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Spring Greens Spring Tonics

Spring gardens are the best spring tonics and dandelion greens are now in season and have been over the greater part of the country for some days. Dandelions grow without the gardener's help and are as welcome and as tasty as any garden grown greens. Make the most of them while the garden greens are coming on. With an early spring this year the spinach crop will be earlier than usual and it is now time to get in a second planting.

With the season three weeks earlier than last year it will be possible to make succession plantings of this useful greens material which would not be possible in many seasons. Beets can also be planted successively and an Swiss chard is up and coming in many gardens. This handy material for greens can be planted at any time until June 1

and will yield all seasons. If the leaves are cut off instead of pulling up the entire plant.

Pull up entire plants when the chard is young until it stands six or eight inches apart in the rows and then let it develop. The heavy midribs of the large leaves make a vegetable in themselves although somewhat insipid unless well treated with butter and lemon juice or vinegar. They cook down with the leaves and add bulk to the greens.

New Zealand spinach, a summer greens, may be planted early this year, a hot-weather crop although not a true spinach and one which needs considerable room for the individual plant. Eighteen inches apart will give room for it to develop in midsummer.

The old standby, the beet, can be sown successively for greens and the little beets to go with the greens, which add greatly to the dish. The greens season is here. While picking dandelions do not overlook the young horseradish shoots, if there happen to be a colony in your neighborhood. The young horseradish leaves are tasty greens. Mustard is also a fine addition to the greens pot.

Coolidge couldn't go to a circus. Now what little boy wants to grow up and be president?

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The Spicy Nasturtium



NASTURTIUMS ARE EASILY GROWN AND WILL FURNISH BOUQUETS UNTIL FROST.

For color, both delicate as well as rich and velvety, coupled with a spicy fragrance all its own, there is no annual to compare with the nasturtium. For poor soil it is an ideal annual, producing flowers continually until cut down by frost and furnishing daily bouquets in many shades.

This is one of the most easily grown and sure-fire annuals there is in the seedmen's lists, is old-fashioned as our great grandmothers, yet holding its own with the modern beauties. Best of all, it will grow well where other annuals will languish. It likes heat and rich soil sends it all to leaves.

The dwarf nasturtiums are valuable for beds of a single color or for bordering beds of other annuals. There are yellow-leaved varieties for brilliant foliage as well as handsome bloom and there are dark-leaved kinds with rich velvety crimson flowers. There are brilliant variegated sorts as well as delicate rose and sulphur shades, in fact the entire range of colors except blue.

The climbing nasturtium is more

truthfully speaking a rambler. It makes a growth as long as a vine but has no means of climbing, as it cannot twine and has no tendrils or suckers such as other vines. It will push its way upwards and tumble over into picturesque heaps of bloom and handsome foliage. If a climbing nasturtium is desired to climb to form a screen, it can be used very rapidly, but it will have to be guided and fastened into place.

It is an excellent plant to be allowed to droop from a window box, swinging festoons of bloom below the box. For scrambling up wire fences, it is useful and one of its finest uses is for scrambling over and hiding stumps.

The Madam Gunther hybrids offer a fine series of soft colorings in this handsome annual. There is a double form cultivated as a house plant and the canary bird vine with its airy yellow blooms is a variety well worth growing. The half-matured seeds are fine for pickles, often being used as a substitute for capers.

Brightening Up the Corners

If there has been no opportunity or if opportunity has been neglected to lay out the back yard into an ornamental design more or less elaborate to suit the taste of the owner, the neglect can be remedied in great part by corner plantings. Filling in the corners with tall-growing annuals or a few perennials will be a start at a design and will help to form a frame for the grass plot.

Castor beans are the most stately annuals for quick effect. They will assist in hiding outbuildings in a hurry.

The annual sunflowers of the cucumber leaved type, catalogued as Helianthus cucumerifolius, will make a fine group and furnish quantities of miniature and delicate sunflowers ranging from pale yellow to orange for cutting during the summer. Cosmos will fill a corner with a feathery mass of foliage and in mid and late summer will bedeck itself with myriads of handsome white, pink, rose and



A PLANTING OF QUICK GROWING ANNUALS WILL BRIGHTEN A CORNER OF THE BACKYARD

crimson flowers, fine for bouquets. Plant early flowering types of cosmos now.

For a sunny corner in soil only fairly rich, wonderful effect can be produced by a few of the fine new types of dahlias. They grow to a height of six feet or more, according to variety, with clean shining foliage and in September produce wonderful bloom, ranging from great fluffs the size of your head in some of the advanced types down to little pompoms two inches through.

The dahlia is now the queen of the autumn and no garden should be without a few specimens. Plants are on sale later in the season and the dry tubers can be secured now. There is no hurry about putting them in as any time up till June will do.

Spider plant, Cleome, is another tall, fast-growing annual which makes fine clumps and for a shady corner nothing is better than the flowering tobacco, Nicotiana affinis and its types being most effective. The white variety with its spicy stars brightens up a dim corner at dusk wonderfully.

Get all the hardy annual seed into the ground. It's an early season and these standbys won't mind a vagrant frost should it happen along. Poppies, asters, mourning brides, pinks, verbenas, petunias, and others can be sown any time.

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Asters and Their Troubles

When a plant becomes highly developed and attains unusual beauty and excellence, there seems to be a penalty of plagues and pests to follow rapidly. Such has been the fate of the aster, which has been brought to a point where it rivals the chrysanthemum in size, with a wider range of colors not found in the latter.

Some gardeners have given up in disgust and left asters off the garden list, which is a pity, for there is no finer fall annual and none more easily raised—until some of the pests hit it. "Yellowing" is a new complaint that has caused a great deal of trouble and bacteriologists and seed specialists are working to find out the cause and a check. The main recommendation to avoid this plague is to plant the asters in new soils, lime the soil thoroughly and give good cultivation from the start.

The symptoms of this disease are that the bud remains greenish yellow and does not unfold and develop its normal color.

Stem rot and root aphid are other pests. Lime or wood ashes applied to the soil at planting time avoid



SET OUT YOUR ASTERS IN A NEW LOCATION THIS YEAR IF YOU HAD TROUBLE WITH THEM LAST YEAR. LIME THE SOIL AND GIVE IT BONE MEAL

these troubles and copious doses of tobacco tea or nicotine solution poured about the roots of the plants will destroy the aphid.

Insect pests, which work above ground, are more easily controlled. The aster beetle comes in August. Plant later types and this pest is eluded. Black or brown aphid, which often infest the asters may be dislodged with tobacco tea, dust, or nicotine solutions sprayed on the plants. They are easy to control.

Lime the soil two weeks before setting out the plants, enough hydrated lime or pulverized limestone to give it a light coating—like a light snow, rake it in lightly, and then give bone meal when the asters are set out and success is likely. The pests need not deter anyone from growing asters. If you had yellows last year, plant the asters in a different soil this year.

A new wrinkle in bean planting to prevent them rotting if there is a cold spell is to grease them before planting. This method is said to prevent decay. Lima beans are said to have remained in the ground a month with a grease coating without rotting. Malted lard is used. It is worth an experiment with a few limas planted right now.

The latest thing in women's spring dresses is women.

Sahara Cabaret
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