

THE SIMPLE LIFE



THE HOME GARDEN

GARDEN CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Order Bulbs now, and full list of Hardy Plants, etc.

Plant: Many Hardy Border Plants in suitable weather. Bulbs, and especially: Phloxes, Pyrethrums, Delphiniums, Gaillardias, Lilies, Crown Imperials, Primulas, Primroses, Polyanthus, Broccoli, Salad Plants, Coleworts.

For: Narcissi, Scillas, Chionodoxa, Frezias.

Sow: Prickly Spinach, Cabbage, Red Cabbage, Colewort, Cauliflower, Tripoli Onion, Lettuce, Cos, and Cabbage, Endive, Turnips for winter, Horn Cabbage, Mustard and Cress Radish, Cucumber in heat, Melons in heat, Primula, Calceolaria, Hardy Annuals for Spring, Mignonette, Forget-me-Not, Grass Seeds, Parsley, Tomato.

VEGETABLES FOR AUGUST SOWING



It will be a surprise to many to realize that a store of vegetables may be started during the month of August and be enjoyed the same year. Some will make a sure crop under ordinary conditions and others will be well worth risking for the interest of the experiment.

Therefore, even though you may have moved from one place to another in midsummer, there is still time to do some gardening.

Our experiences show that all these vegetables are worth a trial for August sowing: Lush string beans, beets, carrots, celery, turnip-rooted chervil, collards, corn, corn salad, cucumbers, endive, lettuce, mustard, Welsh onion, parsley, peas, salsify, radishes, spinach, turnip.

Make sowings of all these vegetables on the first day of the month, or as near to it as possible, for if the fall be an early one the season will be rather short for maturing crops before frost catches them. The hardy vegetables need cause no anxiety on this score as a little frost does not injure them, some of them being safe if left till November for harvesting. Tender sorts may require some protection, such as newspapers or old rugs spread over them on the approach of cold nights.

Several degrees of frost will be endured by lettuce, radishes, beets, spinach, endive, turnips, parsley and carrots.

Some Actual Results

Beans.—Very often the best string beans of the season are the product of an August sowing. Nothing is lost and much is gained by sowing beans early in the month, for an August first sowing was in bearing by September 20th, nearly three weeks ahead of those planted ten days later. The latter planting yielded from the 7th to the 23rd of October. Even so late a sowing at the third week in August produced full sized pods before frost; still so tardy a start is not to be recommended except where earlier plantings are impossible. Improved Golden Wax was the variety sowed August first.

Peas.—While not so profitable as string beans, peas are an interesting crop for August sowing. They are sensitive to adverse conditions and would probably never equal a June yield from plantings of the same variety. Meteoric peas sowed the first week in August bore in early October. A better record was made by Gradus, an excellent sort having pods and peas of unusually large size. In sweetness and productiveness it is also a leader. From a sowing on August 1st pods were gathered in less than seven weeks.

Carrots.—If sowed in the early part of the month carrots will yield roots that are sweet and tender and large enough for immediate use, but not sufficiently mature for storing purposes. Early Scarlet Horn is excellent where a small and early kind is wanted.

Lettuce.—August sowed lettuce is one of the most satisfactory crops of the season, when conditions are favorable. To counteract the effects of a possible hot or dry season, ease in watering and shading should be arranged for when sowing. Seed planted August 3rd produced leaves large enough for the table before the middle of September. Well developed heads from the same sowing were gathered from early October until after the middle of November, a twenty-foot row giving us lettuce that would have cost two dollars if bought in the stores. An ordinary peach basket inverted over the plant as it is growing will blanch lettuce sufficiently to give an attractive color, and at the same time it allows a sufficiency of light and ventilation. Black-seeded Simpson is the variety most highly recommended for August sowing.

Sweet Corn.—Corn is one of the doubtful crops, as it may not come to perfection before severe frost, but if the season be favorable there is great satisfaction in being able to provide fresh corn for the table in October and even November. A very early variety, such as Peep o' Day or Golden Bantam will yield full-sized ears in October. The stalks of these sorts, being so short and slight, might be protected from the first touches of frost. The sowing made August 1st reached perfection October 15th.

Radishes.—This is the quickest crop of all, maturing in eighteen days or more according to the variety. We have made the best record with the rocket sorts, but consider Bright Breakfast one of the finest for quality. Sowings may be made even as late as September.

Turnips.—The White Egg variety of turnip was sowed August 1st and pulled the third week in October, having reached a size of four inches in length and more than seven inches around.

Spinach.—A satisfactory variety of spinach for August sowing is the Victoria. Our August 1st sowing produced plants that were large and tender by the middle of October. One

measured in circumference five feet lacking three inches. If the season be uncommonly hot, try collards instead of spinach.

Beets.—Another vegetable that may be safely recommended for August sowing is the beet. An August 1st sowing yielded tender young roots by the fourth week in September. They reached full size late in October. The growth was more vigorous than early plantings from the same package of seed. There would have been an excellent crop of greens even had the roots failed to mature. As it was the planting provided us with tender roots for the table for six weeks. Columbia, an excellent sort, was used.

Endive.—Sowed August 1st endive reached full size by the middle of October.

Kohlrabi. is a cool weather vegetable and will endure considerable frost. It is worth trying for an August sowing, since it matured in two months when sowed the first week in July.

Cucumbers. in a favorable season, might reach pickling size before frost, and could be added to the list.

Preparations for Spring

Besides sowing for immediate returns there are a few things that must be done now in order to have fresh vegetables in the early spring. Welsh onions are sown now for leaves to be used for seasoning in early spring; salsify, to leave in the ground till spring; celery plants may be set out in August for a late crop; mustard will yield leaves large enough for use in less than a month; corn salad, to protect during the winter and use in early spring. Turnip-rooted chervil should be sowed in August to prevent the seeds drying out as they would

Having thus made the necessary preparations we must now see about securing the plants. The nature of these will, of course, depend upon the object for which they are intended. Where possible, a complete specimen should be preserved, i.e., one possessing roots, stems, leaves and flowers. It is always advisable, where possible, to secure a few extra flowers and fruits for drying. Of course, many plants will be too large for this, and in these instances portions of each organ should be used. Much trouble will be avoided if the plants reach the press in a fresh condition. Roots must be washed clean, and where thick stems, bulbs or roots exist these should be split lengthways, so as to considerably reduce their thickness.

In placing the specimens in the press first lay one of the wire frames flat on a table or the floor, then place several thick sheets of paper on it and then spread out the specimen so that every root, stem, flower and leaf is seen to advantage. Leaves and flowers are often troublesome, as the segments frequently have a tendency to curl up, but any trouble taken with them at the outset will be amply repaid later. A slip of paper bearing the name of the plant and when and where collected should be placed with the specimen, which is then covered with several thicknesses of paper and another plant placed thereon, the process being repeated

mounted a neat label, bearing the name of the plant and any other desired particulars, should be pasted on, and where extra flowers and fruits were secured, they should be placed in a small envelope, which must also be pasted to the sheet. These extra flowers and fruits are very useful for a botanical examination, if such should at any time be desired. The novice will be wise to experiment with a few common plants, both as regards drying and mounting, before dealing with any that are rare or valuable.—The Garden.

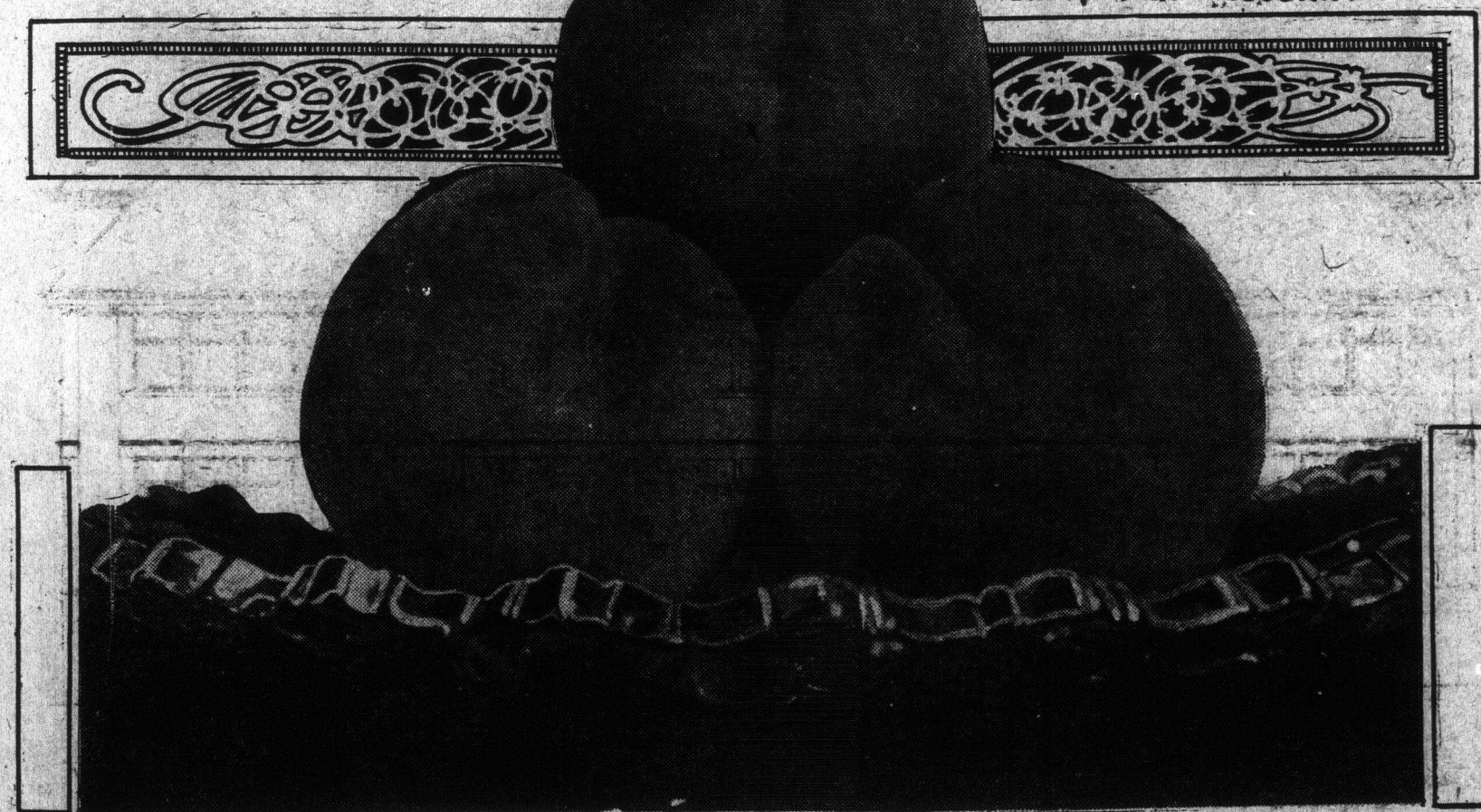
SUMMER CARE OF LAWNS

An important factor in the successful treatment of lawns is watering. Constant moisture is essential in the maintenance of a velvety turf condition. If the lawn is properly mowed, there need be no failure if the owner is situated where there is a good water supply. The water may be applied at any time, but it is better to do it at night or early morning.

When watering a lawn, give it a good soaking. Shift the hose about so that all parts will be reached. Unless watering can be done thoroughly and regularly, it is better not to do it at all.

Mow the lawn frequently as it increases the body of the sward. A lawn should be cut about once a week, with longer intervals during the hottest part of the summer. If the grass is cut often, the clippings may be left on the lawn as they soon will shrivel up and disappear.

ALEXANDER PEACHES GROWN NEAR VICTORIA



if kept till spring; they will not germinate till the following season.

Parsley sown on August 1st made a growth of three inches, giving plants large enough to transplant to a box for winter growth indoors. It thrives in the same conditions as other houseplants and makes a constant and vigorous growth. A half-dozen roots in a box that measures a foot square will be sufficient for a family of ordinary size.

One point is important in all seed sowing in hot dry weather. The soil must be firmly pressed after the seeds are planted. As soon as the seedlings reach a size where cultivation is possible, the surface soil should be well stirred and kept so during the entire season. This treatment keeps down the weeds and provides a mulch to prevent the escape of moisture.—Garden Magazine.

DRYING, MOUNTING AND PRESERVING PLANTS

During the summer months many readers will be visiting remote country districts, famous gardens, or, perhaps, taking a trip abroad, and it frequently happens on such occasions that plants are secured which one may desire to press and preserve as dried specimens. Although many plants are comparatively simple to thus preserve, there are others that will give considerable trouble if not handled properly, but if the following hints are carefully observed these difficulties may readily be overcome. If one intends preserving plants in this way on an extensive scale a wire lattice work press should be obtained. This ought to consist of two frames measuring approximately 18 inches by 13 inches, these being held together by four wooden cross-bars (two at each end), which must project about 3 inches over each side of the frames. Through these projecting ends holes are bored so that a bolt and thumb-screw can be used at each end of the cross-bar for tightening the whole. A more simple plan is to use a good stout pair of leather straps for the purpose. In addition to the press a good supply of paper, folded to the size of the press, will also be needed. Although tough blotting paper is much the best for aquatic plants and those of a succulent nature, old newspapers will answer admirably for the majority of plants.

until all have been dealt with, when the press is strapped or screwed moderately tight and placed in a hot or sunny position. Where the plants are of a sticky nature they should be first placed between tissue paper, this being retained on the plants until they are quite dry. The press must not be filled too full at once, a total thickness of plants and paper of 5 inches being sufficient.

For the first few days the paper ought to be changed every day, using dry paper to replace those used, and taking care to bring those plants that are in the centre of the press one day to the outside the next, and vice versa, the object being to get them dry as quickly as possible. After, say, five days, it will suffice with most subjects if the papers are changed every other day.

When the plants are quite dry they may be either mounted at once or placed between dry sheets of newspaper, each with its label, and the papers tied into a bundle and stored in a dry place until mounting can be done. The regulation size of the papers on which plants are mounted is 10 1/2 inches by 15 1/2 inches, and it is wise to use white paper of stout texture. Where large plants have been dried it will, of course, be necessary to mount them in sections on a number of sheets. Although any good paste will do for mounting, gum arabic is the best, this being used in a rather thick condition. It should be applied to the whole of one side of the plant with a small brush, the specimen being then placed on the sheet of paper and firmly pressed down with clean cloth. A reasonable amount of care will be needed in this operation, as many plants are very brittle when dried. Where possible one or more leaves and flowers should be mounted so as to show the under surface. Where thick stems and roots exist, it will be necessary to use narrow strips of thin but strong paper to keep them in place, these being secured by each end to the mounting sheet with the root or stem underneath.

A mistake that many novices make is to mount the plants as nearly as possible in the middle of the paper, with the result that when a number have been done the pile of papers and plants is much thicker in the middle, this causing the sheets to curve badly. This is easily avoided by placing some specimens towards the sides of the sheets. As each plant is

in order that trees and shrubs will not suffer by growing sod, circles should be kept around them without grass and the surface soil within same should be kept loose with the hoe. These circles make it possible, also, to keep the grass cut by means of the mower instead of having to use hand shears close up to trunks.

If you want a first-class top dressing for the lawn this fall, begin the preparation of same about the last of August. Secure equal parts of good, clean soil, and well-rotted stable manure. Turn occasionally until October and then spread on the lawn.

VANCOUVER ISLAND PEACHES

The Alexandra Peaches illustrated on this page were grown by Mrs. S. Walker, at Gordon Head, near Victoria, on a five-year-old tree in the open orchard. It is being daily demonstrated that by a proper selection of varieties, and thorough cultivation, Vancouver Island will in the near future, be classed as one of the finest peach countries on the continent. The samples shown could not be beaten for size, flavor, color and appearance.

THE GREENHOUSE

A Fragrant Greenhouse Shrub

(Michelia Fuscata)

Although the flowers of Michelia fuscata are not so showy as are those of many of the species of Magnolia, to which it is related, they compensate for lack of size and color by the delightfully refreshing perfume which they exhale when the sun shines on them. An old garden plant, Michelia fuscata was figured in the Botanical Magazine just over 100 years ago under the name of Magnolia, and from the text accompanying the plate we learn that it was "introduced to this country from China by Mr. Evans of the East India House, in whose valuable collection it first bloomed in 1802."

The name Michelia is in commemoration of the Italian botanist Micheli, and the specific name fuscata is descriptive of the brown-colored buds and young wood, which are clothed with a soft pubescence, and the reddish brown flowers. The essential points which distinguish Michelia from Magnolia are the position of the flowers (which, instead of being on the ends of the branches, are in the axils of the leaves)

and the number of seeds (of which there are two in each carpel in Magnolia and more than two in Michelia).

About a dozen species are known, and these are inhabitants of South and Southwestern Asia, including the islands of the Indian Archipelago; but M. fuscata is the only one in general cultivation. In the Southern States of North America, where it is perfectly hardy and frequently cultivated, it is known as the "Banana shrub" on account of its Banana-like perfume. It requires the protection of a cool greenhouse in this country, and succeeds best when planted in a bed of good loamy soil, in which position it will attain a height of from 5 feet to 8 feet. Cuttings of the ripened wood root readily if inserted in sandy soil and placed in bottom-heat.

Michelia fuscata is an evergreen shrub clothed with ovate, lance-shaped leaves 4 inches to 6 inches long, strongly veined on the under surface and alternately arranged on the branches. The flowers are produced from early spring till September. They are about 1 inch to 1 1/2 inches in diameter, composed of six perianth pieces of a reddish brown color, edged with carmine and cream-colored on the back. In the absence of light they remain in a half-opened condition until they fall, but on a bright day they expand fully, forming star-shaped rosettes with a central tuft of stamens and a pointed pistil, and fill the whole house with their fragrance, which suggests Bananas according to some opinions, and according to others Pineapples.—H. Spooner.

THE ENRICHMENT OF THE ORCHARD SOIL

Why should it be necessary to enrich the orchard soil? In the first place because there is an annual draft on the available soil plant food by the trees. We have done a considerable amount of work on the chemistry of the apple and I compute from our analysis that the following amounts of the essential elements of fertility are removed in ten years per acre, (i.e., by 40 trees, when the orchard is in full bearing): Nitrogen, 600-650 lbs.; phosphoric acid, 135-150 lbs.; potash, 700-850 lbs. These amounts are distributed, of course, between root, trunk, branches, twigs, leaves and fruit; a part is locked up in the wood of the tree, a part is lost in the leaves and fruit. Compared with other farm crops, the orchard is not exhaustive in the sense that that term is usually applied, but nevertheless our results show the necessity for a continual supply of plant food in an available form.

Some years ago we analysed four well known varieties of apples and from the data then obtained, and assuming a yield of 700 barrels per acre, I calculate that the amount of plant food removed in the fruit from this area, per annum, would be from 9 to 10 lbs. of nitrogen, 5 to 6 lbs. of phosphoric acid and 32 to 35 lbs. of potash. These amounts are by no means excessive.

We also analysed the leaves of the apple tree, collected in May and September. We found that, as the leaves ripened, there was a considerable return of the plant food they contained to the wood so that the fallen autumn leaves are not as rich in potash and phosphoric acid as when they were younger. However, 1,000 lbs. of the leaves in September still green and containing a percentage of moisture, would contain nearly 9 lbs. of nitrogen, almost 2 lbs. of phosphoric acid, and approximately 4 lbs. of potash. It has been estimated that in the fallen leaves per acre an annual loss may ensue of approximately 23 lbs. of nitrogen, 6 lbs. of phosphoric acid and 12 lbs. of potash. A part of this may, of course, be returned to the soil, but owing to high winds in the autumn, it is extremely doubtful if much of it gets back to where it came from, unless there is a cover crop to hold the flying leaves. So far as the soil is concerned, the plant food stored up in the wood and that in the fruit must, of course, be regarded as lost.

Without unduly lengthening this paper, I cannot discuss in any detail the losses of soil plant food in other ways. If the orchard is in sod and the hay removed, the exhaustion is greater than that incidental to the growth of the trees. If on the other hand, the soil is continuously under cultivation there necessarily follows a very considerable loss of nitrogen and destruction of humus. This fact we have established in the Experimental Farm laboratories. It is very evident, therefore, that under all ordinary conditions there must be a return of plant food if the orchard is to thrive. We think this in the majority of instances can be accomplished in the most economical and satisfactory way by the growth and turning under of one of the legumes. This class of plants might be known as nitrogen-collectors, for they are able through the agency of certain organisms (bacteria) that reside on their roots to appropriate and build up into their tissues free nitrogen from the atmosphere.

WINTERING PANSY PLANTS

Pansy plants will live all winter when the seeds are sown in August; and the object is to carry them over the winter to flower early the next season. Plants that have already been through a winter cannot be expected to endure a second winter under ordinary conditions, and if it is desired to carry a stock over for a second year, the most reasonable plan would be to take cuttings in the late summer and carry them over winter in a coldframe. In very cold climates it might be necessary to protect the plants, whether cuttings or seedlings, by a light mulch of salt hay, straw or leaves.