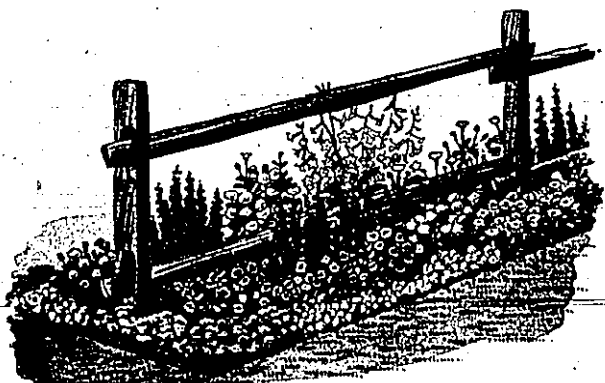


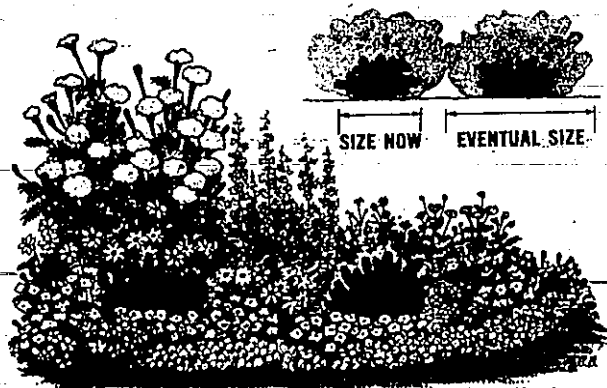
BY JOHN BRIMER



Before planting shrubs, you can try out effects with annuals



Beds of annuals under fences save hand trimming around posts



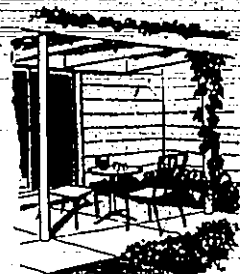
Fill in between small shrubs with annuals until they grow to maturity



SEED PACKET... LANDSCAPING WILL GIVE QUICK RESULTS



Train annual vines on wires



Quick shade on trellises

OF ALL the plants in our gardens, probably annuals are the most versatile. Most people, of course, know that by planting a few packets of seeds in spring they are assured—with very little subsequent effort—of masses of bloom by midsummer, for that is one of the most endearing qualities of annual plants. But what a good many gardeners don't know is that annuals have an indefinite number of ways of making themselves useful in the small home garden, aside from producing flowers to admire or to cut.

The new homeowner, for instance, can use annuals to landscape the foundation of his house and to simulate shrubs around the edges of his garden until he can afford permanent plantings. Castor beans, tithonia, cosmos, zinnias and marigolds are all good tall plants to use as "stand-ins" for shrubs. Planting effects can be tried out this way to assure achieving the results desired before committing oneself to expensive permanent plants. Color schemes can be rehearsed with annuals to one's heart's content until the right one presents itself, and then it can be set for good by choosing perennials of similar color and habit of growth. By trying out various types of annual vines on fences, trellises, and on arbors, one can make the proper choice of permanent vine (unless one becomes so enamored of annual vines that to change would be foolish). A delicate, dainty annual vine may point to the use of clematis as the final replacement. Heavy growers may indicate that wistaria, Dutchman's pipe, or some other lush grower would be the choice. However, many gardeners will want to use vigorous-growing annuals to provide heavy shade for a terrace much used in summer, and pull them up so that in winter not a single ray of welcome sunlight is blocked. By planting beds of annuals under fences, hand trimming around posts and under rails is eliminated when the grass is mowed.

The way to get the most out of annual plants is to consider their height first of all, and then the color and habit of growth. Use tall sorts at the back of the beds, plant medium-height kinds around and in front of them, and use low-growers to edge and finish the beds. The pictorial charts at the right will indicate the height ranges of the various types.

You'll probably develop many more ideas than the ones we show here, once you've got going with annuals; but whether you are a new homeowner or an experienced gardener, we predict that from now on, you'll never be without annuals in your garden picture.



Tall annuals grow 3' to 6'



Medium annuals grow 15" to 24"

TALL-GROWING ANNUALS 3' to 6'

Bachelor's-button (tall)
Calliopsis
Castor bean
Celosia
Cleome
Cosmos
Datura
Hollyhock
Larkspur, Steeplechase
Marigold (tall kinds)
Salvia
Snow-on-the-mountain
Sunflower
Tithonia
Zinnia (tall kinds)

MEDIUM-HEIGHT ANNUALS 15" to 24"

Anchusa
Bachelor's-button (dwarf)
Browallia
Calendula
China aster
Gaillardia
Marigold (various types)
Poppy (various types)
Petunia (various types)
Phlox drummondii
Rudbeckia
Salvia, Blue Bedder
Vinca rosea
Zinnia (various types)

LOW, EDGING ANNUALS 4" to 14"

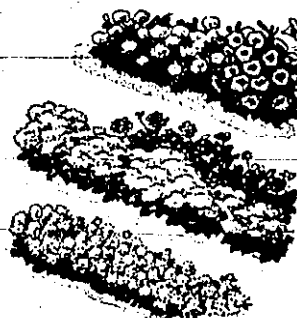
Ageratum (various types)
Begonia, semperflorens type
Brachycome (Swan River daisy)
Candytuft
Lobelia
Marigold (dwarf types)
Nasturtium
Petunia (dwarf types)
Portulaca
Phlox drummondii, (dwarf)
Salvia, (dwarf)
Snapdragon, (dwarf)
Sweet alyssum (various kinds)
Torenia
Verbena
Zinnia (dwarf types)

ANNUAL VINES

Canary-bird vine
Cardinal climber
Gourds—many kinds
Moonflower
Morning-glory
Sweet pea
Wild cucumber

FOLIAGE PLANTS

Castor bean*
Coleus
Kochia
Ornamental grasses
Sideritis
Snow-on-the-mountain
*Seeds are poisonous. Remove blossoms; prevent seed formation.



Edging annuals grow 4" to 14"