

... How Does Your Garden Grow?

EVERY woman loves a garden, every woman is a gardener at heart. Which is only natural, for colour, brightness and beauty in Nature are outstanding. The profusion and variety of her creations every season are impressive: in the home garden winter months have been bright and fragrant with violets and daffodils, camellias and wattle, poppies from Iceland, and anemones from Syria. Now the flowering trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennial plants form a floral calendar of cheerful anticipation—November provides a special opportunity of ringing a change, and supplementing display by making use of some of the many fine flowering annuals.

The hardy and half-hardy annuals afford an excellent opportunity of introducing variety in the garden by changing the colour scheme, but three points must be remembered: the preparation of the land, the selection and arrangement of the plants, and plant-

ing and maintenance. Plants of this class require a rich soil to enable them to show to best advantage. A profusion of blossom makes a heavy demand on constitution, so that with few exceptions a generous supply of humus is required. Where the soil is infested with bad weeds, or is dusty and exhausted by long cropping, it is best removed to a depth of 12 to 18 inches, and replaced with a rich sweet loam. Mix a third part of good decayed farm manure with the lower 6 to 9 inches, and work into the top soil



Rustle of spring, as gay as its tropical bird print, is this informal cotton dress worn by Rosemary Lane, of Columbia studios. Its breezy, fly-away effect marks it for distinction in any summer evening gathering.

an ounce or two of superphosphate, and 4 oz. of bonedust to the square yard. Under good management such a preparation will last for three or four seasons, if the dressing of phosphates is added to the top soil each year as required.

In the selection and arrangement of your plants, your choice is very wide—in fact, almost unlimited. It includes the long list of hardy annuals contained in our seed catalogues, and in addition many perennials, such as dahlias, chrysanthemums, geraniums, and even gladiolus that are commonly used as annuals. In a choice so wide, you can select plants suited to almost any conditions. If your garden is exposed to strong winds, try antirrhinums, calendulas, geraniums, and pelargoniums—these are but a few of the many plants which tolerate or prefer such conditions. Where it is dry you will find, too, that marguerite, carnations, dianthus, eschscholtzias, petunias, and portulacca will flourish.

Well-grown plants are essential to success. Plants that have been forced

in their growth are big, soft, of a rich colour, and poorly rooted. Stale plants are often drawn, hard in flower, and poorly coloured. Good plants are of moderate size, with abundant roots. Plants raised under glass should be gradually hardened off before being placed outside. During the hardening process, plants should be kept rather dry, but a day or so before planting out see that the soil is in good, moist condition that will facilitate successful removal. Set the plants out with a good trowel, firmly and rather deep, 8 to 12 inches apart, and up to 3 or 4 feet apart in the case of dahlias and chrysanthemums. It is better to avoid the taller varieties, which require considerable attention in staking and tying. Patches and strips to be sown with seeds should be attended to, sowing in drills rather than broadcasting, and later water from a can with a fine rose. When the seeds are up, and the plants begin to make new growth—about 10 or 14 days later—lightly hoe the newly-ploughed beds and borders during fine weather to destroy seedling weeds which will also have grown up overnight. When dealt with in this way weeds will cause you no trouble, and the crop comes away rapidly.

There's the sun again! Doesn't the earth smell sweet after the rain? The ground is moist, and just ready for you to give it a little attention—I know there are a hundred and one jobs to be done indoors, but still I ask you, "How does your garden grow?" And I know where I'll find you in five minutes!

"... Only Skin Deep"

The Value of Rest

IT is strange how often, and how easily, we overlook the value of that most important factor in good health—rest. Some of us are inclined to scoff at those who have their daily afternoon nap, but, believe me, it is these scoffers who will one day be the stoutest adherents to their rest hour. Nothing is more vital to a busy mother, who has perhaps started her day earlier than the family and has busied herself all the morning in a thousand and one different ways, than her time of rest, for it is only by having, and insisting upon, her rest that she is fresh and ready to greet the family on their homecoming.

Half an hour spent in the early part of the afternoon in complete quiet is not half an hour wasted: it is thirty minutes well spent, for during that time tired nerves have had a chance to freshen up, and tired spirits have revived. Happy indeed is the home that possesses an old but comfy sofa

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