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## Marigolds Help Stamp Out Pests

Does the popular marigold help control weeds, nematodes and other garden pests?

Dave Burpee, a staunch booster of the marigold, says scientific research and observation by horticulturists in this country, England and the Netherlands seem to show that the annual flowering plant has a "salutary effect on the growth of other plants around it."

In tests at an English research station, Burpee reported, starry-rooted weeds and nematodes within a three-foot range of marigolds were drastically reduced.

"Many questions remain unanswered," Burpee added.

"Enough is known, however, to give gardeners a sporting chance of exterminating weeds (with marigolds) that they cannot kill in other ways."

In the book, "Gardening Without Poisons," Beatrice Trum Hunter said the root exudates of certain marigolds "show promise against certain nematodes (a microscopic insect) that attack potatoes and strawberries as well as against weeds of potatoes and tomatoes."

One Dutch nurseryman reported he could detect certain bulb-rotting nematodes, by planting American marigolds (*Tagetes erecta*) before planting his narcissus bulbs.

Another nurseryman said that interplanting roses with marigolds helped restore strength to roses damaged by nematodes.

The marigold also was reported helpful in inhibiting wire-worms, hindwings, ground ivy and ground elder—and in regenerating depleted soil.

And for the benefit of gardeners who would like to do their own testing, marigolds may be planted in the open as soon as the ground has become warm.

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## Follow These 10 Tips For Landscaping

Ten tips for better home landscaping are listed below.

- Study what you want from observation of other well-landscaped properties.
- Once you have what you want fixed in your mind, consult a prominent landscape nurseryman for a specific plan for your own property.
- Get the whole family in on what you want your garden living to achieve.
- The nurseryman will tell you what and where to plant.
- Good landscaping enhances the beauty of your whole property by "tying" the house to ground and supplying a lovely "natural setting" that will please your neighbors as well as you.
- See that this is achieved as it will be a delight for you and your family for many years.
- Plant in gentle curves. Avoid straight planting, in most cases.
- Try to get variety of form and color in your plants.
- You want evergreens for winter color, as well as different leaf textures and bark.
- Obtain privacy with your plants by installing varieties which screen off any views you don't wish.
- Many shrubs or trees such as roses and camellias provide cut flowers for the home.
- Plant at least some of these, according to your climate.
- Annuals and perennials can be used advantageously for brilliant colors and cut flowers.
- Consider ground cover plants for sloped areas where grass may be difficult to cut.
- Good taste is very important in landscaping.
- It should accentuate the better architectural lines of the house, observe any poor lines that might exist.
- Don't overplant. There's a happy medium. Allow for plants to grow in size.

### Some Plants Prefer Air-Conditioning

Ideal for your air-conditioned rooms this summer are such colorful house plants as cyclamen, cinerarias and calceolarias.

They like it cool at night, an important reason why they thrive better in clay pots, which keep roots from 10 to 15 degrees cooler than non-porous containers.

### Clematis Likes Plenty of Sun, Roots in Shade

Clematis likes its head in the sun and its roots in the shade. If your garden is new and you don't have any neighboring plants or shrubs to provide the shade, cut out both ends of a coffee can or strip a strip of aluminum siding and sink it in the ground, leaving approximately three inches exposed. This will cast enough shadow to keep the plant's roots cool.

### Tree Gives More Than Shadiness

Look for more than shade when you plant a tree, warns C. E. Lewis, Michigan University horticulturist.

A tree could be planted for the beauty of its bark, alone. The Paper Bark Maple peels and curls like a Birch but in orange and red. The beauty of the Amur Cork lies in the rugged coarseness of its bark.

Trees may be chosen for their pattern and texture against the sky, he continued.

They may be set so that the pattern of branching indicates circulation or gives subconscious direction to the passer-by. The angle of branching from the trunk is another area of beauty, clumping or clustering of foliage, another.

A massive tree trunk can give stability to a planting, he suggested.

A tree may be chosen for its unusual fruit which becomes a red-purple in fall.

You can find many forms of the same tree, Lewis said. The White Pine, for instance, can be found with narrow head or with globe head as well as in its usual contour.

Many trees, he added, can be pruned to take desired shapes or forms.

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## Observer HOME IMPROVEMENT

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### Let Plants Vacation In Your Back Yard

Before you go on vacation, prepare your house plants for a summer in the garden. But remember to sink the pot in a shady spot if the plant is one that can't take full sun.

If your plant needs a larger pot, do the repotting before you settle it in the garden. Keep it out of direct sunlight for a few days until the roots take hold.

The repotting is quite simple. If the clay pot seems to be too small, shift the plant into one about an inch larger. Don't be overgenerous. The pot should just comfortably fit the roots without crowding.

A plant that is slightly root-bound is more apt to flower than one that has root space to spare.

Give thought also to the relative size of the plant and pot. The plant should neither look too heavy nor lost in an oversized container.

Cover the drainage hole in the new pot with a piece of broken clay pot or aluminum screening.

Cover this with an inch of pebbles, then a layer of equal parts of sand, sterilized potting soil and peat moss.

To remove the old plant intact from its pot, place your hand over the soil, with the plant stems protruding between the fingers.

Turn the pot upside down; rap the pot rim on a hard surface or tap the bottom and the entire earth ball should come out easily.

Set the earth ball on the cushion of soil in the new pot, fill in soil, all around it, pressing down firmly with your hand to eliminate large air pockets. There should be space at the top of the pot for watering.

Before you sink the pot into the garden, or take it back in the house, give it a booster shot of water soluble plant food.

If you put the pot into the garden, spread pebbles at the bottom of the hole to improve drainage and turn the pot every week or so during the summer to help the plant keep a good posture.

The top of the pot should be an inch above the surface of the ground.

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