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Flower Culture-and How

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FLOWERS! What does the word make you think of? When you were young, did you have pinks, asters or hollyhocks growing in your yard? Which ever it was, this word will bring back memories to you.

Speaking of hobbies, some folks have such a hard time to find one they like. I will wager that anyone who tries growing flowers for one season will not long be undecided as to what sort of a hobby to have.

Some folks may ask what the value of a flower garden can be. Well, when you are asked, don’t be at a loss as to what to say. Just tell them that hoeing and watering in the evening before dark and watching each bud as it develops give you quite enough inspiration. Besides this, say that the flowers may screen ugly backyards with little expense. They can have pinks, asters, pinks, and verbena are popular annuals, which, for early blooming, should be started indoors in hotbeds or coldframes in March or early April. If you have neglected to do this early seeding or it is inconvenient, the small plants may be purchased at planting time from a florist or gardener.

There are some annuals which cannot be transplanted and therefore must be started in the open where they are to bloom. These are poppies, balsam, lupine, sweet peas, portulaca and California poppies. A little secret of good sweet peas in the corn belt is: do not soak the seed, use rolled leaves or leaf mold. In heavy soil, sand or sifted coal ashes may be mixed in to lighten it. Trenches may be made to help in the draining. The drying yard or the garage should not interfere, as they can be made part of the background.

The ground which is not to be planted to flowers should be seeded to bluegrass. Paths may be left and surfaced with flat stones. A bird bath may be made with a pedestal of stone inlaid in cement. The problem of location will be different for each yard. This is half of the fun of gardening, the planning and figuring out of the proper places to plant this or that.

The first year the blooms will come mostly from the annual flowers. Annuals are flowers which must be planted each year from seed. They are popular because of their low cost and the remarkable effect which can be had by the intelligent use of a few packets of flower seeds. An unsightly back porch, an ugly building, or a dilapidated fence can be transformed by a five cent packet of morning glory seed. Besides this, most of them have continuous bloom during the summer months, and their culture is simple. Examples of these are the petunia, phlox and nasturtiums.

Petunias, ageratum, salvia, pansy and verbena are popular annuals, which, for early blooming, should be started indoors in hotbeds or coldframes in March or early April. If you have neglected to do this early seeding or it is inconvenient, the small plants may be purchased at planting time from a florist or gardener.

For dried or winter bouquets: The strawflowers or everlastingls hold their color and form in a dry condition. Some garden favorites are gomphrena or globe flower, statice, achillea or rose everlasting, helichrysum and helipterum.

Plant the seeds carefully, figuring each one's height and color. A chart which gives this information may be obtained from the Extension Service at Iowa State College, Ames, and much information can be found in seed catalogs.

Some hardy perennials which bloom in the spring are the lily of the valley, bleeding heart, forget-me-not, creeping phlox, hardy primrose and oriental poppy. Early summer flowering are peony, German iris, Japanese iris, clove pink, hardy larkspur and columbine. Those flowering in late summer are the foxglove, hollyhock, Canterbury bell, campanula, pink, daisy, primrose, hardy phlox, sea lavender and plume poppy. Autumn flowering flowers are the aster, purple cone flower and cardinal flower.

Many times the neighbors will thin out their perennials and you can get plants from them for little or no cost, such as hollyhocks, spireas, violets, goldenrod and Shasta daisies.

The gladia, tulips and crocus bulbs are usually taken up each fall and the sorted bulbs replanted in the spring. The crocus flowers are nice wherever there is much moisture.

Here is a suggestion which may help those who feel they cannot use all of their backyard for a flower garden or must make it useful as well as attractive. A farm woman I know, decided she would have her flowers with her vegetables. She alternated rows, first a row of flowers and then one of vegetables. Larkspur was planted next to the road. The parsley, which lasts all season and has pretty foliage, was planted next to it. Behind it the solid dark green cacti were planted high enough to show the white blossoms, next the radishes, dwarf nasturtiums, lettuce, and phlox of all shades. Next the plbian onion was planted with a guard of petunias of solid color.

Next were the green peas and wax beans, flanked with yellow marigold, then beets and calendulas, carrots and coreopsis. Next to the coreopsis were the tall zinnias, giant com oxide, cosmos and dahlias, with parsnips, cabbages and peppers between. Then came the tomatoes, which were the tall tree variety, which bear magnificent fruit. The rows ended in a screen of hollyhocks forming a background.

You would have to look far to see a garden as pretty and useful as this.

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cept for a gas light here and there. Shutters were drawn down over all the shop windows and it was so quiet that the horses' footsteps echoed throughout the streets. We drove past the old ruins of the Forum, which are in a valley between the Palatine and the Quirinal hills. Then we passed the Colosseum, which almost frightens one with its grandeur in the evening.

Next, we passed the Forum of Trojan, which has been excavated, and which now contains at least forty cats, thrown in by the people of Rome. For food, these cats depend on donations from passersby.

On our way home we again saw the immense ruins of the Baths of Diocletian. These baths could accommodate 10,000 people bathing at the same time. There were rooms for hot and cold showers, reading rooms, conversation rooms, theater rooms, recreation rooms, and the emperor's apartments. There were manicurists, pedicurists and many kinds of beauty specialists to wait on the bathers. The emperors were very fond of baths, some of them taking as many as four a day, and sometimes taking their meals during their baths.

Late that night we reached our apartment, which was outside the old walls of Rome. Near it there were some catacombs. Some people thought that there might have been catacombs under our house, because the Christians had made such an underground network of them all over Rome.

Every day brought new experiences, new sights and new friends, so that nine months slipped away like nine weeks and it seemed to me that I had just begun to really appreciate the wonders of the Ancient Empire, the Medieval Kingdom, and modern Italy with Mussolini as the dictator, when it was time to take a home-bound boat from Naples to New York.

Flowers—and How
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one, for it gave plenty of beauty and plenty to eat. If more vegetables are wanted, two rows may be planted to one of flowers. It is best, too, to grow annuals instead of perennials so the garden can be cultivated each year.

Zoroaster was right when he said, 'He who sows the ground with care and diligence, acquires a greater stock of religious meat than he could grow by the repetition of ten thousand prayers.'

Grandmother's Dresses and Mine
(Continued from page 4)
great big skirts! Personally, I prefer a little more freedom and brevity.

Mabel—Freedom? Her finger tips, at least, are free.

Mary—Oh, you're too clever, Mabel! I expect that girl was thrilled to pieces over— (Insistent knocking.)

Scene III.

Ethel is still asleep on the davenport. The frame is gone and the doors are back in their normal positions. Ethel wakes—sits up, rubs her eyes and speaks)—'Have I been dreaming or was there someone actually here—people with funny old clothes. (Looks down at the album and picks it up.) Why, there is a picture of the girl with the adorable old hoop skirt and poke bonnet. Oh, but she is sweet. (Steps outside.) Oh, my goodness, there comes Mother and I have not done a thing for dinner, but I did have a good dream, anyhow.''

Exit.

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