

Strange But True

Sign in front of the New England Telephone Company's building in Lincolnville Center, Maine: 24 hours service 8 a. m. - 8 p. m.

More synthetic fibres creep into bed covers as wool prices soar. - Wall Street Journal.

Vancouver census 1941 (city only) shows 7,416 persons born in the Maritime Provinces.

Charles Goodyear, of rubber fame, was once imprisoned for food to keep his kids from starving.

William Murdoch was laughed at by Sir Walter Scott and Sir Humphrey Davy when he talked of lighting London by means of coal gas conveyed to buildings by pipes.

Women called Elias Howe a fool and a dreamer when he was working on his machine that has provided a blessing to millions of their sex.

It was the dreaming Baron Haussmann who made Paris the most beautiful city on earth.

It was the toil and the dreams of our pioneer parents who made Prince Edward Island the beautiful place it is today.

A Paris hatter, named Martell, knew the history of the customers whose heads he fitted to hats.

You never saw a daisy trying to ape a sunflower, or a rose trying to be like a lily.

In by gone days in this Island it used to be a law that all peddlers wagons be marked with the owner's name.

The late Marshal Cameron once accosted a peddler in Charlottetown whose name had been erased from the wagon by some small boys.

"Is that your wagon?" bellowed the City Marshal.

"Of course it's my wagon," said the driver. "Why? What's wrong with it?"

"I observe," said the Marshal, "that your name is obliterated."

"You're wrong," smiled the driver. "My name's Dunigan and I don't care who knows it."

Whatever we acquire of real value we must pay for. The things that others do for us are but delusions.

A Country Garden

Continued from page 2

perennials have grown large and can be divided. A splendid way to get a large number of perennials is to grow them from seed at small cost.

The seed should be sown early in May and then the plants will be a good size to transplant to their permanent borders in September and they will bloom the following year.

These perennials are easily grown: Delphinium, Oriental Poppies, Iceland Poppies, Lupines, Thalictrum, Violas, Nepeta, Arabis, Aubretia Iberis Veronica, and in Biennials, Sweet William, Forget-Me-Not, (Myosotis) in the catalogue, Canterbury Bells, Foxglove, Hollyhock, and fragrant Wallflowers.

In shrubs, my favorites are: Lilacs that are hardy and fragrant, Philadelphus (Mock-Orange) fragrant and lovely, Honeysuckle is very showy and it is covered with berries in the Fall and the birds love them; other good shrubs are: Barberry, grand in the late summer with scarlet berries, and the Viburnums in many varieties that we call the snowball.

In the preparation of the perennial border see that there is good drainage as this is most important; then manure with some barnyard fertilizer, cow manure is best, but all kinds have been used in this garden with good effect.

I hope that some of this information will be helpful to those who have asked for it. I am amazed at the number who are planning and longing for a garden in the country.

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Today, this is the chief source value we must pay for. The things that others do for us are but delusions. Every one of us, whether we realize it or not, are personal

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Canadian Garden Service 1951

By Gordon Lindsay Smith

Take A Chance For the main plantings it is not advisable to plant or set out too soon. With moderately tender things little is to be gained by planting until both the soil and air have started to turn warm and spring has really arrived.

Ellen's Diary Continued from page 2

In tune with the ever mounting cost of living, a concern of both the seller and buyer, we noted the price had advanced several hundredfold since our buyings of these began. James reckoned it was just as well the bridge was not today, since more than one salesman of household gadgets was obliged to turn back at lane's end.

Slim seeds of Bachelor's Buttons came to light today in a cupboard-clearing, a promise of graceful additions to summer bouquets - delightful blue shades to complement August's yellows. It is of interest to note that flower-seeds sown in a new garden in the community the last day of March, of this strange and lovely spring on The Island are now growing thrifflily - having been given protection to tide them over the one night of frost since then.

As seed is the only factor in gardening over which man has absolute control, and as it costs a few cents a package for all that which will be needed in a normal garden for a whole year, nothing but the best should be considered.

Probably the two commonest mistakes are too thick and too deep in sowing flower and vegetable seed. One should remember that all these things require room, even tiny things like alyssum or radish or onions.

With big things like peas, beans, etc., it is not hard to space as we plant, but with tiny seeds it is more difficult and after the plants come up they should be thinned. To spread very small seed more evenly some experts mix with a little sand or fine soil and sow the mixture. The general rule for depth is three times the diameter.

Nothing that grows should be thrown away. This would be a mighty good motto for any gardener, or farmer too, for that matter. The man who dumps all the weeds and cut grass into the garbage pail is actually tossing away his soil. All garden refuse, weeds, grass clippings, leaves, etc., will rot down into excellent soil, and so will a lot of other things if we give them a little encouragement.

Usually a corner of the garden, screened with shrubbery or something else and away from the house, is selected for this soil-making business. It is technically known as composting, and the material is a compost heap. Simply select a fairly well-drained spot and here dump leaves, weeds, grass and whatever is collected. Over this we sprinkle a layer of earth and the process is repeated each time we add some refuse. If available add some manure and possibly a little lime and commercial fertilizer. It's a good plan to soak this pile occasionally with water and also turn it over once or twice to assist decomposition. In a few months this pile will break down into first-class, rich garden soil. The process can be hastened by using some of the various patent chemicals on the market.

Most flowers and vegetables fall into three main classes - hardy, semi-hardy and tender. In planting we should bear in mind that the first group are not afraid of frost, the second can take a little but they don't like it, the third will be killed just as sure as tomorrow if the mercury falls below 32 degrees.

In the first category come flowers and vegetables that under normal conditions would seed themselves. These are things like alyssum, cosmos, poppies and scores of other flowers. They are all specially listed as hardy in any good Canadian seed catalogue and are similarly described on the seed packet. Among vegetables will be lettuce, spinach, carrots, parsnips and, of course, garden peas.

In the second group there is a great variety of flowers. It is at this time, when danger of serious frost has passed, that we get the first of started plants transplanted outside - things like petunias, zinnias, etc. In the vegetable line, the main planting of beets, carrots, etc., will go in at this period.

For the tender group - soil, as well as air, must be warm before these go outside. Of course with seed and bulbs, which will not be pushing through the surface for a few days, one can gamble a little, but as a rule with the tender group there is nothing to be gained by rushing in ahead of time unless special protection is provided such as glass or paper caps. Among the very tender flowers are canna, gladioli, dahlias and any other very soft, fleshy stemmed plants. The melons and squashes come in this group and so do cucumbers, peppers and pumpkins. Corn and tomatoes are also associated with warm weather and as a rule the main planting of both usually go in then.

Once upon a time, as they used to say in the children's bedtime stories, only a few flowers and vegetables could be grown in such a small space. Either the growing season was too short, or the plants took too long to mature which, in saying about the same thing. But that's far from the case today, thanks to the plant breeders and others. The problem was tackled in two ways. First, plants were developed that grew and matured more quickly; secondly, experts hunted all over the world, and particularly in climates similar to ours, for new species that have since been introduced here. This work is still going on and as a result each year sees something new. We can, if we wish, add to our flower or vegetable garden. These new, quicker-growing, hardier plants permit us to extend gardening farther and farther north or into other areas where frost lingers late in the spring and comes early in the fall. Not many years ago one would hardly dare try melons, squash, cucumbers, tomatoes, corn, and even less tender things, in many parts of the country, where they are now grown successfully.

And there is still another way to extend the range of gardening. We start seed indoors in flats or greenhouses, and after danger of frost is over we set the well-started plants outdoors. For a long time most of us have been doing this with certain flowers and vegetables like cabbage, tomatoes, petunias, asters, etc., but some of us have not realized that we can extend this list almost indefinitely. Melons, head lettuce, beets, even a little corn, and practically every annual can be given this early start. In this way we can gain a fortnight or more and have things flowering or maturing well before the first frost.

Another and still easier way to speed up is to plant the seeds in special well prepared, rich hills, then cover with some of the new wax paper caps or sheets of glass. Where one would not risk such plantings before, say, May 15th in the open, with this extra cover over seeds or plants one can safely start at least two weeks earlier.

Why are his vegetables so much more tender than mine? we sometimes ask ourselves after trying out the neighbour's garden. The answer usually boils down to this: "He grows them faster." The sooner such things as beets, carrots, cabbage, lettuce and peas grow to eating size the more tender, crisp and delicious they will be. It is the slow growing and stunted vegetables that become woody. Smart gardeners hasten growth by using the best seed of good varieties, then pushing it by regular cultivation, watering if needed and possible, and a little extra commercial fertilizer. They also make sure that young plants have plenty of room to develop. With such things as carrots and beets, this means an inch or so when they first come up, then in a few weeks every other plant is removed and eaten in the tender, baby stage. Gardeners, looking for top quality, harvest their vegetables when they have reached the right stage and they pop them into the pot fast. In a matter of hours, for instance, corn and peas start to lose their fresh garden flavor as their sugars turn to starch.

When you live in a city apartment, but buy the garden magazines, and read the garden articles in your newspaper? Then this is written for you. Your interest in gardening is deep seated, and you will be happier if it can be satisfied. Why not try a window box garden this spring? This is the type of garden which everyone can grow, whether he lives in a suburb or a city. It will serve two purposes, first to decorate the house you live in and what is even more important, it will satisfy to a surprising degree your desire to grow things.

To get this satisfaction, you must give serious attention to selecting the plants to grow, preparing fertile, porous soil, and if possible growing your own plants from seed. It will be an excellent beginning to construct your own window box, which can easily be done from the diagram herewith.

For a standard single window, a box 3 1/2 feet long, 8 inches deep and 10 inches wide is a good size. But measure your windows and make boxes to fit. Where larger or multiple windows demand greater length, the other dimensions must be larger in proportion, or single boxes may be provided for each window in a group.

Think of the box as a decoration of the house; make it of a suitable size and a color to match the house color or trim. The flowers should be chosen to furnish a contrasting, yet harmonious color accent. There is a wealth of suitable varieties from which to choose.

Rich soil, of the type which florists call potting soil, must be used for window boxes. Because there is so little of it to feed the flowers, it should be well fertilized. A table-spoonful of chemical plant food for each square foot of soil should be used. For the annual flowers, at least six hours of sun a day is necessary and this requires a south window. The best subjects are those of dwarf or trailing habit, the latter drooping festoons of bloom from the boxes. Petunias of the balcony type are excellent, as are the tall nasturtiums, the giant morning glories. Dwarf petunias, marigolds, ageratum, calipsois, annual pinks, lobelia, dwarf morning glories, phlox, and zinnias can be grown.

Boxes which spend most of the day in shade offer a special problem. If the shade is that of a building, perhaps only foliage plants can be grown, such as ferns, fancy leaved caladiums, crotons, rubber plants and other florists' subjects. If there is some sun, begonias will probably do well. Impatiens, the Zanzibar balsam, bearing flowers of salmon or rose on bushy plants 18 inches tall, are excellent in semi-shaded places. Violas thrive in partial shade, and the list of flowers which will do well increases as the amount of sun is enlarged.

When Sol Is Fit Above, and in many garden articles and bulletins, appear the caution "when the soil is fit to work". What does that mean? If one can walk through the garden without getting one's shoes really muddy or if when one squashes a handful of soil it crumbles rather than packs into a hard ball, then the ground is fit to cultivate and plant. If it is wetter than this it is too soon, and with heavy soil it will do harm to work it. It is very liable to bake hard later on into lumps that will take half the summer to break up.

Small Cost But Vital Too much emphasis cannot be laid on suitable seed. Suitable seed is more than just pure, high quality, graded seed. It is seed of varieties especially selected and for Canadian conditions. In vegetables it also means that the variety has been approved and tested officially for Canada.

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And there is still another way to extend the range of gardening. We start seed indoors in flats or greenhouses, and after danger of frost is over we set the well-started plants outdoors. For a long time most of us have been doing this with certain flowers and vegetables like cabbage, tomatoes, petunias, asters, etc., but some of us have not realized that we can extend this list almost indefinitely. Melons, head lettuce, beets, even a little corn, and practically every annual can be given this early start. In this way we can gain a fortnight or more and have things flowering or maturing well before the first frost.

Another and still easier way to speed up is to plant the seeds in special well prepared, rich hills, then cover with some of the new wax paper caps or sheets of glass. Where one would not risk such plantings before, say, May 15th in the open, with this extra cover over seeds or plants one can safely start at least two weeks earlier.

Why are his vegetables so much more tender than mine? we sometimes ask ourselves after trying out the neighbour's garden. The answer usually boils down to this: "He grows them faster." The sooner such things as beets, carrots, cabbage, lettuce and peas grow to eating size the more tender, crisp and delicious they will be. It is the slow growing and stunted vegetables that become woody. Smart gardeners hasten growth by using the best seed of good varieties, then pushing it by regular cultivation, watering if needed and possible, and a little extra commercial fertilizer. They also make sure that young plants have plenty of room to develop. With such things as carrots and beets, this means an inch or so when they first come up, then in a few weeks every other plant is removed and eaten in the tender, baby stage. Gardeners, looking for top quality, harvest their vegetables when they have reached the right stage and they pop them into the pot fast. In a matter of hours, for instance, corn and peas start to lose their fresh garden flavor as their sugars turn to starch.

When you live in a city apartment, but buy the garden magazines, and read the garden articles in your newspaper? Then this is written for you. Your interest in gardening is deep seated, and you will be happier if it can be satisfied. Why not try a window box garden this spring? This is the type of garden which everyone can grow, whether he lives in a suburb or a city. It will serve two purposes, first to decorate the house you live in and what is even more important, it will satisfy to a surprising degree your desire to grow things.

To get this satisfaction, you must give serious attention to selecting the plants to grow, preparing fertile, porous soil, and if possible growing your own plants from seed. It will be an excellent beginning to construct your own window box, which can easily be done from the diagram herewith.

For a standard single window, a box 3 1/2 feet long, 8 inches deep and 10 inches wide is a good size. But measure your windows and make boxes to fit. Where larger or multiple windows demand greater length, the other dimensions must be larger in proportion, or single boxes may be provided for each window in a group.

Think of the box as a decoration of the house; make it of a suitable size and a color to match the house color or trim. The flowers should be chosen to furnish a contrasting, yet harmonious color accent. There is a wealth of suitable varieties from which to choose.

Rich soil, of the type which florists call potting soil, must be used for window boxes. Because there is so little of it to feed the flowers, it should be well fertilized. A table-spoonful of chemical plant food for each square foot of soil should be used. For the annual flowers, at least six hours of sun a day is necessary and this requires a south window. The best subjects are those of dwarf or trailing habit, the latter drooping festoons of bloom from the boxes. Petunias of the balcony type are excellent, as are the tall nasturtiums, the giant morning glories. Dwarf petunias, marigolds, ageratum, calipsois, annual pinks, lobelia, dwarf morning glories, phlox, and zinnias can be grown.