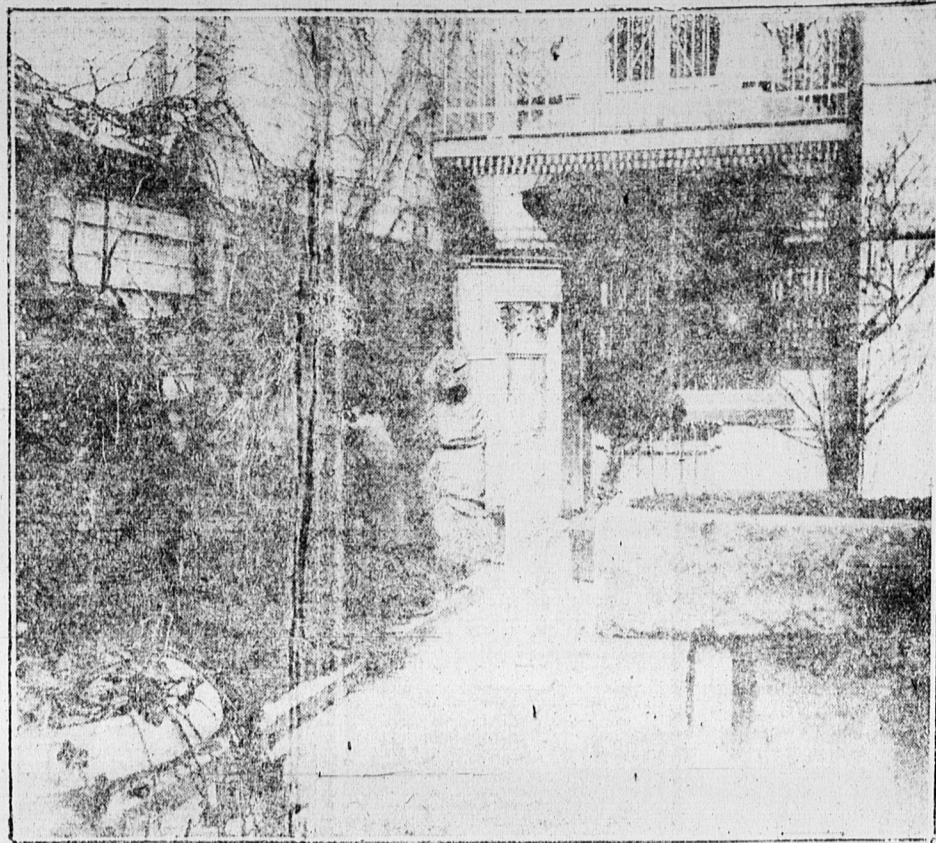




# CITY FLOWER GARDENS

## HOW to MAKE the BACK YARD ATTRACTIVE



A Back Yard Garden in Winter Trim

bunches of these cheerful little flowers throughout all the month of May. Chrysanthemums and Japanese anemone, if planted in the spring, will insure the back yard garden of being still a thing of beauty throughout the autumn. Nor should the Christmas rose, which blooms above the snow at Christmas time, be forgotten.

LATE in the autumn the plants must be well covered with a good coating of manure to keep them warm for the long sleep of winter. It would be well to add any new plants or bulbs in the fall rather than to wait until the spring comes again, for a garden planned and planted then will flourish with less care and watching than when the seeds must come to life just as soon as they are sown and can take root.

In laying out a garden it is well to note that the best effect is obtained through quantity rather than through variety. In other words, it is best to have more of one kind of flower massed together than to expend the same amount of money upon a heterogeneous collection of all different shrubs and flowers.

For a garden reclaimed from an average sized city yard the following would make a good and sufficient list with which to stock: Five to six shrubs, 100 early tulips, 100 late tulips, 150 narcissus, 100 Spanish iris, 150 crocuses, 6 large peonies, about 6 rose bushes, 2 dozen daffodils, 3 dozen German iris, 1 dozen columbine, 3 bleeding hearts, with a few nasturtiums if it is desired to have some flowers in the garden through the late summer.

There are also many vegetables which will grow quite as well in a city back yard as in any country kitchen garden. Tomato vines, young onions, young carrots, beans, peas, radishes, parsley, lettuce, spinach, all these could be made to yield a useful amount of pin money to the enterprising girl who can make an arrangement with her family to keep them supplied with fresh vegetables at regular intervals. From the proceeds of the vegetables plot one year enough should be realized for many new shrubs and plants for the beautifying of that part of the garden which is devoted to the cultivation of flowers alone.

In many city houses the clothes' lines have been banished to the roof or to drying racks on the top floor, thus leaving the whole yard free and ready for the entrance of a miracle worker. Instead the transformation from the familiar barren waste of the ordinary back yard to the garden into which this same spot can so well be converted will seem at first little short of miraculous. But this garden is formed just as any other garden of the same size, well laid out flower beds and pebble paths, an arbor at one end, beneath which afternoon tea may be served, a rustic bench or two placed against the rose and ivy covered fences which cast a welcome shade at different hours of the day, in the centre a tiny fountain throwing up a cooling spray all through the hottest days; all this is well within the limits of possibility in any back yard. A narrow wooden balcony with steps leading down from the bay window of the dining room to the pathway among the flowers below can be built at small cost, and where the visitor has had time to grow up over the brick wall of the house the visitor to this one time back yard will imagine herself in a veritable garden of the gods.

THE girl who for one reason or another must remain in town all through the springtime and perhaps must wait until the summer is well advanced before she can get really into the country to enjoy the delight of awakening life in the trees and shrubs all about her can but content herself with the next best thing, she must bring the country to her own city doorstep, or, rather, to her own back yard. And it is astonishing how much of the spirit of the country can be crowded into a tiny back yard with but a comparatively small expenditure of time, ingenuity and the help of just a little money.

### Morning Caps Attractive Work.

WOMEN who are accomplished needlewomen will find a fascinating occupation in making some of the charming breakfast caps now fashionable for gifts to their friends. They are not usually worn by young girls, but as pieces of handwork they are most attractive. No embroidery or lace work is too dainty for their decoration, and they offer an unexampled opportunity for the display of skill and taste. The caps are made in a great variety of designs, according to the taste and appearance of the person who is to wear them. The first question, of course, is what is becoming, and there are quite enough designs in favor to make it possible for a becoming style to be selected for every one.

Some of the caps are full in the crown, with a full ruffle of lace around the face, and others are more flat on top, without any ruffle, and finished around the face with a wide band of lace. The most captivating and charming ones for most persons are those with the full crowns and ruffles, especially for persons with small eyes.

Fine lace of all sorts is used on the caps. Cluny, linen, Valenciennes and the greatest favorites. The lace must be very good, even if it is not real lace, and almost always real lace is used. The material is also of the finest, the most delicate and sheer weaves of linen, batiste and mull, gauze, muslin, &c., are employed. These materials must be exquisitely fine and sheer, as lace so soft, or the effect is not good. Clifton net, plain and embroidered, and silver lace are also used for these caps.

The caps are trimmed with insectings and medallions of lace and narrow braidings on both crown and ruffle, and with hemstitching, drawn work and, in fact, every sort of fine needlework, all of the decoration being kept light and delicate. When they are made of tulle or net instead of wash materials blond lace and the thin Spanish and Irish laces are used. The caps are sometimes lined with a very delicate or in thin silk which is readily removable, so that they may be cleaned or laundered. The ornamentation of the cap matches this color and is in the form of ribbon bows or artificial flowers, or both. Satin flowers and the usual milliner's flowers are both used on the caps. The flowers are fastened in the bow in front or sometimes at one side, and again if the lace faces ruffle will be draped up in several places with knots of the flowers. Satin and velvet ribbon are both used on the caps, and when the material employed is not a wash fabric ribbons with gold or silver patterns are used sometimes or the flowers may have a touch of gold or either. A charming bit of coloring is used in these caps is of ivory rather than in several pure white material, nattie blue velvet ribbon, not very wide, and small white roses. This confection is an exact replica of some similar caps seen in old pictures. The ivory tone, which may be had in either chiffon net or batiste, is frequently more becoming than pure white. Another charming and becoming cap lined with a

delicious awakened the possibilities of their back yards, and though the deep extensions on the majority of city houses have greatly curtailed their yard space, still there is often a small plot of ground left that can be converted into a most fascinating flower garden.

A girl who is really enthusiastic in her love of plants and flowers will want to do all the work herself in her back yard garden. Before she can start in her planting, however, she must first send to a florist for a hired man to dig up the earth thoroughly and have it fertilized with a well rotted manure or a mixture of bone meal and sheep manure can be used. The ground should be dug down from two to three feet, and the fertilizing

should be done as early in the year as possible. If the yard is one of the old fashioned, oblong shape, with a two to three foot border all around, then a flag walk, and in the centre a large plot over which the bars for the clothes lines are placed, the first thing to do is to divide the centre space in half with a cross beam hung from one fence to the other. The lines for the clothes can reach straight back to the kitchen door, and if stretched at double space there will be plenty of room for the largest wash. This half of the centre plot is covered over with roofing pebbles, with asphalt or with cement, the white pebbles looking, perhaps, the most attractive, and also absorbing rain and dampness most rapidly. The earth in the plots bordering the flag walk and the other half of the centre plot is next dug down and fertilized. Instead of the old flags roofing pebbles may be laid on the narrow walk or path, making this garden still more attractive.

WHEN this preparatory work is finished then comes the real fun of a garden—the planting of the first seeds. Colors must be studied for this and a familiarity must be acquired with all the different plants to be used, for it must be known to what height each plant will attain, that the seed may be sown in correct relation to the other shrubs and flowers in the garden, for a back yard garden which will be enjoyed only throughout April, May and at most June only spring plants are to be considered. To commence with, the back fence must be lined with all the different spring flowering shrubs, which blossom only in the season and one after the other keep up a wealth of glory throughout the first warm, sunny days. Lilacs, spirea or bridal wreath, Van Houten

(which grows to a height of from four to five feet), spirea (Philadelphia grandiflora, growing from three to four feet in height), Forsythia (Fortunata), from four to five feet, Pirus japonica—these are about the most satisfactory of the spring flowering shrubs, and, although there are many others to be found in the catalogue, it is perhaps advisable to use only the well tried ones for the first year.

Next spring, after a year's experience, it will be soon enough to commence experiments. These last named shrubs should be planted at a distance of from two to three feet apart. Next, the side fences must be covered for all idea of a back yard is of course to be done away with. For this purpose an excellent, hardy green vine is the enormous radicle, Clouston ramblers should also be allowed to climb over the fence. Another charming climbing flower is the Dorothy Perkins rose.

For border flowers, snowdrops come up first after the frost has entirely disappeared from the ground, next the crocuses, after these gay colored tulips, then the bright yellow narcissus and finally the exquisite bell flowered hyacinth. These border flowers may be planted in rows or in regular clumps, as preferred. Among the crocuses the white, blue or yellow are equally adorable, and these early spring flowers make an exquisite border growing about the edges of the path. Crocuses are not expensive, costing anywhere from 25 cents to \$1.00 or more per fifty.

Narcissus poirens is the charming little of a tiny yellow eyed narcissus costing for fifty plants, from 65 cents up to \$1.00. Tiny Spanish iris is another exquisitely pretty border plant, costing only 30 cents for a hundred plants.

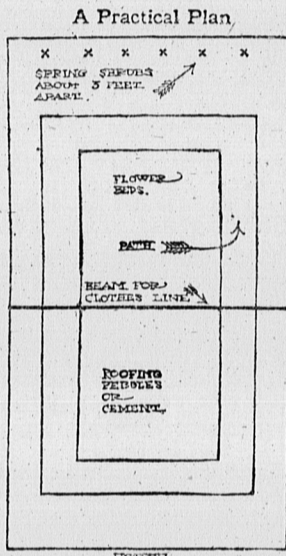
To fill in the centre of the border beds and the foreground the plot there is a great variety of hardy perennials which can be relied upon to bloom in any city garden. Pinks are always effective, but care must be taken to procure two year old plants, else the plant will not bloom the first year. Japanese iris, which will flower until June 15, and the German iris, which blooms so profusely early in May, are a joy to look upon in their full bloom. Columbine is an old fashioned flowering plant, and the old fashioned bleeding hearts should not be omitted from this back yard garden.

No garden is complete, however, without a wealth of roses. A few good varieties of early roses are the Jacqueminot, Madame Plantier, La France, Comete des Blanchais and the Baroness Rothschild. These roses will bloom early in June if planted in a well sheltered spot. Two year old plants should be procured, for this garden must show up to its best advantage its first trial year.

No true flower lover could be content without at least one bed of heartsease in her garden. Parsley, if sown in March in boxes placed in the kitchen window and then transplanted as soon as the plants are big enough, will give a any

hope fulfilled through steadfastness of purpose. From the opening out leaf by leaf, of the bud until it reaches its full bloom a flower is the only thing of perfect beauty in the world. This is why children are encouraged to love flowers and why in all Sunday schools a growing plant is given away to each child on Easter day. Through caring for the plant and watching the buds daily turn into beautiful flowers it is hoped that some of the spirit of its beauty may be absorbed, and a sense of beauty cannot fail to bring with it a higher sense of good.

There should be a deeper respect therefore given to the little Easter flower. If only more of those who run might rather than right, perhaps its moral lesson would be remembered long after its brief life is over and it goes to sleep again, not to be awakened until a new year has come and the lesson must once more be taught, lest we forget.



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### PRACTICAL TALKS BY THE APRIL GRANDMOTHER

BECAUSE a dim light strains the eye and the lids dried with a fresh, soft handkerchief, rubbed toward the nose, the better to prevent the formation of wrinkles about the eyes or upon their lids.

"Eyes that have been overworked in the daytime," continued the April Grandmother, "should be given absolute rest at twilight, and during the evening hours, sewing and cards should be taboo, because the delicate ocular muscles strained by fatigue make the lids blink. This habit usually shows its traces in a network of fine lines all around the eyes, but especially beneath them, where the lines quickly degenerate into wrinkles. At the first indication of incipient crow's feet a girl should break herself of blinking, meanwhile preventing the muscles below the eyes from shrinking by lightly rubbing the entire with a very little cold cream applied every night directly after the face has been washed with warm water.

"Slightly inflamed eyelids, which frequently are caused by straining the sight," continued the April Grandmother, "may be relieved by bathing them with a solution of salt or boric acid in pure tepid water or with two or three drops of witch hazel in a glass of hot water. The acid should always be applied from a bottle cover the desk or they may be small pieces that are picked up and laid over the writing to blot it. If the large sheets are used they must be kept in a drawer of the desk and one taken out as it is needed; but the small ones can be fastened together at one end, the whole pad kept on the desk and one sheet torn off when wanted.

### A Flower the Symbol of Easter.

IT is impossible to think of Easter time without a vision of myriads of glorious, colored, exquisitely perfumed flowers. Yet how many remember when we pass the crowded florist's windows, or even when we stop to make our own purchases of flowers for use who are nearest and dearest, that we choose a gift of a growing plant because "the symbol of the spirit of Easter is a flower? The plant is so pretty in coloring and so suggestive of the springtime we think that perhaps it will bring a moment of cheer, and so we send it to the friend we love.

But the Easter flower is more than this. It is an object lesson of the best there is in life and may be taken as an example of the best lives that have ever been lived. From the first brave little green blade which conscientiously thrusts its way up through the gray brown earth a flower breathes a spirit of determination, of hope, and, finally, of hope fulfilled through steadfastness of purpose. From the opening out leaf by leaf, of the bud until it reaches its full bloom a flower is the only thing of perfect beauty in the world. This is why children are encouraged to love flowers and why in all Sunday schools a growing plant is given away to each child on Easter day.

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### CHARMING SATIN SACHETS.

ATTRACTIVE sachets, which one may make for gifts are now made up in bundles of three and tied together with charming ribbon. In the ribbon bow a flower made of satin is fastened. The favorite shape for these sachets just at present is rectangular. The sachets are fairly large, about seven inches by five, and are wadded so as to make them a little plump. They are made of satin in delicate colors and have no ornamentation usually, although some of them are embroidered. They are placed one on top of the other and tied as described, the idea being, of course, that they shall be united and distributed for use.

The ribbon and satin rose or other flower which decorates them is only a dressing to make them more attractive as a gift. The flower is made of the same satin as the sachet sometimes, or it may be in a different shade of the same color. A rose pink trio of sachets was decorated with a pink satin rose. Three white satin sachets had a branch of white daisies thrust through the white ribbon which tied them, while another group of white sachets was decorated with a white satin rose. Violets decorated a group of three sachets in a lighter tone of violet satin than the flowers, and a series of pale blue sachets were tied up with a pink satin

### A Writing Desk Convenience.

ONE of the most useful things a girl or, indeed, any one at all, can possibly have for her desk is a calendar blotter. How often when writing a letter does one have to stop and think what day of the month it is, and, although there may be a calendar in the desk, there are surely many times when it cannot be found at the moment it is needed. And the blotting paper is often old and nearly worn out before one remembers to get a new piece. Both of these little troubles are done away with by having a calendar blotter.

The blotter can be made with either twelve sheets of blotting paper or six, according to whether its owner writes much or little, and also whether she uses up blotting paper quickly or not. There is a very great difference between different people on this question. The sheets of paper may also either be large enough to cover the desk or they may be small

### Smocked Frocks for School Girls.

FAVORITE "best frocks" for school girls just now are the smocked frocks which have no other trimming but this form of needlework. They are turned out by leading houses in Paris and London and are exquisitely made and of the finest material. Crêpe de Chine, voile de soie and similar soft materials are used for these frocks. They have no lining and are all in one piece. The yoke and collar are formed of the smocking. The upper part of the sleeve is smocked and the lower part also. The smocking also forms the belt, which is usually quite wide. The skirt is full and finished with a hem. Although excessively simple, the beauty of the material and workmanship and the lovely colors of these frocks render them suitable for almost all occasions in which school girls take part.