

Easy To Grow Annuals Good For First Flower Garden

By EDNA KING MANDEVILLE

Each year the ranks of flower gardeners are being increased by the thousands of new home owners who are discovering the real joys of suburban living. Perhaps they realize that a new house will never really be home until it is surrounded by beautiful flowers and a well-kept lawn.

I like to think that a few suggestions to these new home owners and prospective flower gardeners will help them to find a greater degree of success and pleasure. Although this article is directed primarily to such people, those who have tried flower gardening unsuccessfully in the past might also gain something.

Frankly, a new flower garden should begin with varieties that are easy to grow. Some of them, like the ones listed below, are so simple that they almost fulfill the humorous promise of one leading seed company: "Plant our seeds and jump aside." Well, they don't grow quite that fast, but they certainly will produce encouraging results for the beginner. Here are some of the best varieties: Alyssum snow cloth, alyssum royal carpet, bachelor's button, calendula, candytuft, caster beans, cosmos, snapdragon, zinnias, four o'clocks, marigolds, morning glory, nasturtiums, pinks, poppy, and sunflower.

Those of you with some knowledge of flowers will realize at once that such a list can produce a most beautiful garden, full of sparkling colors and varieties. These are really the "best sellers" among flower seeds, probably due to this very fact that they are so easy to grow.

There are few gardens new or old that are not improved by an edging of alyssum, either in the pure white snow cloth or the violet variety called royal carpet. And bachelor's buttons, calendulas, and candytuft are so easy to grow that I often recommend them for use in children's gardens. It's often a good idea to plant bachelor's buttons near the door or on the way to the garage, where the man of the house can pick one in the morning for his lapel. I've found that each of these three varieties produces a wealth of flowers for bouquets, and second plantings may be made until midsummer.

Caster beans are my ideal choice for a summer background at the rear of your lot, and will

readily reach a height of five or six feet—or even higher with plenty of water and fertilizer. Cosmos, too, are good background plants, though they do not grow as tall. And for a hedge I would suggest four o'clocks, ideal for that purpose.

Marigolds, one of my very favorite flowers, come in both large and small varieties. The small ones include the miniature golden pygmy, a new and striking variety, and the old standby yellow pygmy or lemon drop. These usually grow to a height of less than twelve inches. There are also the tall African types varying in height from two to four feet, with flowers up to five or six inches across. I think the new "cracker-jack" variety will be especially popular this coming season. Because all varieties of marigold keep so well indoors, I find them perfect for cutting.

Morning glories are ideal for growing on fences or up the sides of the house on strings. The new candy pink variety makes an excellent and eye-catching combination when used with the more popular heavenly blue. If your garden soil is poor, nasturtiums are the flowers for you. They actually seem to thrive in poor soil, and need an absolute minimum of care, yet they produce their beautiful flowers endlessly for frequent small bouquets. Try the new cherry rose variety for a real treat.

Pinks and poppies are old favorites well deserving of a place in your first garden. The California poppy is a colorful long-growing variety that's perfect for the front portion. For delightful displays of color as well as plenty of flowers for cutting, I always recommend snapdragons. They range in height from the miniature magic carpet to the new tall Mardi Gras.

There are so many different—and wonderful—types of zinnias that I really feel they should be treated in a separate article. But I can suggest that you try the new ortho-pinka zinnias, a giant variety of peppermint stick for your first flower garden.

To add flavor and fragrance to tea, mix in a little grated orange rind.

To give a pie a flaky upper crust brush the top crust lightly with cold water before putting the pie in the oven.

Potpourri

Last Sunday the two of us took off in the jeep early in the morning and didn't return until late afternoon. The consequences of the day were many and varied. We came home with a wonderful bouquet of wildflowers picked in the Sterling creek area, a lot of colored pictures including a number taken on the Jack O'Brien ranch during the hill climbing event of the motorcycle club, a couple of quarts of those delicious cream-colored morel mushrooms, which we picked under the expert guidance of Earl Hvall and the two little Hvalls, and poison oak, in spite of naphtha soap.

The motorcycle event was a surprise to Potpourri, and although pappy swears he had forgotten about it until we came upon the scene we have our suspicions—after all, he did ride one of those contraptions years ago when the family lived in Yakima. But watching the cyclists climb the steep hill was interesting. Most of the riders made it safely to the top, but a few spilled, bringing cries and groans from the spectators, particularly the wives.

One young woman from Grants Pass was quite philosophical. Seems it was her wedding anniversary but she didn't mind too much that she and her husband were celebrating the day on a hillside while he coaxed a snarling motorcycle up a steep hill. She was philosophical about the mishaps, too. "It's funny," she mused. "When a rider spills, and we don't know him, we say 'How thrilling.' 'When it's our husband we ask 'is he hurt?'"

Today Potpourri is glad that this column affords us space to print the picture page "credits." Of course, if newspapers followed the lead of television, it would go something like this. Medford Mail Tribune presents "Easter Sunday." Section editor, Olive Starcher; photographs by Robert Vroman; layout by Peg Hutchinson; engraving by Paul Zeleznik; models, the Charles Jones family; Mrs. E. V. Meyerding, Mrs. Fletcher Fish and Little Lynn Chipman; hats courtesy of Mrs. Elsie Strang of Burselson's; and Jean Jaeger, Mann's; Lynn's flower, courtesy of Dick Greene (who brought a bouquet of double tulips to the gals in the news room); make-up, Printer Ken Murray, etc.

Last Sunday it would have been much the same, except the models were the Rev. John Reynolds and the Rev. George R. V. Bolster, and the former wrote the message for the Palm Sunday page. Also, we would have added that the palm fronds which showed on the artistic still life photograph done by Photographer Vroman came from Rogue Valley Greenhouse, since Potpourri and Bob went out and begged Polly Bright for a leaf from one of her palm plants.

The latest book of Edison Marshall, who at one time lived in Medford, is reviewed in the April 13 issue of The Saturday Review. And in a manner which just might make Mr. Marshall squirm a bit. The reviewer, Hassold Davis, starts off by saying that the author, "an admittedly superstitious man, with a mystical half belief in the gods of the chase" has written "The Heart of the Hunter" as "an apologia with a variety of explanations of why, when he was not writing love stories for the slick magazines, he was knocking himself out in the pursuit of dead trophies for his den, an interior decorator gone berserk."

Davis tells something of Marshall's hunting exploits in various parts of the world, saying that in India he shot "the grandfather Bengal tigers, who molested the peasants' herds, and shot the stripes off them from the shelter of a cave or a machon (a nest in a tree)." Later he says the author hunted in other parts of the world "where the tigers came to him because he had bought domestic cattle and chained them alive as bait."

Davis concluded by writing "It is a book of audience-participation, with its author as timid as you are on the long marches through plains and jungles, in love with fear and sick with the fear that he might not fulfill the guides' belief in him, seeing neither the people nor their strange lands, blindly unaware that the only trophy worthy of a sportsman is a steak."

Not long ago there came a letter from FB, saying how she had gone wild flower picking, taking care to take only those which are abundant. She had been thrilled to find a few red bell plants, which according to Marcel LePiniec and other wild flower authorities, is threatened with extinction because of those who pick them carelessly. FB said she put a stake by one, in order that she might find it again at blooming time and feast her eyes.

She was intrigued by an article on wild flowers in a nature magazine written by a woman who was at one time a lookout in the Cascade mountains. FB read for the first time of false hellebore which the woman said grew in tall thickets down by the spring. "They are coarse plants, taller than the average adult, with heavy stalks and large heavily ribbed boat-shaped leaves. Around the upper part of the stalk, for 12 inches or more, cluster pale green blossoms about one inch across. They smell like watermelon rind preserves." There is a spot in the hills which we pass every summer where a plant like this grows, so come July, we'll have pappy stop the jeep and we'll get out and sniff to see if they smell like watermelon preserves.

Potpourri finally was able to get to one of Mr. LePiniec's lectures on wild flowers, and enjoyed it enormously. Mr. LePiniec will doubtless forgive us if we boast that pappy's colored slides of wild flowers compare favorably with his, but we did learn a lot and can hardly wait to put into practice the expert's advice on how to transplant wild flowers, ferns and shrubs. We've successfully transplanted Oregon grape, trilliums, blue iris and a little wild rose, but have failed with violets, foxglove and mouse ears brought from our wood lot up in the hills.

Mr. LePiniec's next lecture will be postponed a week, and then he will tell the class how to make a rock garden for wild plants. The lecture series is sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce tourist committee and has attracted a group of outdoor enthusiasts and flower lovers who are having a wonderful time while they learn.

In case you've been repeating the story that Martin Agronsky, the widely known commentator, was fired, network representatives say it isn't true. Since we're an admirer of Mr. Agronsky, Potpourri checked with the staff at KYJC. We learned from their files that Mr. Agronsky resigned from his former network position to take a job with NBC's television division. The grapevine said that NBC officials were so impressed with Commentator Agronsky's work during the last election, that he was hired away from the rival network.

Gleanings from here and there: Medford householders are getting downright irked at the people who try to sell insurance, cars and what have you over the telephone. A homemaker just loves to take her hands out of the bread dough or dish pan and rush to the phone only to have a voice start a selling spiel. Interesting sight on grocery store shelves—three cans of a well known brand of shortening in among the fly spray, moth balls and insecticide.—O.S.



Special Care Needed In Washing Synthetics

Madison, Wis. — (U.P.) — The various synthetics now used for making sweaters require special care, says Gladys Meloche, clothing specialist at the University of Wisconsin.

These fibers are blended with wool, worsted, rayon and cashmere or used by themselves. Each brings special qualities to the garment.

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May Event Announced

Additional plans have been announced for the annual May Fellowship luncheon, sponsored by the Medford Council of Church Women. The luncheon will be served in St. Mark's Guild hall Friday, May 3, at 12:30 o'clock. Tickets are in the hands of representatives to the council from the various affiliated church groups.

Mrs. Gaston Floux and Mrs. Samuel Earhart, co-chairman for the day, state that Mrs. Winston, registrar and dean of women of Southern Oregon college, is to be the speaker. Since the theme for the day is "Free Schools in a Free America" the program follows that topic. A panel discussion by three former teachers will be a feature and participating will be Miss Jane Snedcor, Mrs. Marie Dizney and Mrs. Mamie Bloomfield.

Mrs. Gaston Floux, Central Point, is to act as moderator. Musical selections by Medford Madrigal Singers and two vocal solos by Mrs. Charles Champlin are also on the program. Mrs. Otto Frohnmeyer will accompany Mrs. Champlin. Miss Verne Cingade will give an outline of her work in Christian education in the public schools. Proceeds from the luncheon go toward assisting in Miss Cingade's work, it is stated.

Mrs. James Morrow, president of the council, will introduce her officers and the chairman at the luncheon table.

Mrs. Frank Chapman is general chairman for the luncheon and Mrs. J. C. Sparks has charge of the decorations. Assisting her will be Mrs. Jessie Minear and Mrs. Floyd Jenkins.

A nursery attendant will care for young children.

Chicken Salad Variation
New York — (U.P.) — Here's a tasty switch on an old standby—chicken salad. To 1 cup of cooked, chopped chicken add 1/2 cup each of crumbled, crisp bacon and diced celery. Toss with cooked salad dressing. For a fancy touch, serve the salad in a tomato cup, or cooked artichoke, from which the choke has been removed.

The syrup from canned fruits should be saved for use as a sauce on puddings and desserts.

Custard will bake evenly and not become watery if the custard dish is placed in a pan of water.

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Home Missions To Be Topic of Methodist Group

"Our Plus Becomes A Cross—Home Missions in the National News" is the topic for the program to be presented to the Woman's Society of Christian Service at a meeting, Tuesday, April 23, at 1:30 p.m. in Meeker Memorial chapel of First Methodist church.

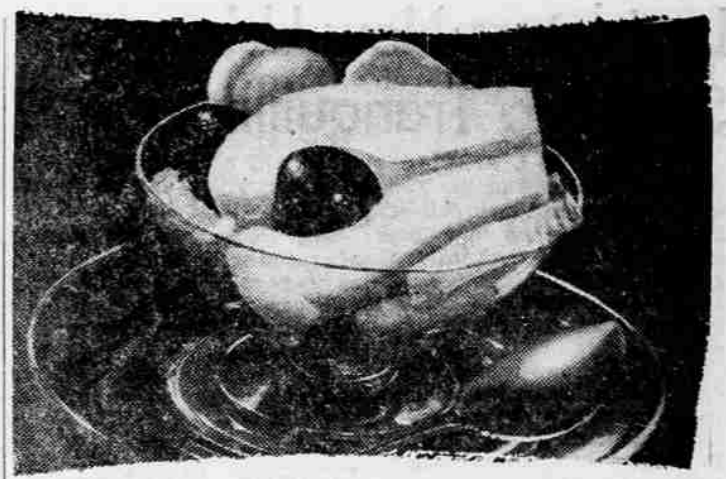
Mrs. Richard Jewett, in charge of the program, states that the purpose is to give a birdseye view of the scope of the work of the Woman's Division of Christian Service in home fields, with special emphasis on controversial islands outlived by conventionalism or circumstances.

The message will be portrayed through a playlet in which Mrs. Jewett will take the part of the editor-in-chief of the paper Home Missions in the National News. Her staff will consist of Mrs. C. Gordon-Morris, editor of education news; Mrs. Melvin Ward, editor of health projects; Mrs. Carol Adams, city editor; Mrs. Mike Simmons, town and country editor; Mrs. Douglas Smith, special features editor; Mrs. David Chirgwin, editor of the woman's page; and Mrs. Gale Culy, editor of religious news.

Music will be presented as part of the devotional program. Mrs. Lyle Schoppert will accompany her daughter, Susan, who will sing "Teach Me To Pray." Mrs. Schoppert will also bring news of the work done in Medford with the Mexican migrants.

The prayer group of the Women's society will meet at 10:30 a.m., followed by the business session at 11 a.m., presided over by Mrs. L. G. Rankin, president.

A nursery will be provided for pre-school children. The luncheon, which will be served by Circle 10, under the direction of Mrs. Ed Branchfield, will honor some twenty-five guests.



ALWAYS DELICIOUS: Use a pearl-white Canned Bartlett Pear half as the delicious base of each fruit cup; add orange slices and other canned or fresh fruits, as desired. Perfect for dessert climax as well as a meal starter.

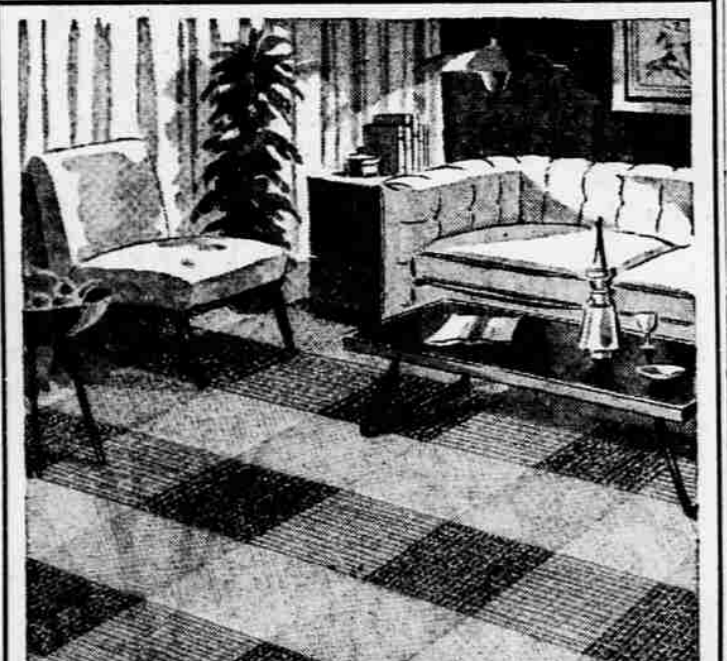
Keep Flowers Fresh
New York — (U.P.) — One of the nation's largest distributors of fresh flowers has a tip for the woman who receives them. Says a spokesman for Goldfarb Florists: when you receive flowers take care not to bruise them by laying the flowers on top of each other. Stand them in a bucket or lay them on a table with their heads separated and extending over the edge of the table.

Easter Greetings

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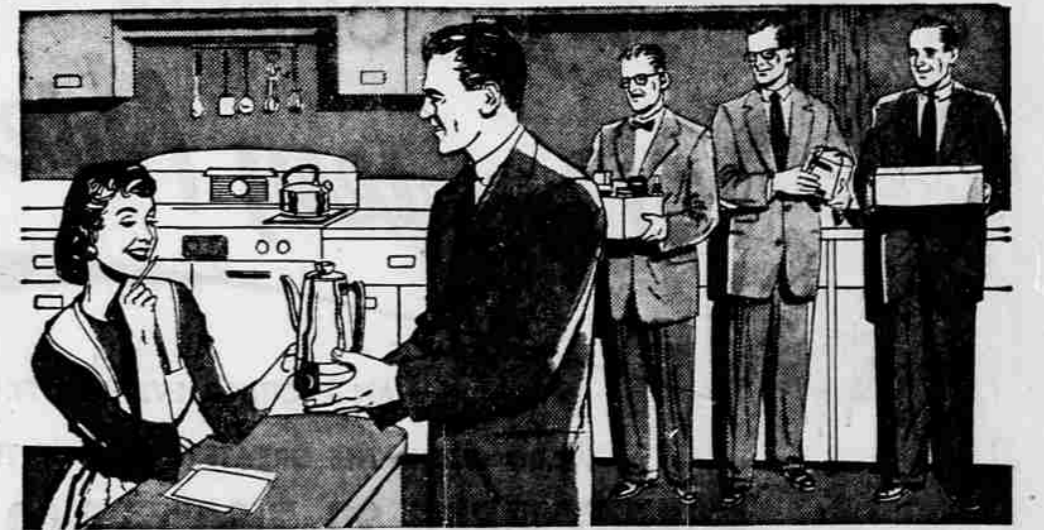
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