

# Let little ones enjoy gardening

Planning and planting a garden with youngsters can be fun for all. A small plot or a container such as a half barrel will suit the purpose and be the right size for children. We don't want to overwhelm them with the project.

Let's make this first garden a cutting garden, we'll use annuals and sow the seeds directly into the soil. Annuals are colorful and the rewards are great.

The first consideration is where the garden will be. If a container, filled with wheels, is used, it can be moved to take advantage of the sun as it moves across the sky. Most annuals need a minimum of seven hours of sunlight to produce their pretty flowers. Then the next thing is to decide what to plant. Look at photographs in garden catalogs or books and read the wealth of information on the backs of seed packages.

A design can be drawn on paper, but spontaneity will give the little ones more creative license. After all,



down to earth

**Marty Figley**

It will be their garden and surprises can add excitement to the project. Instead of planting the seeds in rows (although the flowers will be easier to pick), a pattern can be made that will be both pleasing, interesting and more fun as the flowers appear. Write the name of the plant and the planting date on Popsicle sticks or slate from mini-blinds to mark the spots.

This might be a good time to invest in tools that will fit little hands. Can you imagine hoeing the garden with the handle twice the length it should be? Also, for close work an old spoon and fork will suit perfectly

— a shoehorn makes a good trowel. To teach the kids about seeds and sprouting, at the time you plant the seeds outdoors, make a seed viewer so that they can watch what happens as the seeds begin to grow.

You will need a glass jar with straight sides at least four inches tall, dark construction paper, paper towels, four of five large seeds (nasturtiums are good), paper towels and water. Fit construction paper inside the glass about an inch below the rim, then make a sleeve for the outside of the glass about two inches taller with the same paper, stapling them to keep their shape.

With the construction paper against the inside of the glass, crumple paper towels, one at a time, and fill the glass with them. Place the seeds carefully into the glass between the paper and the glass — you

will be able to see the seeds. Pour water on the paper towels until the construction paper is very moist.

It may be necessary to water again if the paper dries out. Now slip the sleeve over the whole works and set it in a sunny spot. The outer sleeve will ensure darkness in the container. Each day lift the sleeve to watch the progress and explain that the same thing is occurring in the ground with the seeds they have planted.

Here are suggestions and varieties that can be planted now. Approximate days for germination are in parentheses: African daisy (8-14); calceola (4-10), their hot colors will keep watching away according to legend; coreopsis (8-14); cosmos (5-10), an easy one to grow; celosia (10-20), can be dried and clove (10-20), the spider flower.

Others to try are: cornflower (4-8); dianthus (10-15) with a clove-like fragrance; forget-me-not (7-14) will self-sow; gallardia or blanket flower (10-20); globe amaranth (10-15), also dries well in several colors; marigold (7-10); nasturtium (7-10) good, peppery flavor to add to salads; nicotiana (14-18) with heavenly fragrance.

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## Masterpiece Home plans announced

At the Birmingham Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra's final concert of the season, Barbara Diles-Zobel, president, announced plans for the orchestra's 1990 Masterpiece Home fund-raiser.

Cambridge Homes Inc. of Northville is the builder/designer of the BBO's 1990 Masterpiece Home, which will be open Sept. 7 through Oct. 14.

Mary Howard Stolberg will be the interior designer for the \$800,000 custom home, which is being built in Bloomfield Hills. Stolberg's daugh-

ters, Mary and Barbara, are the orchestra's assistant concertmaster and principal violinist, respectively.

"I expect the Masterpiece Home to generate \$10-15,000 for the orchestra," said Carla Lamphere, orchestra manager.

Conductor/composer and "sing-along king" Mitch Miller was on the podium for the season finale, which was in Temple Beth El's Handman Hall. It drew a record crowd of more than 600. The orchestra's permanent conductor, Felix Resnick, conducted the classical selections.

## Learn relief printing

Paint Creek Center for the Arts is offering a one-session Relief Printing workshop 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, June 1.

Participants will explore techniques of multicolored relief printing to make original multiples. This is used for stationery, greeting cards or art work. Registration deadline is

Friday. For information, call 651-4110.

Artists Cecile Arcari, Sandra Budd and Robert Crise Jr. will give a program at 7:30 p.m. Friday, June 1, in the main gallery. The program relates to their current exhibition, "Installations: Space, Words, Images." There is an admission charge.

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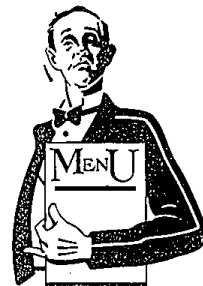
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