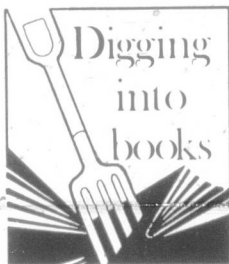


Combine wood, concrete, plants

PLANNING FOR BEAUTY. This homeowner carefully planned his backyard for beauty — and for people! Note the use of wood, concrete, potted and ground plantings and the accents of rectangular and round shapes. The trees provide a beautiful "picture frame" for this family's outdoor living room.

In your garden



If you don't have the answers the library is the place to go

Some people like digging their teeth into things just as much as digging with a trowel. It's for such as these that *Gourmet Gardening*, by Hamilton Tyler, is intended.

The book is a guide to some of the best things that can be grown at home to grace the table.

A few are exotic, others are ordinary vegetables in select and classic varieties — unobtainable unless you grow them yourself.

You can find out how to grow a little coriander, or a few wine grapes — and the book tells how to make your own curry and your own wine.

There are paragraphs on flageolets, which, believe it or not, are beans.

Recipes included, this is recommended reading.

There's an interesting chapter in *The Sunday Gardener*, edited by Alan Gemmill, about crop rotation in a small vegetable garden. It is exactly the information required by those who take their organic gardening as a life commitment.

But accept the text warily; the book is from Britain, and you'll need to make your own allowance for differences in climate. Other than that, *The Sunday Gardener* is for those with only limited time to spend plotting.

For those who love gardens but don't love gardening, *Mini-Work Gardening* by W. E. Shewell-Cooper declares it is possible to grow flowers, vegetables, shrubs, trees and bushes without digging at all.

It's a British book and an advocate of the mulching method. If you don't dig, says the author, you don't disturb those years-old chickweed and groundsel seeds that only need the touch of a hoe to burst into bloom and strangle the seeds you've planted.

Mulch is added on top of the soil, the garden is never dug, and better flavored fruit and vegetables result. Or that's what the book says.

Herbs and the Fragrant Gardens by Margaret

Bromlow has all sorts of spicy information in it. The berries of Juniper communis, for instance, are used in Germany as a condiment sometimes to flavor sauerkraut. It adds flavor to gin and it's claimed to relieve rheumatism, liver troubles, and other complaints.

But don't get it mixed up with Juniperus sibirica, where the fresh tops are gathered in the spring and dried for medicinal use. Sibirica can be poisonous in large doses.

Other odds and ends: Nasturtium seeds can be used as a substitute for capers, mullein leaves can be smoked to relieve a hacking cough, a tea made from viper's bugloss has been used to alleviate headaches and fevers.

An excellent book for those who like herbs and their histories.

The taste of garden-fresh produce can be savored all year by using Jacqueline Heriteau's *The How to Grow and Can It Book of Vegetables, Fruits and Herbs*.

Published last year, the books cover many of the latest trends in gardening, such as co-operative community gardening for urban gardeners who are short of space.

Heriteau's experience in writing cookbooks is put to good use in chapters covering the preservation

of fruits, vegetables and herbs. Detailed information is given about how to freeze, can or dry over 200 foods.

For gardening amateurs who want to enjoy the rugged beauty of nature, Frances Tenenbaum's *Gardening with Wild Flowers* is an excellent book.

Tenenbaum tells how to plant wildflowers in a formal garden, in natural settings such as woodlands, seashores, ponds, brooks and soggy soil and tells how to create a meadow for wildflowers.

Problems to watch for when using wildflowers as a food, collecting them as a hobby or buying them to grow, are also mentioned.

Jean Hersey's *Flowering Shrubs and Small Trees* is an attractive guide to seasonal bloom.

You can plan a garden landscape which will bloom in spring, fall or winter by using the descriptive information given for 169 varieties of common flowering shrubs and trees. The guide tells how to start each shrub or tree, what kind of environment encourages growth and the ways in which these trees and shrubs can be used. There is information about the height, fragrance, colour and flower of each variety. Small color illustrations of each plant are included.

Travel

Making the best of Zurich

ZURICH, Switzerland — Described in travel advertising as the "heart of downtown Europe," bustling, beautiful Zurich is the city visitors love to hate.

Truly the entry and departure point for more parts of Europe and other worldly destinations than even an airline's pilot cares to remember, Zurich has about as much warmth as a banker's generosity and twice the interest.

Because of its position as the banking centre as well as the stopover "must" for tourists hoping to recover quickly from a time change, Zurich knows how to charge for bed and board. Finding something remotely within reason is virtually impossible. The starkest of rooms (no pictures and a view of rooftops so straight they look like guidelines to gravestones) can cost \$35 a night for two, without a modicum of service and with an ear-bending rock muzak as you have breakfast. This, in a sub-

urban stopover — and costing nearly twice as much — but with more elegance, downtown.

Zurich, except when the Alps make their occasional appearance to backdrop the lake, isn't Switzerland. But since you'll likely spend a few days there, make the best of them.

For a start, Zurich is a window-shopper's paradise, especially along the wide Bahnhofstrasse that is often described as the most elegant street in Europe. The elegance comes with window displays unequalled anywhere, and the live "models" who shop them frequently. You'll see the best clothes and the best dressed women along the Bahnhofstrasse, as eager to be seen as to see what the stores have to offer.

The Bahnhofstrasse is also the centre for huge department stores like Globus and Jelmoli, where the crowds crush in to be sold a variety of excellence and junk by talkative demonstrators who make you wonder how you ever lived without the scarf pins or pantyhose they sell.

Ignore the lot of them and make for the basements and the food displays. Both stores excel in providing foods from around the world (including smoked salmon from Canada) that is as attractively displayed as it is expensively priced.

No supermarket methods here (apart from a line-up at the checkout counter) and people buy from display to display, tasting a new after-dinner digestive here or sampling a "special cheese there. When you're not shopping, but just looking and tasting, it's an afternoon adventure into the realms of good eating.

At the bottom of the Bahnhofstrasse is the lake. On a clear day take a ride on one of the steamers that criss-crosses to the villages that border its banks. Any one of them is worth a stopover and walking tour before the

next boat back and, perhaps, tea at the Baur au Lac hotel where music settles your sandwich and pastry.

For many, the best Zurich is old Zurich, up in the naughty Niederdorf where the twin-spired Grossmunster frowns across the River Limmat at the single-spired Fraumunster church.

Stepped in history because Lenin, Trotsky, Kellner, Goethe and a host of other radicals, revolutionaries, writers, artists and philosophers once walked the twisted streets, now hung with prostitutes and jewelled with small artisan stores, the Niederdorf is a safe and interesting area to walk by day or night.

Zurich is a city of love affairs, especially with itself. There are almost more contrasts than there are streets, and the short term tourist will go away with a longing to return, but never for too long.

The following reviews of garden books are prepared especially for The Times by the staff of Central Library.

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