

# HINTS TO AMATEUR GARDENERS.

## EASY GROWN ANNUALS.

Near almost every home there are vacant spaces which can be transformed into beauty spots at little expense, by growing there some of the easily cared for annuals. There is a host of them, which spring up from seed rapidly and require little attention, while in brilliancy of blossom they are not easily surpassed.

Of the fall growing annuals the cosmos, nicotiana, and cleome are among the deservedly most popular. The better way to plant these is among scattered shrubbery although they can be used in beds. Cosmos blooms in the fall. It grows gracefully to the height of five feet, spreading out rich, green, feathery foliage and bears an abundance of delicately colored single flowers on long stems. It is well suited for cutting. It may be planted close to some unsightly building or fence and will form an excellent screen if trained against a support. The young growths should be drawn gently to the supporting piece of wood and fastened with pieces of rubber or cloth.

The nicotiana's rich foliage and their sweet scented flowers make them indispensable in the garden. Nicotiana glauca grows about two feet high, has an abundance of large white flowers of delicious fragrance. Nicotiana sylvestris grows from four to five feet high and has white flowers. Cleome punicea is a useful plant to grow between shrubs along a fence.

## THE DIETETIC VALUE OF FRUIT.

Place in his garden should be found by every gardener, whether a beginner or a veteran, for a few fruit trees, or many if he has the room. Fruit is as valuable on the table as vegetables, and as necessary to good health. Fruit contains nourishment and is itself a medicine, keeping the system in order, besides being the foundation for the most delicious desserts.

All our fruit contains a large amount of water, sugar, either grape or fruit sugar-free organic acids, protein or albumoids, which are equivalent to white of an egg in food value; pectins, the substance which gives firmness to fruit, the same substance which is found in the crust of bread; cellulose, of which the cell walls are formed, and a small percentage of mineral salts. Different fruits of course vary greatly in food values. Dried fruits have a larger percentage of nutrients than fresh fruit, because of the concentration due to the evaporation process.

Fruit juice consists mostly of water, but it is in its most delightful and refreshing form. The acids are just what the system needs to invigorate it. Malt acid which is found in apples is a good germ destroyer.

If fruit must be purchased, the prices usually paid for it are not high, proportion to the value of the fruit of the purchase. Food in the form of fruit is no more costly than nourishment in meat and bread.

## GROWING APPLES.

Apple trees do best in a fertile clayey loam, or "white oak" soil and on a southeastern slope. They are hardy in the locality. Information may be obtained from the state experiment stations in nearly every state.

The trees should not be planted closer than 24 feet each way. Dirt should be well packed about their roots and cultivation practised for several years. Between the trees crops of potatoes or small fruits may be grown. Clean culture is essential to prevent infection by insects and fungous diseases. The trees should be watched carefully for borers which eat in the trunk. These can be dug out with a knife or killed by pouring a wire into the aperture. The trees give best satisfaction when headed low, so careful pruning is essential. It is well to see that the trunk is shaded on the southwest by a healthy limb which will prevent sun scald.

When the tree is coming into bearing spraying with paris green, Bordeaux mixture is recommended. This should be done after the blossoms fall and again three weeks later. This treatment kills broods of the codling moth and keeps fungi in check.

## LAWNS.

Great care should be taken by the gardener with his lawn. It is the canvas upon which he will paint his flower bed pictures and landscape effects. To be successful he must prepare his canvas well.

The first thing is to grade the ground, smoothing rough surfaces, making proper level stretches and gentle slopes. If possible the lawn should slope from the house. The grading should be done so as to dislodge even by all surface water, avoiding the formation of little runs which might produce washouts.

The soil should be enriched with a liberal supply of well rotted manure. This is essential where the soil is lacking in humus; otherwise bone meal or other good fertilizer is useful and manure often contains the seed of weeds; the ground should be plowed or spaded not less than eight inches deep, removing all the stones and similar material, and the surface made as smooth as possible. Then it is ready for sowing.

One of the best mixtures for the lawn is four parts Kentucky blue grass with one part white clover, sown not less than five bushels of the former to the acre.

Equally good results are usually obtained by the use of red top in place of the blue grass or with equal parts of red top and blue grass and a little white clover. When moisture is plentiful the blue grass forms a softer turf than the red top, but does not seem to endure drought so well. In shady places the blue grass mixture is best. Nothing but pure seed should be sown. Grass seed may be sown profitably in the early spring. It is well to be liberal with the seed, not to scatter it too thinly and to re-seed portions that come up poorly.

## EARLY BLOOMING SPIRAEAS.

Spiraeas are among the most beautiful

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ful of shrubs for the ornament of home grounds, responding readily to cultivation. The varieties of spiraea may be classed in two groups, early blooming and late blooming. The former produce flowers on wood of the previous year's growth; the latter bear flowers on young wood of the current year.

Most of the early blooming spiraeas have dense growing habits and should be thinned out while dormant, but under circumstances must they be pruned in winter or spring as the flowers would thereby be destroyed. Remove only congested growth and weak sprigs, should always be cut when through blooming as this gives the young wood a full opportunity to develop for the following year. Most of the spiraeas are unsatisfactory in shade, or near trees. They do best in the sun and like equally light or heavy soil provided it is well drained.

The "bridal wreath," Spiraea Van Houttei, is one of the most popular early flowering spiraeas. It flowers about the end of May producing white flower clusters in abundant profusion along the curving branches. It grows from 7 to 10 feet high.

Spiraea arguta comes into bloom the week in May, the slender branches being thick with small, dense clusters of pure white flowers. It is quite hardy and can always be depended on to make an effective display. The plant forms a green leaves on the numerous branchlets are retained until late in the season. Its average height is four feet, but in 15 years' time it will grow to six or seven feet tall. The stems assume a red-reddish brown color in winter.

## BRUSSELS SPROUTS.

This vegetable is a valuable addition to the kinds usually grown in the home vegetable garden. It is a close relative of the cabbage and cauliflower, but instead of producing a single head, the plant forms a number of small heads in the axils of the leaves and these heads are called sprouts and are the edible part of the vegetable. The sprouts average one to two inches in diameter.

The seed should be sown in the open ground as early as the weather permits in April. When the plants are three inches high, they should be transplanted or thinned out into rows 24 to 30 inches apart and about two feet apart in the row. The plants must be well watered after they have been moved. As the small sprouts begin to crowd the leaves should be broken from the stem to give the small heads more room. A few leaves should be left at the top of the stem where the new heads are formed.

In warm climates the plants may be left in the open ground all winter, the heads being removed as desired, but in more northern latitudes plants that are well laden with heads are taken up when frost comes and set close together in a pit or cellar, or a "cold frame," a bed covered with glass. With a little soil packed about their roots they may in this way be kept all winter, being used when needed. When boiled or stewed with cream they are delicious.

## A BACKYARD GARDEN.

For the adornment of the city back yard of ordinary size, nothing is more suitable than old fashioned mixed borders where anything can be planted and a bouquet cut away every day without the effect being spoiled.

The back yard of a city lot of 25 or 30 feet is ample room for a garden of those annuals that are easily grown from seed.

If there is a little grass in the yard so that a strip can be left on both sides of the walk from the back door to the woodshed or the alley gate, it will add to the effect. Dig a border from six to eight feet wide along each side, fence the entire length of the yard. Leave the grass strips between the walk and the border, or better still, take up the walk and make another bed down the center. In the yard 30 feet wide, there will be room for a bed three feet wide down the center.

If the woodshed is unsightly, plant climbers such as morning glories, to cover it. Too much cannot be said about the proper preparation of the soil. Dig the border deeply and break up all the large lumps. Dig into the beds a good coat of well-rotted manure and make the surface smooth and even.

If the yard is shaded by adjoining buildings much care should be used in selecting the seed to be planted. There are many annuals which will grow well in the shade. Among the annuals of which the seed may be sown directly in the border are: Antennaria, nasturtium, petunias, minkentia, candytuft, zinnias, cosmoses, gailardias, sweet peas. If space permits, introduce a few hardy perennials, scattered along the border of six or more. Among them are larkspur, peonies, phlox, German iris, columbine, geraniums, geraniums, verbena, heliotrope, dahlias, gladioli, canna, and poliochka may also be planted in the border. It is also an excellent place to plant tulips, hyacinths, and other bulbs.

## KOHLRABI.

Among the most easily cultivated and satisfactory vegetables to grow in the back yard is the kohlrabi. The plant is comparatively little known in America and is generally quite profitable to the market gardener who grows it.

It partakes of the nature of the cabbage, and the turnip and is often used as a substitute for the latter. The plant is very hardy, often enduring severe frosts and also resisting drought. The upper part of the stem swells into a large, fleshy head above the ground, resembling the turnip. The edible part runs from the size of an orange to the size of a man's head. Its flavor resembles both the turnip and cabbage. It can be stored away in winter like turnips.

Kohlrabi is best for the table when about the size of a coconut. It is then tender and of fine flavor, but when it becomes larger, it is tough and stringy. In cooking the vegetable is sliced and boiled until it becomes soft, when it may be served like turnips.

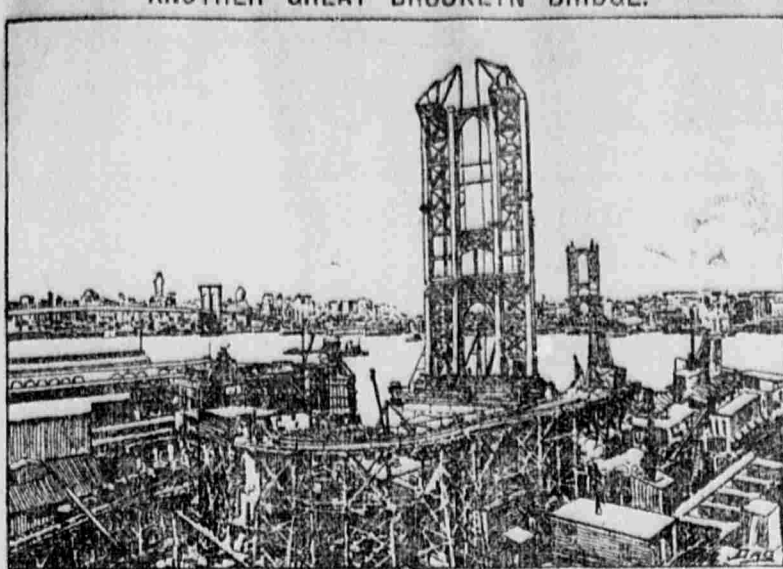
The plant grows best in deep, rich soil, and for early use the seed should be sown as early as permissible out doors. When the plants are three or four inches high, they are transplanted into rows two feet apart, a foot apart in the row. For a late crop, seed should be sown early in May, and another sowing made a month later. The most commonly grown varieties are "early white" and "early purple."

## SHRUBBERY PLANTING.

Shrubbery as a rule is used as a frame for a lawn, and the design of the shrubbery frame should be formed on the same principles as any other frame, a picture frame, the border of a rug, etc. That is, the frame should be in harmony with the picture it encloses. The average shrubbery plantation denotes the effect of the shape, color and general appearance of one the whole.

In choosing plants to grow side by side, consider the foliage and flowers

## ANOTHER GREAT BROOKLYN BRIDGE.



The picture shows the piers for the new Manhattan bridge now being constructed over the East river between Manhattan Island and Brooklyn. Besides the original long famous Brooklyn bridge two other great structures now span the East river, and when the Manhattan bridge is completed there will be four in all.

## A CURE FOR CONGESTION IN CITIES.

Dr. Felix Adler evidently has in mind a new cure for the evils of tenement house congestion, or, at least, he would apply on a more extensive scale and in a larger way a remedy that, if not exactly new, has been tested only within narrow limits. He has no great confidence in the virtue of settlement work or other helpful efforts within the present congested districts. Tenement house reform has swept away the worst of the old conditions, but there are

evils enough now, as he pointed out. The plan to which he gives his approval is set forth in this passage from his recent address at the conference held in the American Museum of Natural History:

"The only solution of the problem which I can see is to move the factories and their people with them and narrow limits. He has no great confidence in the virtue of settlement work or other helpful efforts within the present congested districts. Tenement house reform has swept away the worst of the old conditions, but there are

aroused so as to spend vast sums for it would take vast sums to win this land for the people before this rise in value takes place."

The stock argument against the cure of congestion by dispersion is that the dwellers in the tenements prefer to put up with the discomforts of overcrowding rather than to lead the lonelier, if healthier, life in model communities created at a distance from population centers. They like the society of their kind even at the cost of sleeping half a dozen in a room. This argument is met at once by the very successful ex-

periment of the city and Suburban Homes Company. It is along the lines of that venture, but in a much more extensive way, that Dr. Adler would apply his remedy.

We judge that his appeal is intended to reach the minds of very rich benefactors, men not of a few millions, but of many millions, whose interests in their fellowmen and in the welfare of the community might prompt them to venture large sums for a moderate and limited return, in the buying of land and the building of homes for tenement dwellers upon unoccupied areas near the city, where real estate values have not yet risen to prohibitive figures. The gains of the constant rise in New York realty values have occurred to the rich and to the well-to-do. Dr. Adler apparently hopes by his plan to appropriate some part of this increment among wage-earners who are willing and able

to save enough to buy moderate-priced homes. It is a question of transferring rent payments into purchase payments.

The plan has theoretical virtue enough and a sufficient degree of demonstrated success to commend it to the careful consideration of the philanthropists he addresses.—New York Times.

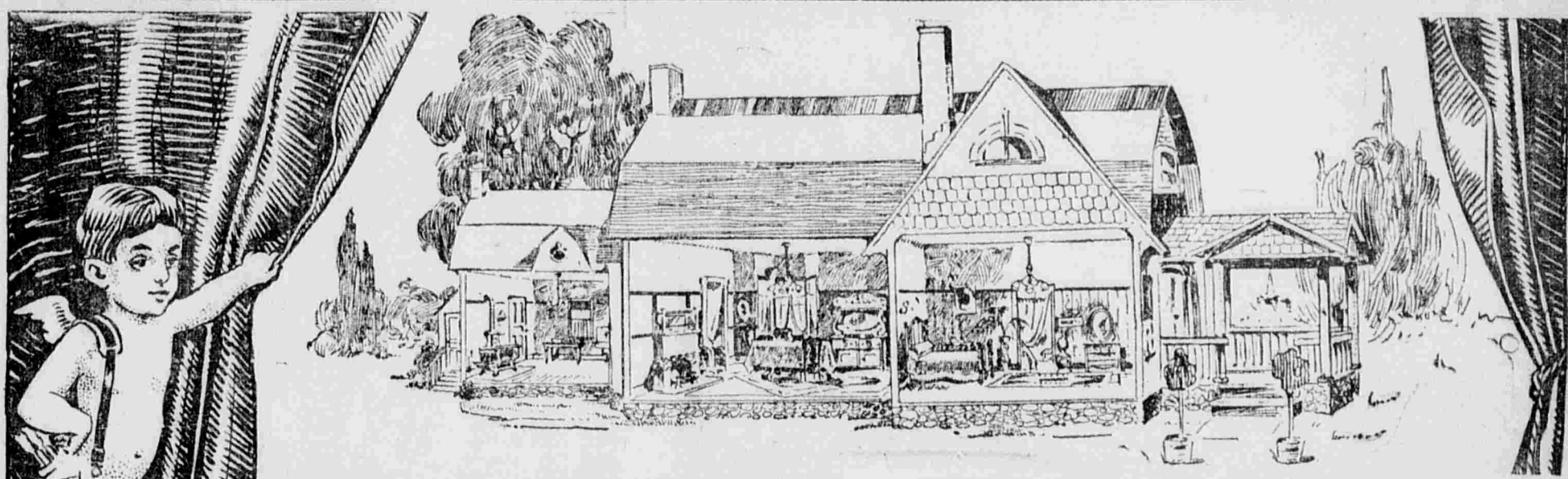
## AGE OF THE LEGAL WIG.

The use of wigs by judges and barristers is not very ancient. It was introduced, toward the end of the seventeenth century, when it had become the fashion at court. Bishop continued to use wigs longer than their clergy, but they have discarded them, to their great advantage, for many years now.—London Morning Post.

## S.S.S. CURES CHRONIC ULCERS.

Whenever a sore or ulcer refuses to heal it is because the blood is infected with poisonous germs or some old blood taint which corrupts and pollutes the circulation. Nothing is more trying than a non-healing, chronic old ulcer. The very fact that it resists all external applications, and ordinary treatments, is good reason for alarm, for the same germ which produces cancerous ulcers is back of every old sore, and especially is this true if the trouble be from any inherited taint. Surface treatment cannot reach the trouble—the blood is at fault and must be purified before a cure can be hoped for. In S. S. S. will be found a remedy for sores and ulcers of every kind. It is a perfect blood purifier—one that goes directly into the circulation and promptly cleanses it of all impurities, poisons and taints. The ulcer can never heal while the blood discharges into it the noxious matter with which it is infected, but when S. S. S. has rid the blood of this cause and freshened and built up the circulation the sore will heal naturally, and of its own accord. S. S. S. begins at the bottom and heals the place as it should be healed and makes a permanent and lasting cure. Book on Sores and Ulcers and any special medical advice desired will be sent free to all who write.

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## HAPPY HOMES

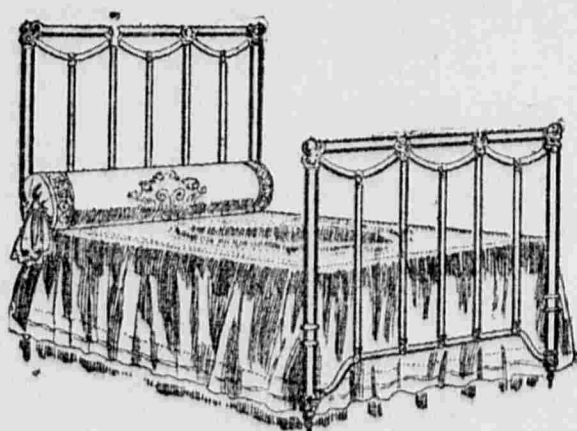
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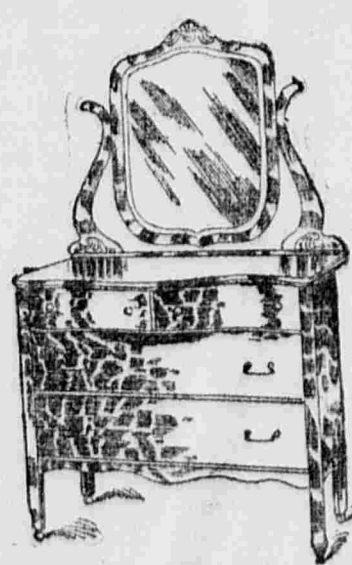
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