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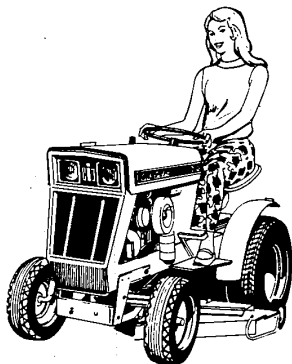
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Observer Newspapers, Inc.

Thursday, June 3, 1971

Suburban Gardener

Mass Your Annuals

For Spectacular Show

By BETTY FRANKEL

The annual smorgasbord, spread in front of garden centers and markets, tempts the homeowner with a brilliant array of color — purple alyssum, yellow marigolds, red impatiens, and a whole rainbow of petunias, zinnias and snapdragons.

They are "dished up" in convenient little plastic containers, each generally holding six plants. Ten or 12 of these are grouped in larger trays or "flats" to be mixed or matched to suit the gardeners' fancy.

The little plants are easy to set out and give the gardener an instant garden. The head start they provide is a real advantage with our relatively short growing season. Petunias, snapdragons, verbena, lobelias, and asters are all slow-growing plants which would be purchased and set out.

The patient gardener can grow from seed his own poppies, portulacca, marigolds, zinnias and many others.

ALTHOUGH IT'S fun to work out all sorts of color schemes and combinations, the most dramatic impact will

result if you use only one kind and color of plant.

Try this "mass" planting at your front entrance or around your back patio to impress your friends with your green-thumb skill. Put a whole flat of a single kind in for a truly spectacular display. Then for variety, mass another kind or color in a different area.

The plants most suitable for this mass display are the low, bedding plants which remain compact and bloom all season. Petunias or dwarf marigolds are the prime choices. Others include white or purple sweet alyssum, blue ageratum, dwarf zinnias, verbenas, or dwarf snapdragons.

ANNUALS CAN ALSO be used in a more traditional way, and an entire border can be filled with annuals. To make a bright sunny color scheme tall orange cosmos and tall orange and yellow marigolds can be planted at the back of the bed. In the middle use medium height marigolds, yellow and orange zinnias, yellow and copper snapdragons and yellow celosias.

For a bit of contrast mix in some airy blue salvia or white snapdragons or flowering tobacco. As a low edging in

front plant dwarf marigolds or orange California poppies.

For a delicate, romantic pink and lavender color scheme use pink and white cleome and lavender larkspur and cosmos for the background with blue salvia, pink and lavender zinnias, pink and lavender snapdragons, and pink Shirley poppies in the middle of the bed. Edge the bed with a low border of lavender sweet alyssum, pink annual phlox, blue lobelia and lavender ageratum.

MOST ANNUALS need a sunny location. Among the relatively small number that will flower in partially shaded locations are impatiens, flowering tobacco, lobelia and cockscomb. Those that will grow if there is just light shade include snapdragons, sweet alyssum, annual phlox and Chinese forget-me-not.

If your garden is shaded stick to these varieties and you can have a colorful garden.

Strangely, some annuals flower better in poor soil. If this is your problem, plant California poppies, nasturtiums, portulacca, sweet alyssum or even petunias. If your garden is hot and dry, try scarlet salvia, portulacca, iceplant, larkspur, morning glory or scarlet runner bean.

Don't overlook annuals for window boxes, patio pots, or hanging baskets. Also plan to grow some annuals especially for cut flowers for bouquets for the house and to give to friends.

Garden Reminders

It's time to plant tender annuals and vegetables... When setting out the plants enrich the soil with a little peat moss and, to get the plants off to a good start, water them with a dilute solution of a water-soluble fertilizer... Get all evergreens planted as soon as possible... Broad-leaf evergreens are best planted in spring rather than fall... If borers have invaded lilacs, birch, dogwoods, peaches or other trees spray the trunk, large branches and the soil around the trunk with methoxychlor. Repeat every 10 days through mid-July... Yellowing of evergreens can be caused by red spider mites or other tiny mites. A heavy stream from the garden hose can wash them off and be an effective control. For a serious infestation use malathion-deton.

Coleus Adapts To Shade

When gardeners talk about "the" foliage plant they mean coleus, indispensable because of its magnificently-colored leaves.

Of red, copper, pink, gold, chartreuse, almost black and various shades of green, alone or in combination, coleus leaves are most brilliant when plants are grown in full sun.

But, because they are adaptable to problem spots in shade, that's where coleus is most frequently found in gardens.

Native to Africa and the East Indies, coleus is treated as a tender annual in most of the United States and Canada. Seeds may be sown indoors or in a coldframe. They are so tiny it is best to merely press them to a very fine soil.

SOME COLEUS leaves are one color marked with another like Jade Parade above, others have combinations of 2 or more shades while a few are one color all through like Red Monarch, below.



Move seedlings to small pots when handleable, then from pots to garden after frost is gone.

Or, seeds may be sown in the garden after frost danger is past.

COLEUS HAS two

requirements which must be met — good soil and plenty of moisture.

Thus the place where the plants are to grow must be prepared before they are set out.

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Your Roses May Rate A Trophy

The Detroit Rose Society will hold its annual spring rose show on Saturday, June 12, from 12 noon to 9 p.m., at the Universal City Mall, 12 Mile and Dequindre Roads, Warren.

The public is invited to attend and to enter blooms for exhibit. Entries will be accepted from 7 to 11 a.m. (use the east entrance to bring in exhibit material).

There will be various sections for the experienced exhibitors, a section for the novice, and one for non-members. In the arrangements area, there will be several classes for women, a class for the novice, and one for men. The show will cover blooms of all varieties of rosewood.

Entries will be judged by the American Rose Society accredited judges. The prize winning awards — trophies, cups, ribbons, etc., will be on display during the show.

As is usual, consulting rosarians will be in attendance to answer all questions pertaining to rose culture.

If you like roses... are a gardener... interested in arranging... or just curious, plan to attend this show. Admission is free.