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Planting the Back Yard "Forty" Your Garden - A Place of Utility and Beauty

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wreathed about the narrow lace. Lace was used about the neck, continuing along the surplice front to the left side where it was caught up in a cluster. If you have French taste, black crepe-de-chine with bizarre bands of oriental brightness are shown, altho the price is somewhat forbidding.

Solomon said that there was nothing new under the sun, but he said nothing about new combination of old ideas. Have you seen the brassiere step-in chemise? This new combination is the feature of the season. It consists of a straight band top, serving as a brassiere and fastens in the back, joined to a placketed step-in. Not only is it dainty and attractive, but also it is practical for summer wear for it gives a cool freedom about the waist line.

Our search ended here and, as a present for Jane, I purchased a white lace-trimmed brassiere chemise that even discriminating Betty called lovely.

Planting the Back Yard “Forty”

Your Garden—A Place of Utility and Beauty

By E. C. VOLZ, Associate Professor of Horticulture

PO P U L A R slogans as “Eat more vegetables,” “Vegetables for Vitamines” have recently swept the country, and for a purpose. We have been too much of a meat-eating race and food specialists tell us that garden habits are the most logical food elements to balance our somewhat one-sided ration. In order to eat more vegetables we must grow more vegetables. Most amateur vegetable growers who realize that quantity and quality of vegetables produced is the primary object of the home garden, although here and there we find some ultra-enthusiasts who “garden for the fun of it.” It is the purpose of this article to emphasize the importance of the home garden as a source of these vegetables and also to suggest ways and means of adding beauty and pleasure to what ordinarily is considered a place of utility.

The Useful Garden

With the garden season almost upon us we find ourselves in the midst of making plans and preparations for the campaign in the back yard “Forty.” There would be fewer failures if more of these backyard farmers and farmette people were more familiar with the climatic habits of the various vegetables commonly grown in these gardens. The right time to plant vegetables seems to be a great problem to the uninitiated. Some wait until the spirit moves them and then plant everything at the same time. No same farmer will plant oats and corn on the same day because the two crops are not alike in their climatic requirements. In the same manner vegetable crops differ greatly in their requirements and the key to a successful garden situation lies in the knowledge of just when to plant each vegetable.

Due to slight seasonal variations no set dates can be given but the following planting schedule, which is based on central Iowa conditions, may be helpful to beginners:

**First Planting**—March 25 to April 5, or as early as the ground can be worked; plant leaf lettuce, spinach, radishes, mustard, turnips, smooth-seeded peas, onions (both seed and sets), leeks, horse-radish and Irish potatoes.

**Second Planting**—April 15 to 20; beets, carrots, parsnips, parsley, salad, Swiss chard, New Zealand spinach, wrinkled peas. Set out plants of cabbage, cauliflowers and head lettuce.

**Third Planting**—About May 5; string beans, sweet corn.

**Fourth Planting**—About May 20; lima beans, cucumbers, muskmelons, watermelons, squashes, pumpkins, okra. Plants of tomatoes and peppers.

**Fifth Planting**—About June 1; set out plants of eggplant and sweet potatoes.

**Sixth Planting** for fall vegetables—July 15 to August 1; turnips, endive, kohlrabi, Chinese cabbage.

In addition to the above plantings such short season vegetables as beans, radishes, lettuce, etc., may be planted at regular intervals. This is known as succession cropping and results in a continuous yield.

To secure the best results throughout the entire growing season it is essential that the soil be thoroughly cultivated at all times. There are many reasons for this, but the most important are as follows:

1. Any soil which is worked up with the hoe or other tillage implements at frequent intervals will show rapid improvement as far as its texture is concerned.

2. A mulch of loose soil which follows cultivation acts as a blanket or as a layer of straw would act in holding the water in the soil.

3. Hoeing or cultivating admits a plentiful supply of air to the soil which is beneficial to the plant roots as well as to the necessary bacterial life within the soil.

4. Timely cultivation destroys the weeds which are enemies to all garden crops.

The Beautiful Garden

The arrangement of the various vegetables and flowers within the garden determines in a large measure the general appearance of that particular portion of the home grounds. Straight rows and a total absence of weeds at all times are sure signs that the owner and caretaker of that plot is a real gardener. Tall plants should be grouped together and the same rule should apply to medium and dwarf vegetables. Supports for pole beans, tomatoes and peas are just as serviceable and less offensive to the eye if they are made as inconspicuous as possible. Green paint often serves the dual purpose of protection and decoration. A neatly kept garden is a thing of beauty no matter how simple the arrangement.

These suggestions for a beautiful garden pave the way for some remarks concerning the use of flowers in the home garden. Flowers certainly make a welcome addition to the vegetable garden, especially when they are grown in a reserved area for cutting rather than for their value as landscape subjects. There are many annuals that adapt themselves to this use. Among the best are asters, calliphras, carnations, cornflower, annual chrysanthemum, cosmos, gaillardia, gypsophila, lupines, nigritalien, nasturtium, pet margold, salpiglossis, scabiosa, snapdragon, strawflowers, sweet peas and zinnias. If the primary object of these flowers is to serve as vase and basket subjects they can be treated similar to vegetables. Plant them in rows leaving sufficient space for good cultivation. A border of flowers surrounding the vegetable plot is sure to result in a more pleasing effect.

If the garden can be located in a spot where it is protected from prevailing
winter and spring winds, the earliness of the crops will be advanced considerably. In exposed locations it may be advisable to plant the earliest rows of potatoes, spruce, hemlock, privet or other good windbreak shrub. A hedge of this type makes a good background for flowers, screening the unsightly portions of the garden and adding to the beauty of the entire arrangement.

Getting Pleasure Out of Your Garden

Garden utility is measured in dollars and cents, beauty in the words of admiration expressed by interested friends and visitors. But the pleasure of it all is measured in a different way. Experiencing new thrills when this vegetable or that flower performs some remarkable "stunt" in growth, in yield or in quality is one way in which all persistent and patient gardeners will be rewarded. Then too, there is much satisfaction in doing the thing well and using every precaution in seeing to it that everything is finished. This would indicate the necessity of a garden plan.

It is never too late to make a paper plan of the home garden and it will always be useful in eliminating any confusion at planting time. Draw the plan to a definite scale. This is useful in determining the number of feet of row occupied by any one vegetable. Knowing the number of feet per row, it is easy to estimate the amount of seed or number of plants required.

Start a garden diary and get acquainted with your garden by keeping a written record of everything that happens day by day, week by week, or month by month. You will be glad to have this first hand information next year. Your own experience is the best teacher.

When April Weeps

By ELEANOR MURRAY

"Under a toadstool crept a wee elf,
To hide from the rain and shelter himself."

APRIL was responsible for this elf's mishap, for April is a weeping lady in spite of all her smiles and coquetry and she is often wont to "let a vein of silver rain slip down across her weeping face," meanwhile smiling and blinking behind her tears.

On this particular spring day this "wee elf" was slipping home thru the new green grass. All of a sudden a playful little cloud teased April once too often and petulantly April laid her head down and stared sulkily. The little elf darted around quickly. There was no shelter in sight and then, all of a sudden a toadstool sprang up right beside him. He smiled, clapped his elvish hands in glee and crept under the friendly toadstool. Little did he know that he had made a great stride in modern civilization. That was the end of his reply.

It is said and by authority, that if a vase costs more than five dollars it is "vase" otherwise a "vace" and so if this modern article whose forefather was a tall, disapproving, and ugly, probably, and practical, used by mother, the children and even father for rain or snow or even sun in an emergency, it is an umbrella. But—if it's silk, green or purple or gold with a vivid handle, or flitty and made of lace, used by big sister for sun or primarily to complete her costume, then it's a parasol.

Humanity loves to classify and under umbrella there are two main divisions, the versatile and the family umbrella. The parasol does not so readily adapt to classification. There is just a lovely conglomeration mass of parasols—the parasol that matches one's gown, the gaily colored one, the parasol one leaves, the one with a strange handle, the langford for lazy summer afternoons, and even the paper Japanese ones for the beach or a garden party when one desires to be particularly festive.

The versatile umbrella has the greatest possibilities and is perhaps most popular while April is making known her personality. This umbrella may be cotton, linen or even silk, black, green or brown, and broad and thin depending upon how the mood may be. Mother carries it when she goes marketing in the morning if the sun is hot and Jean "stoops to conquer" a sudden shower with it—her own light silk would be "ruined." The twins use this umbrella for a tent if ever they can find a time when it isn't otherwise occupied.

The family umbrella is always black and usually not silk. No one wants to carry it, ever, but there is just as sure to be one in every family as there is to be a bower or some other useful domestic article. And as certainly as we decide to get rid of "that old thing" a real rain, not a spring shower, happens along and to, we treasure the old black thing as a beloved part of the family.

But—consider the parasols, for like the lilies they outlive even Solomon. They make one think of butterflies and summer and roses, not clouds and rain.

When I was a little girl I used to hope vainly to find somewhere, somehow a five dollar bill for my ambition was a striped parasol with a border of huge pink roses. Of course I no longer long exactly this type but still it seems that a pert, dainty silk parasol or a lazy lacy one seem to be one little atom in the compit molecule of happiness.

Once there was a girl who was always leaving parasols, not losing them, merely leaving them. She insisted that someone took her parasols and determined to prove it. She purchased six and they were identical alike, each with a peculiar handle of a carved wooden monkey. In a short time five were gone and she had proved her point—to her own satisfaction—someone was taking her parasols. One July morning she started blithely down "Main Street" carrying her remaining treasure (she had grown exceedingly fond of the monkey handle). At the corner drug store she stopped for cinnamon drops. The proprietor presented her with a parasol with a monkey handle as no one else in town had a purple parasol with a monkey handle.

"You left it here yesterday," he said.

She left, a parasol in each hand. A block down the street she met a friend carrying a parasol with a monkey handle.

"I was just bringing this to you," the friend called, "you left it Monday." The girl arrived home carrying six purple parasols with monkey handles.

This little story goes to show that "it's only human nature after all" to leave parasols—one natural reaction. Choose your parasol, not with the idea of losing it, but perhaps leaving it and make the choice as carefully as the choice is made of just the proper handkerchief to drop on the golf course, the dance floor or the street car. May it be as individually "you" as the "faint perfume on your trembling hand," and a fresh chintz and lace or the monogram in the corner of your business handkerchief.

Since the real individuality of a parasol is in the handle choose for the handle those one admires. If you are efficient and precise choose a carved wooden monkey, an ivory Egyptian king or a little jade figure.

One must be practical though and no matter how charming the handle or how different, not forget that one's own complexion must be underneath a color through which summer sun is streaming and no matter how lovely a light is cast by this sun through purple silk, unless one's skin is light and clear and smooth it won't even do to walk with a friend who may be dazzled by this same color—it will only make oneself look worse.

A tall slender golden haired girl who had a lovely clear complexion with abundant of natural rose in found a parasol with a perfectly delicious handle and she bought it. The handle was all

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