



GARDEN SHOWPLACE -- Redwood parquet decking and furniture highlights this comfortable patio. Designed by landscape architect Ned Rucker, the redwood

parquets were pre-fabricated, allowing them to be re-arranged as desired. Redwood planters complete the visual harmony of the setting.

Ecology Center

ANN ARBOR ENACT - Environmental Action For Survival, sponsor of the Environmental Teach-In at the University of Michigan has opened an Ecology Center in Ann Arbor.

Located at 417 Detroit Street, the center is designed as a place where community groups and individuals can meet and obtain information on problems of the environment. It is open daily except Sunday, staffed by volunteers.

Environmental books, buttons, posters, and other materials are being sold by the center and an extensive library and reference files on environmental problems have been established.

"We hope the Ecology Center will serve as a catalyst to bring together all segments of public concern for the state of the environment," said Elizabeth Grant, co-chairman of En-Act. "Thus far, there has been a great interest shown by citizens, young and old, in the Ecology Center."

In addition to ENACT, the Mackinac Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Ann Arbor chapter of Zero Population Growth will maintain offices in the new center. Other groups are expected to make use of the center's duplication services and its meeting facilities.

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Suburban Gardener

The Fantastic Iris Now Blooms Until Autumn

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

Iris are now staging a spectacular show in local gardens. They are among the most beautiful of all flowers, but despite their regal beauty they are as sturdy as a peasant. They are among the easiest of all flowers to grow, and given a moderately rich soil, good drainage and plenty of sunshine they can be depended on year after year.

Most popular is the type known as tall bearded iris. They are indeed glorious, with large blossoms held on sturdy stems well above the clumps of sword-like foliage. The color range is fantastic including white, yellow, pink, lavender, purple, bronze and many intermediate hues.

Hughes Gardens, a commercial garden in this area, has over 500 varieties of tall bearded iris. The display field shows why these flowers were named for the ancient Greek goddess of the rainbow. This extensive color range is

due to the fact that these flowers have been hybridized for many years. They have long been a garden favorite, and it was in the Middle Ages that they were chosen to be the emblem of France.

Favorite old varieties still exist in many gardens and often are given to neighboring gardeners. Many of these old favorites, such as purple and white Wabash, and blue Great Lakes and purple Sable are no longer available from dealers. They have been replaced by even lower new varieties.

The list is added to each year. The newest introductions are very costly often running more than \$20 for a single root. They soon come down in price and those that have been around for a few years are modestly priced from about 75 cents to about \$2, and older ones can be had for even less than this.

AMONG THE EXOTIC new varieties are Royal Gold, New Moon which is a large frilled flower of medium yellow hue, and Christmas Time which is a frilled white with a bright red-orange beard.

Other striking varieties include Orange Parade, Bronze Bell, Sierra Skies, and Wine and Roses. Royal Tapestry has the rich colorings of a Persian rug and Soaring Kite is a pale clear yellow. The list could go on and on. It is impossible to select a favorite—they are all so lovely.

Although the tall bearded iris are the garden favorites, there are many other hybrids and also numerous species iris. The iris season began months ago when the tiny pansy-purple iris reticulata came into bloom in early spring. Next came the dwarf bearded iris in shades of white, blue, lavender, mauve and purple. These miniature iris combine well with narcissus and early tulips. The intermediate bearded iris are from 12 to 18 inches tall and bloom at the same time as tulips. The term "beard" refers to a fuzzy

stripe on the lower petals of the iris flower. It is often the same hue as the petals, but can also be a bright contrasting color.

Although most iris grow from thickened, fleshy roots known as rhizomes, there are some that grow from bulbs. These are the kinds sold by florists, but they are hardy and can be grown in local gardens from bulbs planted in fall. These include Spanish, English and Dutch iris.

One of the most unusual iris is the Vesper iris. It has numerous pale violet flowers that open in late afternoon in late July and early August.

One of the newest developments is an autumn blooming iris. Actually these iris bloom in spring and then again in fall. For iris fanciers they are just what is needed to round out a full season of iris bloom.



Glamour Girl, salmon-pink and white, is a half-dwarf sweet pea. Needs no staking, but will climb if you wish.

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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

DOGS AND CAT PROBLEMS: What can be done to discourage dogs and cats from visiting your flower beds? These pets can be a nuisance sometimes, and for control nothing is any more effective than the old-fashioned method of spraying plants with nicotine sulfate. One teaspoon to two quarts of soapy water, every five days. Another homemade "repel" is to scatter red hot pepper around the area where the animals come around. Cotton balls dipped in ammonia or turpentine and hung in overbearing branches will discourage these pets. So will moth balls and flakes buried on soil surface. One reader uses a six-volt electric fence to keep dogs away from his evergreens and it works.

Rabbits can be a nuisance in the flower bed or vegetable patch. Trees wrapped with aluminum foil stand a good chance of being spared from rabbits. Multiple-stemmed shrubs can't be wrapped, so use chemical repellents sold at

various seed and supply stores. Rabbits do not like cressets, so some gardeners dip strips of roofing felt in cresset and place these along the edge of a garden. Of course, nothing beats a fence for keeping out these and other pests.

FREE: Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my bulletin, "How to Control Animals Around the Home." It tells how to handle moles, mice, deer, birds, snails, skunks, and many other pests.

SWEET CORN NOTES: Sweet corn is best planted in blocks of at least three rows side by side for pollination and development of a full set of kernels. Space rows two to three feet apart and drop the seed four to six inches apart, for later thinning to eight or 10 inches apart for early varieties, and 12 to 18 inches apart for the later kinds. Don't be discouraged if not all your corn seed sprouts.

Seedmen will tell you that even on high-germination seed, you can expect a loss of about 15% on the final stand. Just what happens to this 15% no one knows. Usually, poor stands can be due to seed rot in cold, wet soils, or crows dig up the seed. Make three successive plantings about 10 days apart to enjoy a long season of sweet corn. Or try planting an early, mid-season and late variety at the same time, so your corn won't mature all at once. An additional planting of a midseason variety about a month later will yield fine corn in early fall.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "We received a hydrangea plant for Easter and we wonder if it can be planted outdoors for blooming?"

Answer: The florist's potted hydrangea is not hardy outdoors. You can grow it out in pots during summer, then bring it indoors in fall and keep it in a cellar during winter. Keep it slightly watered so it'll stay alive. Then in spring, set pot and all outdoors and it will blossom for you in early summer.

AREA DEATHS AND FUNERALS

CAROLINE D. MCCURTICIN, Services for Mrs. McCurticin, 81 of 2755 Starbuck Farmington, were held May 29 in the Riverside Funeral Home, 1111 E. Park. Burial was in the Hillside Catholic Church, 4000 E. Park.

JOHN JOHNSON, Mr. Johnson, 88 of 1945 Park Livonia, died suddenly of a heart attack May 28. He had been a retired carpenter, a member of Carpenter Union Local 22 and was a 25-year resident of Livonia.

IVIE SMITH, Funeral services for Mrs. Smith, 88 of 380 Princeton Lane, Plymouth, were held in the Schradler Funeral Home with Rev. Robert Shum officiating. Burial was in Grand Cemetery, Brown City.

WILBUR C. MAULT, Funeral services for Mr. Mault, 79 of 810 Brookline, Salem Township, were held in the Schradler Funeral Home with Rev. Harry Bierbaum officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery.

GLADYS FEARER, Funeral services for Mrs. Fearer, 61 of 40 Blunk, Plymouth, were held in the Schradler Funeral Home with Rev. Henry Walsh officiating. Burial was in Acacia Park Cemetery, Southfield.

DEBORAH L. HINSDON, DEBORAH L. HINSDON, 22 of 2020 E. Farmington, died May 20 of injuries suffered when she was struck by an automobile. She attended the seventh grade at Dunkester High School.

WILBUR C. MAULT, Funeral services for Mr. Mault, 79 of 810 Brookline, Salem Township, were held in the Schradler Funeral Home with Rev. Harry Bierbaum officiating. Burial was in Riverside Cemetery.

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