

Over The Garden Gate

Editor's Note: The following article on planning, planting and care of perennial borders was given before the Mt. Laki Garden Club by Mrs. W. P. Myers, local authority on gardening and owner of a local nursery.

By MRS. W. P. MYERS

Flowers are the glory of the outdoors and can change an indifferent house into a home of graceful elegance.

Both annual and perennial flowers are necessary in constructing an everblooming garden. The spring flowering bulbs and early perennials begin blooming before

the annuals get started growing. By perennials we mean that group of flowers whose roots live throughout the years and bloom each season at their appointed time without the necessity of planting each year as we do annual flowers.

It is difficult to separate all the annuals from the perennials in the border because we frequently use both in the same planting. When we plant a perennial border of tulips or other spring flowering bulbs we know their usefulness is limited to a short time in the early spring. So, in order to have continuous blossoms, we must re-

place them with annuals suitable for the space left vacant by the passing of the spring bulbs.

Tulips, daffodils, narcissus, hyacinths and crocus are beautiful in any setting. They may grace the perennial border or be planted in beds or clumps or naturalized under trees and shrubs.

Plant tulips in clusters of three to five of the same color. They will present a more charming appearance than when planted singly. Since tulips are tall and leggy, it is a good practice to plant crocus or other low growing bulbs or perennials in front of them. Forget-me-nots planted with tulips make a charming picture.

The term "perennial border" is used largely to designate groups of hardy perennials growing along the edge of the lawn or against the back fence. This kind of planting may be made very attractive by carefully grouping the taller flowers in the background with plants of intermediate height throughout the remainder of the border.

No formal design is needed for this kind of border. The gardener's individual taste should govern the arrangement of plants so as to harmonize in color of flower and texture of foliage.

Since each variety has its own period of blooming, those varieties which bloom at the same time should be evenly distributed throughout the border to secure a well-balanced blooming period at all times. As new plants come

into bloom the old ones pass so that the garden presents a changed scene from week to week.

Perennials are a hardy race of flowers and of necessity must be in order to survive from year to year. They propagate by seed, divisions, stolens and cuttings.

The later perennials include delphinium, foxglove, tiger and regal lilies, some of the tall growing phlox, golden glow, day lilies, tall growing michaelmas daisies and hollyhocks.

Among the medium tall flowers are hare phlox columbine, Oriental peonies, iris, penslemen, baby breath, gallardia, coreopsis summer chrysanthemum, yucca, pernio bleeding heart and Shasta, Esther Reid and painted daisies.

The peonies, bleeding heart and cushion mums are so glamorous they should be planted in the foreground where their intrinsic beauty will lend greater charm to the planting.

The low growing perennials include garden pinks, Iceland poppies, coral bells, guem, fall and spring flowering crocus and all the "rock garden" species.

Annual flowers are those which grow from seed, attain their growth, flower and produce seed in one year or less, then die, having completed their life cycle.

The annual border is much easier to arrange than the perennial border. The seed packets show the color and probable height they will grow and whether shade or sunlight is best for their culture. They are constant bloomers and can be planted in ranges of colors and height to suit plants of the gardener.

An annual border of bedding flowers along the edge of the

lawn may be planted in tiers of three or four different heights, using tall growing flowers for background, reducing the height toward the lawn.

By careful selection of varieties which harmonize in flower and leaf, a brilliant display will be produced.

Zinnias and marigolds make a good combination. Plant tall African marigolds and giant dahlia flowering zinnias at the back of the border, then use zinnias of graduating heights and edge with dwarf marigolds. This same arrangement is very charming when used in planting an oval or round flowerbed in the garden or lawn.

The tall African marigolds and giant dahlia flowering zinnias will grow four feet tall and produce mammoth flowers. Plant them in the center of the bed—marigolds first. Then surround them with the dahlia flowering zinnias. Next plant lower growing zinnias, and cut-and-come zinnias and baby zinnias on the outside.

Edge with the new flame dwarf double marigolds. These marigolds grow 10 to 12 inches tall with dense green foliage of even height and topped with an abundance of bronze-red double flowers reaching about three inches above the attractive foliage. As an edging for tall borders, they are truly in a class by themselves and must be seen to be appreciated.

Many of the annuals may be planted in the open ground while others are so slow germinating that it is more practical to purchase them from the grower ready to plant. Annuals that can be planted in the spring as soon as the soil can be worked and which late frosts and light freezes do

not hurt much include asters, goldfinches, salpiglossis, larkspur, schizanthus, cosmos, poppies, sweet alyssum and candy tufts, Zinnias, marigolds, nasturtiums, and touch-me-nots are easily frosted and should not be planted until all danger of frost is past—here, usually about June 1.

They propagate quickly and will be up in a few days after planting. Petunias, lobelia and verbena are so slow in terminating that it is best to buy them from the growers, rather than try to raise them from seed.

Annual flowers serve best as edgings and for planting among evergreens. Choose low growing types which will not reach above the evergreens and destroy their exciting beauty, yet will accent the planting.

If the border is of tulips or other spring flowering bulbs, do not allow that space to be bare after the tulips are gone. Cut off the

dried leaves and set out an annual border where the tulips were growing.

Lobelia, sweet alyssum, verbena, ageratum, rose mass and dwarf marigolds all are low growing and make excellent edging plants.

To provide a spot of color and give friendly atmosphere to the foundation plantings, set out double or ruffled petunias among the evergreens and edge with purple lobelia. Get plants from a grower, already in bloom so the color is visible, and the quality of each plant shows.

Double petunia blossoms are so heavy they bend down the stalk close to the ground. They spread out but do not reach above the evergreens. Red geraniums may be used instead of petunias, but they grow slightly taller.

It takes thoughtful planning and labor of love to create a beautiful garden. The charm of growing

flowers, not only pleases the eye, and refreshes the taste, but improves the heart. A flower planting is a planting of happiness.

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Home Extension

BONANZA UNIT

BONANZA—Each member of the Bonanza Home Extension Unit took part in the rug and upholstery cleaning project when the group met on October 13 at the home of Mrs. Alice Drew. Mrs. Drew was assisted by Mrs. Eulah Prough.

A potluck dinner was served at noon to 10 women including two new members, Mrs. G. Graham and Mrs. Cassie Ritter.

The next meeting will be at the Bonanza Library on November 10. Leaders for the beef cookery project will be Mrs. Cassie Ritter and Mrs. Lura Uchack. Hostesses will be Mrs. Florence Horn and Mrs. Hazel Drew.

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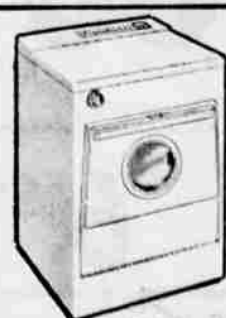
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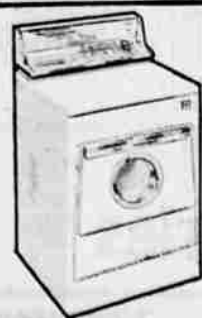
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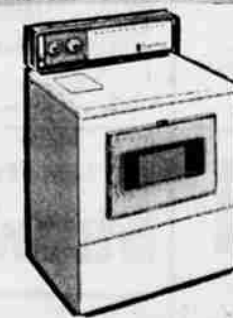
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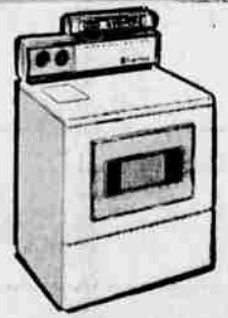
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