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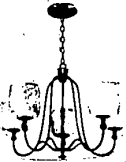
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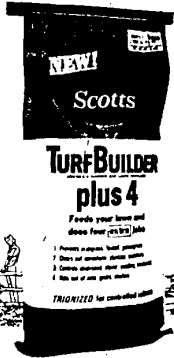
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Tips on Gardening

By Betty Frankel

FLOWERING TREES

Trees and architecture are close companions on the small home grounds and should have a friendly, compatible relationship. Houses need the softening effect of foliage and benefit from having a mass of distant trees as a background and trees in the yard add height to the landscape planting. In addition to framing an entrance or a view, they create a roof or canopy effect that keeps the garden on a scale that is pleasant for people.

Scale should be carefully considered when choosing trees. The trees that are so magnificent in the forest or in a large park may make a small yard seem smaller or dwarf a low house. A smaller tree may create a more attractive picture and still provide the needed shade. In addition, many smaller trees have beautiful flowers and attractive fruit that make them outstanding at several seasons.

Among the best of these are the flowering crabs. These are trees that are native to this area and they grow well here. Many varieties are available. Some have single flowers similar to those on a regular apple tree. Others have flowers so double they are like small roses. Flowers range in color from pure white through bluish pink to keep crimson. Fruit, too, is produced in a variety of sizes from tiny pea-like clusters to those the size of small apples. Fruit color ranges from pale yellow-green and golden yellow to deep purple and brilliant red. Tree size varies, too, but most are about twenty feet tall with an open, spreading branch structure. The Almy Crab, which has large deep-pink flowers has been suggested as the official tree of Farmington and many of these have been planted in yards and in public places such as in the little park on Grand River and by the Little River.

FLOWERING CHERRIES are very graceful and beautiful, especially when the trees are covered with pink or white blossoms early in Spring. The weeping forms are especially lovely. Many flowering cherries have been featured in the plantings around the Cranbrook Art Museum. They grow to thirty feet in height.

Both English and native hawthorns are available at local nurseries. The English hawthorn has white flowers and red fruit which ripens in September. Paul's Scarlet has rose-red flowers. Many public buildings, such as the Birmingham post office, are enlivened in winter by wonderful gnarled old hawthorns laden with clusters of red fruit.

Dogwoods are beloved by all. They have a handsome horizontal branch structure and large petal-like bracts compose the spectacular flowers. They are native to the southern and eastern part of the country and can be found growing wild in this area. They are subject to borers in the trunk, but aside from this are hardy and are choice landscape trees. Both pink and

white flowered forms are available. The shiny red berry clusters borne in Fall on mature specimens are very decorative.

MAGNOLIAS HAVE large conspicuous flowers. The Southern magnolia, a large tree, is not hardy here but the saucer magnolia with huge purple-pink flowers in May and the star magnolia with small, ribbon-like petals opening early in Spring are both hardy. The former reach a height of thirty feet and the latter fifteen feet. A group of star magnolias will soon be in bloom at Northland shopping center.

Other Spring blooming trees include flowering peach and flowering pear, red-bud whose branches become wreathed with lavender pink flowers, amelanther or shad which has twisted white petals and edible pink fruit, and Carolina silver-bell which has dainty white bell flowers suspended along the branches.

Blooming later are the white

fringe tree, laburnum, and yellow-wood. Mountain ash has flat clusters of white blossoms that are not outstanding, but nothing rivals the clusters of orange berries that follow in August and September. Robinia has beautiful pink flowers. The narrow, columnar form is interesting. Golden rain tree blooms the end of June, shedding quantities of golden pollen.

THERE ARE MANY small trees that can be used in small yards as well as for decorative accents in larger yards. Choose a tree for its basic form as well as for its foliage, flowers or fruit. Bare branches can be beautiful. Design the planting plan so that an ornamental tree can be seen from the main windows of the house. A beautiful little tree can create a picture to be enjoyed from the living room, and a tree near a dining room window can be a constant source of refreshment and especially cherished if it is a haven for birds.

Allow enough space for the tree to develop gracefully without being crowded. Do not plant too many kinds of trees, and limit the number. A few small trees carefully chosen and carefully placed can do a big landscaping job.

REMEMBERS: Lawns benefit from a Spring feeding. . . . Pre-emergent crabgrass killers should be applied before May. Do not use on newly seeded lawns. . . . Get mowers ready and sharpened and begin cutting new lawns as soon as any of the blades of grass are taller than two inches. . . . Fruit trees, magnolias and dogwood are among the thin-barked trees that should be planted only in Spring. . . . Plant bare-rooted trees and shrubs while they are still dormant. . . . Feed trees. . . . Sow seeds of hardy vegetables and annuals. . . . Arbor day is celebrated the end of April and is an ideal time for tree planting.

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