

Today's Garden Page: Flowers, Shrubs and Artistic Home-making Described

April Is Month Most Interesting for Lovers of Gardens; Delights of City and Its Offerings Fittingly Described

Miss Elizabeth Lord, at Request of Statesman, Tells Readers How They May Find Charm in Gardens in This Community

By ELIZABETH ZORD

April is a very active and interesting month to garden lovers. The winter months have allowed our imagination to play havoc with new garden ideas (and our purse) and the seed catalogues have enticed us to experiment with new importations. We proceed forth, enthusiastically and energetically, spade and trowel in hand when the first warm day in spring makes its appearance. A true garden lover will always extend his garden instead of dismantling it. He must have his favorite flowers and he must have new varieties to add to the already growing collection. Just to help this along and to give information to those who are not familiar with the shrubs and flowers blooming at this time, I shall discuss a few varieties of trees, shrubs and flowers that have been at their height of beauty this last week.

How many of you have noticed on the corner property of Chemeketa and Church street? If you have not seen this Magnolia do not delay examining its loveliness before the changeable April weather ruins its tender petals. The M. soulangeana blooms before the leaves appear. The flower is white inside and a pinkish purple on the outside. It is not the flower alone that attracts, but the delightful shape of this flowering tree makes it very desirable in many situations. As an entrance to a small house it adds much charm and as a small tree planted in the border it cannot be surpassed. If used in the border, low ground covers and early bulbs of attractive color combination double its beauty. Do not plant tall growing flowers near its trunk for then you immediately distract the charm of its lovely shape. The beauty of Magnolias cannot be over estimated.

Magnolia Adds Charm
There is another Magnolia, stellata, rarely seen in this vicinity and it is one of the most beautiful of all the Magnolias. It is more shrub-like than a tree, slow growing, though will bloom very early in the spring. The flowers are of medium size, pure white and many petalled. This Magnolia should be planted in a sheltered position and used as an accent against low evergreens. The other day, when prowling around the Pilkington nursery, I came upon three straggled M. stellata. They looked so lonesome in the setting of towering conifers. Mr. Pilkington informed me that he had never been able to interest any one in purchasing these beautiful shrubby trees.

Another flowering tree that always attracts attention is the Prunus pissardi. There are several fine specimens around Salem. Spreading branches and dark maroon leaf makes it distinctive. It has proven the right to its popularity. Prunus subhirtella pendula (Japanese Flowering Cherry) duration of bloom is short. In spite of its producing a wealth of bloom, the brilliant rose color is over within a few days and it has no color in the fall.

After trees, shrubs are the essential plant material of the garden. Forsythias, Quince, Currants and Spirea thunbergii are conspicuous at this season. Forsythias should be cultivated more extensively. It not only gives us the first yellow in the spring, but the bronzy foliage in October is a great addition to the shrub border. There are many varieties, but the two main upright growing types are F. fortunei and F. suspensa. F. fortunei has a drooping habit and can be easily and charmingly trained on a fence or arbor. Forsythias are especially nice for forcing. If long sprays are cut and placed in warm water when still in bud, the yellow flower will bloom long before the shrub has shown color in the garden.

Flowering Quince Favorite
The Cydonia Japonica (Japanese Flowering Quince) is an old fashioned shrub and is without doubt the favorite of all early flowering shrubs. There are many beautiful specimens around Salem and none are so lovely as the coral shade—a variety quite difficult to obtain from the nurseries. I was fortunate last year in seeing the large collection of Japanese Quince in full bloom in the Arnold Arboretum near Boston. The range of color was from flesh to dark red, some of the flowers were large and double, others small and single. The shapes varied as much as the color. From the very low sprawling type to the upright and many twigged

Wild Birds to Be Considered By Gardeners

Many homes are already equipped for feeding and otherwise caring for the wild birds. Trees and shrubbery will be planted in your yard that will produce berries, fruits and seeds that are attractive to various kinds of birds. When planting out the new yard, it would be well to consider these friends of the garden and supply them with the necessary protection and food. Birds as a whole do more good than harm in the garden.

Scarcely anyone thinks of feeding the birds in the summer months. The general idea seems to be that the time of the year, the natural supply of food for birds is sufficient. That is to some extent the case, but there are times, during a hot spell or just after one when certain species of birds have to put up with hardships almost equal to those occasioned by frost or snow.

Some Have Hard Time
Birds such as thrushes, robins and many others which live chiefly on ground insects and worms have to scratch hard for a living when the soil is baked and dry. This is especially the case when they have young ones to feed.

Let us look into the feeding record of the young sparrow and form an estimate of the quantity of food needed for the average young growing family of birds. These little songsters wing their way in search of food from 4 o'clock in the morning until 7 at night, making trips to the nest every few minutes with a morsel of live food in their bills.

A substitute for this natural food may be found in scraps of meat and fat, chopped fine and mixed with soaked bread. Place it on the feeding tables or wind-down sills at night (out of reach of cats) for the birds need it most early in the morning. Their bird baths should be filled so they can use them early.

Birds have a craving for moist foods during the dry weather and resort to pulling up the young seedlings by their roots and they sometimes attack the various fruit crops. From a gardening standpoint, it is well to supply the birds with food to protect the garden plants.

The ABC's of Gardening

April is the month of rapid-fire action. Lay your plans to make every day count.

When you uncover roses look carefully for scale. Prune them, leaving three eyes of last year's wood on hybrids but taking out only weak wood and reducing the rest one-third on the Teas.

Prune shrubs that flower on this season's growth now; prune all other early flowering shrubs after they have bloomed.

To grow a hedge in a shady position two things are necessary: heavy fertilization and very severe pruning. Prune hedges early, dense. Thin hedges with slightly sloping sides A-shaped, that is, to give the best sunlight and air so necessary to dense leaf growth.

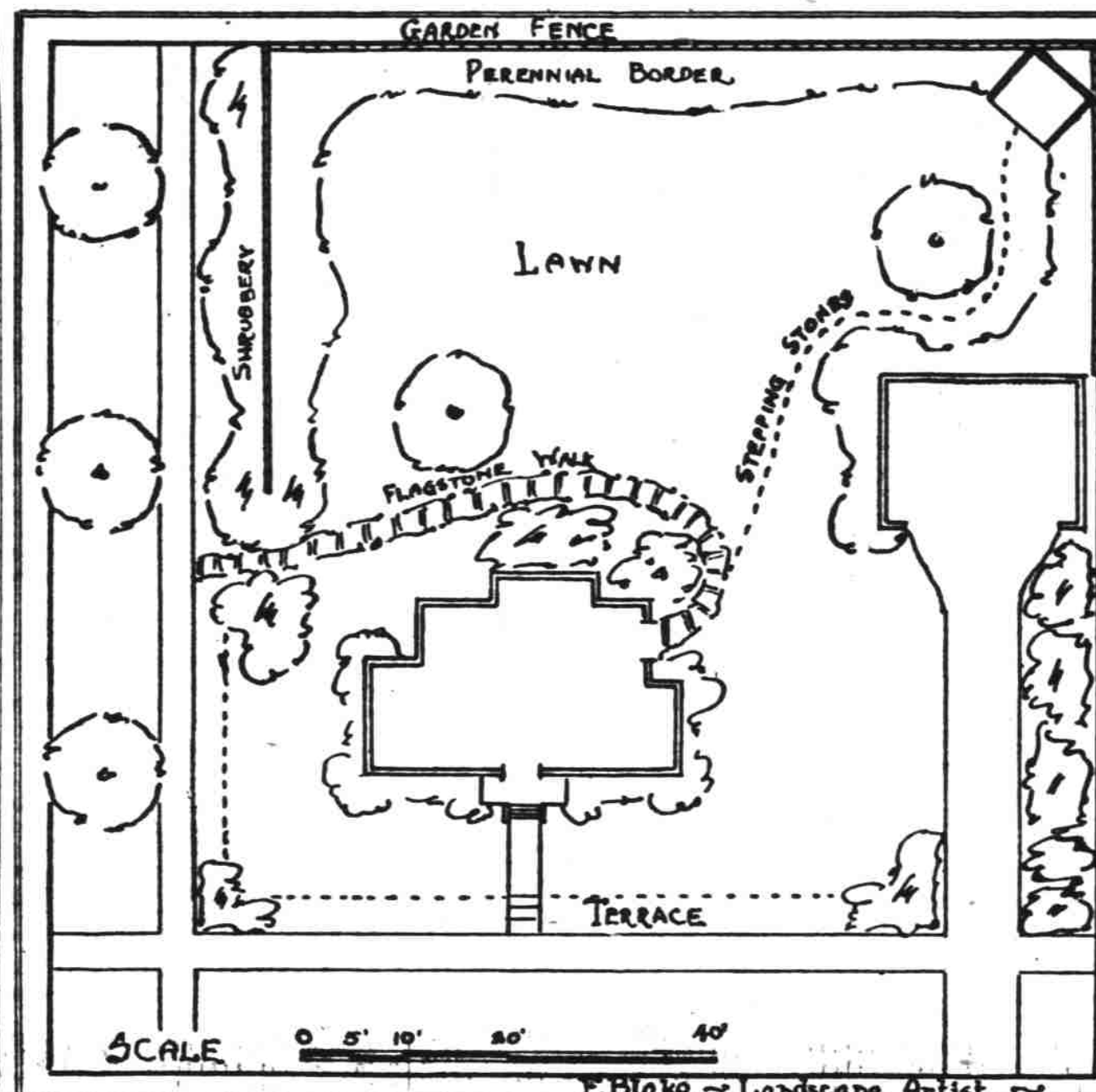
Consider your apples and pears and spray them at the right time. First, when the cluster buds show pink and are separate; later when three-fourths of petals have fallen and calyx end of the apple closes.

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PORCH BOX PLANTS
The following is a partial list of plants suited for porch or window boxes.
Calceolaria, Coleus, Dracaena, Heliotrope, Lantana, Verbena, Petunia, Geranium, Ageratum, Alyssum, Lobelia, Dusty Miller, Star of Bethlehem, Primrose, Asparagus Fern, Flowering Begonia, Fuchsia, Marguerites.

Here is 'How' for Beautiful Garden



This drawing was made by Fred Blake, Salem landscape gardener, whose articles are a regular feature on The Statesman garden page.

Flat Corner Lot Changed To Thing of Beauty; Nice Arrangements of Flowers

By FRED BLAKE

This week's plan is one upon the ordinary flat, corner lot. Such a home may be landscaped for a reasonable sum, the bulk of the expense being in the shrubbery.

A flat piece of ground should have a small terrace around the house. This plan calls for an open lawn at the front of the house with a slight rise from the sidewalk level around the building. All other lawns are built flush with the walks.

Climbing plants should be trained over the back garden fence. A flat piece of ground should have a small terrace around the house. This plan calls for an open lawn at the front of the house with a slight rise from the sidewalk level around the building. All other lawns are built flush with the walks.

The foundation planting consists of evergreens and conifers placed to provide contrast in shape and color. This planting includes the Cotoneaster, English Laurel, Portugal Laurel, Lonicera, Veronica, Evergreen Azalea and a few other choice shrubs in the evergreen line. Among the best

conifers are the Chinese Juniper, Cypress 'Alum', Cedrus Deodora. This type of planting is grouped around the whole of the foundation, arranging to fill a gracefully curving bed. Sufficient fillers are used to finish out a well-rounded bed. The most popular fillers are Heather, azaleas, Veronica.

Wisteria Vine at Porch
A wisteria vine is planted at the end of the porch to climb over the top. A climbing rose or two should be placed somewhere on the place, the best method being a small archway or pergola over which it might climb.

The back garden is enclosed with a rustic garden fence painted green. The back fence encloses

three sides of the garden and serves as the background for the sweeping perennial beds. Along the fence are vines at various distances apart. The clematis and honeysuckle will spread quite rapidly. Climbing roses may be used if preferred. The best appearance in the back beds may be had by the planting of a few flowering shrubs along with the perennials. The shrubbery is placed in the background intermingled with tall growing perennials. Then the medium sized perennials are placed, leaving the foreground for the very dwarf plants.

Lawn Attracts
The space between the house and the curved beds contains a well-built lawn with an occasional ornamental tree spaced for freshness and beauty. The back is an ideal place to set a weeping willow or birch. For less shade, a hawthorne is ideal.

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Build Castle In Spain? Buy Lot and Do It
In a modern city of Spain, the home site is selected and then the house is built to correspond with the setting. In this country, the house is built without any thought or consideration as to whether it is going to harmonize with the natural setting. The home and garden should harmonize perfectly.

Natural trees on the site should be protected, not cut out promiscuously as is sometimes the practice. Very often today, one sees an artistic tree, preserved by building the dwelling around it. It is the general practice to locate the house at such a point as not to interfere with any large healthy trees.

Additional trees and shrubbery that will harmonize with the natural should be added along with the necessary natural rockeries well planted. All cut trees and underbrush should be cut away to make room for a smooth lawn or flower beds. The trees should be carefully pruned, special care being given to cutting away all dead branches. By preserving the natural trees, a naturalistic effect will be established that can only be obtained by making use of the natural.

Most annuals may be started out of doors now. Have the soil prepared far enough ahead so that it will pulverize when being worked.

Just before the flowering season begins in the garden, it is good practice to top-dress the beds with bone meal and rake it in.

Holes in the perennial border can well be filled this season with annuals and later be replanted with perennials. A few long blooming annuals will, in many cases, improve the looks of the border, due to their fine flowering qualities.

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