

## Don't Rush Spring Gardening Plans Before Nature Is Ready For Them

At this time of the year, when the sometimes - spring breezes appear to be nudging aside the remnants of winter, our green thumbs naturally begin to itch. This is the time to **WATCH OVEREAGERNESS.**

"Don't get too anxious too early" warns Donald Juchartz, cautioning that gardening before soil and plants are ready could ruin your greeneries.

Juchartz should know: he's director of the Wayne County Cooperative Extension Service, which provides advice on a variety of plant care.

With the first appearance of warm weather gardeners might make the

mistake of stimulating plant growth too early, says Juchartz.

Growers are urged not to break a plant's dormancy until the weather is consistently warm enough to support growing, he stresses.

Frequent mistakes of over-eager gardeners are to strip away protective artificial covering of shrubs, flowers, and perennials, thus exposing plants to damaging frost.

### WAIT TILL MAY 10

Plants should not be stimulated till around May 10, says Juchartz, when the last killing frost is likely to have past.

Careful raking and light rolling in early spring have the approval of experienced gardeners as they tend not to disturb dormancy.

And even if your lawn looked like a yellow carpet of dandelions last year, try to squelch the desire to stop these pests before they start. The most effective time of dandelion control is in May, when they begin to grow vigorously.

Where your land is situated also has a bearing on when you may begin serious gardening without danger of frost damage.

Frost tends to settle in low areas where there is little air circulation, whereas if you live in a high and dry area you might be able to get an earlier start on your garden.

Whatever your situation, patience today will help you toward greater gardening pleasures tomorrow.



Early work on your garden may be good if you don't overdo it.

## How Not To Be A Wallflower: Win A Floral Beauty Contest

What qualities make some flowers popular and others merely "wall flowers?"

Forgive the pun, but it's true that some flowers adorn almost every garden.

The reasons they have become favorites are simple: and logical.

First of all, the popular flowers are easy to grow.

Second, they have a long blooming season, or people, particularly those with less ambition, wouldn't plant them.

Third, their color range is wide, made ever wider by plant breeders, so gardeners can dream up color schemes.

Fourth, they are adaptable to a wide range of soil types and climatic conditions.

Now you know the reasons why petunias, zinnias, marigolds and snapdragons dominate seed catalogs and seed displays with bewildering variety.

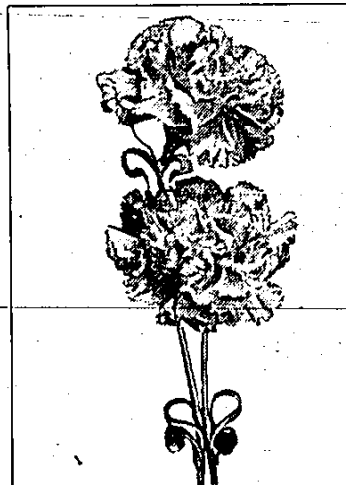
An entire garden can be planted of any one of these four flowers, using an assortment of flower colors and plant forms. It's been done. Want to try it?

Let's design a border of three heights of snapdragons. Plants of either the Rocket or Topper strains will grow 3 feet tall, so let's use these in back.

Knee-high snapdragons, 1 1/2 to 2 feet high, might be our choice for the middle ground (perhaps two rows deep or planted in wide curves).

For the foreground, the Promenade series is available in mixed colors and grows to a foot high, or we can use the little Floral Carpet snapdragons, available in many separate colors or in a mixture and reaching a height of only 6 to 8 inches.

In the same way as we designed this border, you can design your entire garden of snapdragons alone, if you wish. The possible color schemes are numberless because so many flower colors are available.



The floral popularity contest will continue as long as such beauties abound.

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