bulbs with a lysol preparation before planting. This is helpful in reducing the thrip population, but it does not mean you don't have to spray or dust later.

Mix a solution of lysol 1 1/2 tablespoons per gallon of water and soak corns in it for three hours.

Glad's have scads of diseases so treat the bulbs with one of the following materials for a 20 minute soak: Terrachlor, two tablespoons per gallon, or Maneb, same rate, or use Terrachlor plus Captan, one tablespoon of each per gallon of water.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "We thought of growing mushrooms in our basement. How do you go about it?"

Answer: If you have a cellar which has a uniform temperature between 50 or 60 degrees you can grow mushrooms, but don't expect to get rich on the venture. You can start with spores cultured in dried and crumbled manure. One half pound will spawn about 35 square feet of bed. Or you can buy mushroom crates already to grow.

green thumb SPECIALS Fri., Sat., Sun ONLY May 1 - 2 - 3

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