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Color in the Garden

Edna Rhoades
Iowa State College

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While we take our final glance at the spring garden catalogs in the May sun is warming the rich, dark soil out-of-doors. Timely showers come, with an occasional rainbow in the sky. Will the light, the soil and the showers catch the colors of the rainbow and hold them in flowers for us to enjoy? Much will depend on our cooperation with nature—on what we choose to plant.

The garden offers us a three-fold gift. First, an out-of-door living room is provided when an orderly planting arrangement of well chosen colors is worked out. Second, a continuous supply of fresh cut flowers can be provided to bring summer freshness into the house. Third, winter bouquets can be developed to bring cheer in the season of snow.

Last fall, some of you heard the delightfully instructive talk on “Winter Bouquets” given by Miss Emma Kitt of the Applied Art Department during the Homemaker’s Half Hour. No doubt you promised yourself you would raise some of these decorative materials this year.

The time has come to secure the seeds and young plants. Most of these would add interest in your garden while growing and be useful with other fresh flowers in bouquets. This is especially true of Baby’s Breath, with its great clouds of filmy white flowers; of Artemisia, with its small silvery leaves; and of Statice, or Great Sea Lavender, which comes in white, yellow, lavender, blue or rose. An added advantage of these three plants is their hardiness, for they can be depended on to come up year after year, full bloom and hung up in a cool place with heads downward to dry. In this position, stems do not bend out of shape under the weight of heavy flower heads.

Lunaria is a biennial with flat, silvery seed pods of glistening purity. Its common name is Honesty or Peter’s Pence. At a tea given in a home in Ames, this was used by itself in a crystal and silver container. With white candles, the silverware and snowy linen damask, it made a stunning centerpiece which fairly lifted the guests into a new world. Seeds planted in the house in February or early March may develop a few pods the first year. Plants may be ordered from growers.

For a note of orange and red-orange in a living room, either Chinese Lanterns or Bitter Sweet may be started from seed or the plants may be purchased. These, too, are perennials; that is, they come year after year from the old root. If we are to save what remains of our native bittersweet, its picking or digging should be discouraged. A home grown vine of it will cost but little and add much to the interest of a garden. Buy only such plants as are guaranteed to produce berries.

I have stressed the need of looking ahead for a few months, in producing flowers that will bring colorful cheer into our homes next winter. We need to look ahead even farther, if our gardens are to offer their gifts permanently. We need a long-range vision in planting.

Whenever and wherever possible a perennial should be used to replace an annual. We are so apt not to plant the thing we will need at the time it should be planted. Once they are started, perennials will come up each spring, even though we have forgotten we are going to need the blue of the delphinium and the daintiness of Baby’s Breath to combine with other flowers later. Fyrethrum, or painted daisies, long-spurred columbine, oriental poppies, iris, peonies, phlox, and hundreds of others will not forget to come up.

When we realize how permanent our plantings can be, over how long a period the plants offer us their blossoms, we can see unlimited value in studying the possibilities in the choice of color and arrangement in planting.

There will always be a place for our favorite annuals, for effects not otherwise practical. The range of colors, the texture, the habits of growth of zinnias, nasturtiums, calendulas and some other annuals make them indispensable in the gardens of their admirers. Annuals serve as filler in supplying color and texture while waiting for the development of the permanent planting. For example, phlox of the annual variety can be grown until the perennial phlox is abundant enough to provide all that is needed.

People who are largely dependent on annuals, because they move frequently, can study the colors and habits of growth until they know how to get the desired effect in the garden and have bouquets in the right color to harmonize with these parts of their home furnishing which they always have with them. Experiment, study, trial of many possible combinations will finally result in a list that can be filed away for reference each spring so that none will be overlooked.

Whether we are dependent on annuals or can use perennials, color study is essential. We have all seen the colors of the rainbow, or spectrum, as light passes through a prism or is broken up by the bevelled edge of a mirror and thrown on a wall. The colors suggesting sunlight and warmth—the yellows, orange and reds, when seen in flowers in a garden seem to come nearer. We say, “They shine upon us.” In a room, a bouquet of such colors would give an effect of sunshine, warmth and cheer.

Clear blues, cool green of grass, myri...
By scheduling meetings at a regular time.
By holding meetings once in two weeks.
By arranging a convenient time and place for the meetings.
By joint meetings of all student clubs.
By working for some definite improvement in the home economics department.
By providing for social as well as educational activities.
By sending delegates to the state association meeting.
By the members themselves carrying the responsibility.
By placing all members on committees or in some active group.
By working toward a common goal.

—Indiana News Letter.

Color in the Garden
(Continued from page 2)

serious violet of shadows seem to recede.
These planted back of light, warm colors, give a feeling of distance to that part of the planting and supply a cool background to balance the warmth of the lower growing, lighter and warmer colors that have been thoughtfully arranged in front of them.

A bouquet in which the blues and violets predominate would have to be placed so as to catch light enough to keep them from disappearing against the room background. The colors would be restful in tone, but not especially cheer-giving used entirely alone. Iris blending from blue to lavender could be relieved by using a few blossoms from the rose-tinted varieties and placed in a blue-green container. A basket painted skillfully with a gradual change from blue-green through the yellow-greens, yellow and oranges, down to the violet and blue at the base, with a dark blue handle, makes a lovely container for sprays of iris of one-toned varieties. The color of the basket or any other container should be subordinate to the color of the flowers; its shape should be suited to the line of growth of the stems.

In the basket already described we could use tritoma, blue delphinium and Shasta daisies. Tritoma, an orange-scarlet spike, is sometimes called flame flower, torch lily, or red hot poker. This, too, is a perennial. If a few sprays of fen rae could still be found after the tritoma begins to bloom, these would lighten the texture and soften the color. Pen rue grows abundantly in a wild state and is easily cultivated. It has misty green-yellow blooms on graceful stems with lace-like leaves. Even the green seed clusters can be used after the flowers are gone. Scarlet trumpet honeysuckle could take the place of the flame flower, but it is less striking in shape.

A part of the rainbow can often be used as a guide in choosing colors to go together. You will notice that yellow and green-yellow are lighter than orange, which in turn is lighter than the red. The blues and the violets in the spectrum are not only more cool in their feeling, but they are darker than the colors of sunshine and warmth. This suggests that when we use our colors in combinations the cooler ones should be slightly darker than the warm colors. The basket of delphinium, tritoma, yellow-centered daisies and fern rue illustrates this arrangement.

Just now there comes a thought of the quaint ideal of a flowering plant on a kitchen window sill. Modern equipment in our homes makes it possible for us to place our bouquet wherever its color accent is most needed. In the Better Homes House in Ames last May the finishing touch in the kitchen was an arrangement of a few loose sprays of lavender Sweet Williams held by a crystal frog in a clear green glass bowl. This was placed on the white enameled oven of the electric stove, where a glow of yellow from dainty curtains fell on the group. Some practical minded person, who did not know the cool ways of such an oven, took away the bouquet. A full third of the charm of the kitchen was lost. The charm of the bouquet, too, was gone, for it was accidentally placed against a background that was too dark and too heavy. The color harmony needed sunlight around it. A flower is at home in its place in the garden or woods. In picking it, we promise to find another home, another place where its beauty will be enhanced. We should take with it some of the foliage and avoid crowding it into the container, for it is accustomed to living in the whole, big free out-of-doors. Branches of crab apple blossoms seem to be at home in a small wooden keg on the floor. The hoops would be lovely painted violet against the soft gray of the old wood.

One or two dozen salmon pink and lavender sweet peas, with a few delicate sprays of blue delphinium and baby's breath, would say a cheerful "Good morn-..." (Continued on page 12)
OUR YOUNGEST ALUMNAE

March Graduates

Vera Kurtz accepted a position as Home Demonstration Agent in Dallas County. She began her work April 4.

Wilda Nylan entered dietetic training April 10 at the Virginia Mason Hospital, Seattle, Wyo.

Mary H. Anderson has a position with the Infant Welfare Society, Chicago.

Bessie Redfern is Home Demonstration Agent in Jones County. Her headquarters are at Anamosa, Iowa.

Grace Thompson began dietetics training on April 1 at the Presbyterian Hospital in Chicago.

Katherine Goepplinger has accepted a position as teacher at Clarinda, Iowa.

Emily Jammer, who graduated in December, '29, is teaching at Zaanah, Iowa.

Ann Abell, '29, has a position as instructor at Dolliver, Iowa. Mildred Roberts, '29, is teaching at Larrabee, Iowa.

Evelyn Youngquist, '28, who has been taking post-graduate work at Iowa State College, is teaching at Fairfield, Iowa.

Kathryn Lee Hoover, '29, has a position as cook in Akron, Ohio.

Lillian Lewis, 529, is now teaching in Farmerville, Iowa.

Louise Otis, '22, and Donald Stuart Whitman of Flint, Mich., were married January 4 at the home of the bride's parents in Boone, Iowa. Mr. Whitman, a graduate of the University of Michigan, is practicing dentistry at Flint, where the couple now live at 1013 Kingston avenue.

Hazel Brown, '24, has accepted a position as editor of the household department of the Sunday Register, the Daily Register, and the Tribune-Capital.

Following her graduation, Miss Brown taught home economics and assisted in the management of tearooms in the East, among which were Child's of New York City and Buffalo, Schrafft's of New York City, and the Lazarus Tearoom in Columbus.

Eating Paw-Paws in Zululand

"Zulu girls can sing with a Gallia Cure record and hit the great prima donna's highest notes with perfect ease," declares Agnes Adora Wood, '21, who is now in Africa as home economics teacher in Inanda Seminary, the only institute of its kind in South Africa.

"At first I thought their singing was shrill, but I have since become accustomed to it," states Miss Wood.

To the new missionary, everything is "different" and unique so that many details which later seem insignificant assume great proportions. Thus to Miss Wood the first breakfast was an experience.

"The fruit was paw-paw, which looks like soft pumpkin, cuts like muskmellow, grows on a tree like a banana, and tastes like nothing at all, perfumed. Then we had mealies, Indian corn meal mush, ground here at the school. I can have all the milk I want, but it is boiled—which is the only safe way.

"The water we use is rain water caught in big tanks. In the dry season it is necessary to go a mile away to the Umgoni river for water used in cooking and washing."

The business of learning Zulu is not one of the easiest parts of the missionary's life in Inanda, according to Miss Woods, who frankly admits that after the first day or two of this new tongue she felt tempted to take the next boat home.

Prior to her enlisting for missionary service, Miss Woods was research assistant in chemistry at the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago.

Beulah (Swihart) Streeter, '25, and C. P. Streeter, '24, announce the arrival of Jean Perry Streeter.

Jennie Rannels, '24, is working as a graduate assistant in the Home Economics Education Department in Cornell University and is studying for her M. S. degree.

Lillian Black, '24, now teaching home economics in Eagle Grove, will tour Europe this summer.

More than 3,000 Iowa State alumni celebrated at meetings throughout the country from Los Angeles to New York, the seventy-second birthday of their alma mater.

Of the 59 meetings held during the week of March 22-29, 36 were in the state of Iowa and 23 in other states. The college paid the expenses of its representatives at the meetings in Iowa. The Men's Glee Club were guests at the celebration at Storm Lake, Sac City and Omaha. H. E. Pride and Prof. Tolbert MacRae accompanied them. Polk County, having an attendance of 170, boasted of having the largest crowd; Sioux City, with an attendance of 100, the next largest.

Anson Marston, dean of the Engineering Division, who was in the East on business, was the representative at the New York alumni meeting; T. R. Arg, professor of civil engineering, at Denver; C. H. Stange, dean of the Veterinary Division, at Columbus, Ohio; and H. E. Pride, at Chicago.

Color in the Garden

(Continued from page 9)

ing" in the room of a guest. With less blue and a few sprays of hardy dwarf snapdragons of greenish-yellow and yellow-orange such a bouquet makes an ideal centerpiece for a bouquet served on dishes of ivory and yellow. The linen could be of a peach or apricot tint. Here again, we have warm sunshine colors, green-yellow, orange-tint and salmon-pink with the lavender and blue flowers and the green of the foliage for balance.

The baby's breath daintily ties together the textures and colors, with its veil of tiny green-white blossoms.

Subtle refinement can be achieved through the use of sprays. One branch of willows is lovely in a slender vase of blue-green glass. The blue-green is strong enough to give balance and interest. Colorless glass is too delicate. When the pussies have fallen, the branches may be planted if they have been kept in water. Two years ago, some branches I had in a blue-green Mason jar sent out silvery white roots. I planted them in a damp spot and today, fluffy pusses again show on the branches.

Silvery gray-green for the rock garden or with cut flowers can come from hardy dusty miller or mullein during all of the growing season.

The rocks of your garden may also be chosen for their color. Those of gray
or yellow or rose should be placed where they will harmonize with the planting.

Gray-barked dog wood may be grouped with clumps of golden-barked or red-barked varieties. The last mentioned, Sibirica, by name, has coral-red bark and white flowers followed by porcelain-blue berries.

Some of our questions on gardening are answered in two good books to be found in nearly every library:

*Home Flower Culture by Prof. E. C. Voltz.*

*The Garden Month by Month by Mabel Chot Sudgwick.*

Brieﬂy stated the points stressed in this article have been: Plant for the view out of doors as if it were another room, for a continuous supply of fresh flowers and for winter bouquets in those colors that will complete the color harmony within your home. Suit the color, texture and line to the container and to the place of its use. Choose the most permanent materials available. Experiment with color harmonies in the garden and in cut ﬂower arrangements.

When the time comes to plant, with plans in mind and plants in hand, let us put on a smock the right color, of course our gloves and sun shade, and go to work in that warm rich soil. We can let go all nervous tension and lose ourselves completely, to find new life in the gifts of the garden, only one of which is its glorious gift of color.

**The Tragedy of Errors**

(Continued from page 3)

**Ada (curiously):** Can you wear collar-loss dresses?

**The Short Coed:** Yes, my neck is short but not too thin. Oh, yes, and I must wear softly gathered sleeves to conceal my thin arms, but never sleeveless numbers. I could wear a net bertha or a cape with that sleeveless dotted voile, though, couldn’t I? I’m glad I like full skirts and ruffles, for I guess they are just right for my type. And thank goodness I can wear plaid, although I must be careful, of course, not to get too big plaid as they call attention to my thinness.

Ada gave instant attention at the mention of plaid.

**The Plump One:** Well, stout people like me can wear plaid, can’t they?

**Susie (looking whimsically at the big plaid coat on her plump friend):** No, big plaid must be worn only by the average figure.

**Ada (in a grieved tone):** Oh, I do love plaid. But what did she say about those printed dresses? Do you s’pose she would say my dress has too large a design?

**Susie (regretfully):** Yes, I’m afraid she would. She said that stout girls

must avoid the large patterned fabrics, and that the tall ones could wear them better than any other type. The fine, small prints were suitable to my type and your type could wear a medium sized figure if the design were not in sharp contrast to the background.

**Ada (blushing but game):** Tell me more.

**Tilly Tall (interrupting):** You, Ada, can wear what I can’t. I must wear lines that will be horizontally placed across my costume and you must avoid them. Short stout people, whose necks are short, should never wear long-haired fur collars on coats, nor deep cuffs. Tailored necks are best, it seems, and if a fur must be worn, it should be one that is short-haired like beaver or perhaps mink. Was there anything else you wanted to know?

**Ada was at first too busy making mental notes of all these corrections of her physical defects to answer.**

**Ada (finally):** What did she say about the long skirts that everybody is wearing?

**Susie:** Well, she says that the long flared skirts are becoming to nearly every girl but that the long skirts with even hem lines are better for the short girl than any other type, as they suggest length of limb. They also help to conceal thick legs and ankles. The skirt which is long in the back and short in the front only calls attention to ugly ankles.

**Ada (grimacing):** Well, I’m glad that I met you. I’m just going to get a dress just right for my type.

**Susie:** You want power to you. We’ll be doing the same soon.

**Child Health May Day**

(Continued from page 10)

That does not have prompt and efﬁcient medical attention and inspection.

That does not receive primary instruction in the elements of hygiene and good health.

That has not the complete birthright of a sound mind in a sound body.

That has not the encouragement to express in fullest measure the spirit within which is the ﬁnal endowment of every human being.”

This Bill of Rights aims at a high goal, which, if reached, would go far in realizing the dream of America—that of making American youth strong and well.

And what part can we, college coeds, play in furthering this great movement? Doubtless all of us have small brothers, sisters, nieces or nephews. Why not write home to them personally (my how it would thrill them) and tell them about what a wonderful thing this May Day is going to be? Tell them to enter the spirit of the day, have an examination, and be in the pageant. If big sister at college thinks it’s the thing to do, then Jimmie or Mary Jean will straightway become interested and spread the news to the “neighbor kids.”