

THE SIMPLE LIFE



THE HOME GARDEN

GARDEN CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Plant—Many hardy border plants if weather suitable. Foliage plants grown in pots. Bedding plants. And especially—Gallardias, Pyrethrum (cut back for late flowering), Delphiniums (cut back for late flowering), Camass, Christmas Roses, Primroses, Polyanthuses, Bulbs, Spiraea, etc., that have flowered. Geraniums, Heliotropes, Brussels Sprouts, Cauliflower, Broccoli.

Sow—Any required for succession. Auroclia, Early Carrot, Broccoli, Mustard and Cress, Endive, Lettuce, Cus and Cabbage, Onions, Radish, Spinach, Colewort, Turnip, Melon on horbed, Quick Growing Peas, Dwarf Beans, Hardy Annuals for Autumn, Primula, Shirley Poppy, Cineraria, Hardy Perennials, Chelidonia, Hardy Biennials, Columbines, Coreopsis, a little Celery, Parsley if not sown, Polyanthus, Cucumber, Wall-flower, Parsley, Calceolaria, if not sown, Primula if not sown, Winter Stocks.

THE GENTLE ART OF WILD GARDENING

ALTHOUGH wild gardening is one of the most delightful forms of floriculture, most people are blissfully ignorant that there is such a thing, while the few who have heard of it generally suppose that it is letting a garden run wild or simply cultivating our native wild flowers. Yet Mr. William Robinson, the distinguished English horticulturist who invented the idea and the name in 1887, expressly declares in his delightful book, "The Wild Garden," that this new kind of garden is primarily for the hardy plants of other countries. While it is proper to confine one's garden to native plants, the spirit of the wild garden is essentially cosmopolitan. The fundamental idea of wild gardening is the arrangement in a nature-like manner of hardy flowers that require practically no care after planting. Moreover, the unit of planting is not one individual (as it may be in the hardy border), but a self-supporting colony—few kinds and good big generous masses that catch the spirit of Nature at her best. How different this is from the absurd notion that wild gardening is the indiscriminate sowing of cheap seeds! Wild gardening stands for simplicity, strength, naturalness, permanence, economy. In the three respects last named it represents the other extreme from formal gardening. Its nearest relative is the hardy border, from which it is distinguished by even greater ease of cultivation and by a larger scale of operations. A little border of wild flowers is a good thing, but it is only a border. Wild gardening is an art, and though it is the one nearest to nature, it requires as much refinement of taste as formal gardening—the art that links gardening with architecture.

The main reason why the wild garden was created is that there are thousands of beautiful plants that are perfectly hardy and easy to grow, but for some reason or other are undesirable for the garden proper or for any place where plants are on dress parade. They may grow too exuberantly, like asters and golden-rods, to the detriment of choicer things; their flowers may be too small except in great masses, or their season of bloom not long enough for conspicuous positions; their foliage may be bad-smelling, sticky, or prickly; the lower leaves may fall off, or the whole plant become yellow and unsightly after flowering, because they are incidental to strong and interesting plant personalities that are a refreshing change from the garden favorites.

But it must not be supposed that the wild garden is merely a plea for "weak brothers." The most popular flower for wild gardens the world over is the poet's narcissus, a plant that does not fail at any point when measured by the hard-and-fast standards of the garden. There are millions of them in the English meadows. Some enthusiasts have been known to plant narcissi bulbs by the thousands. The thing is perfectly practical. It is not a rich man's fad. (The bulbs cost about five dollars a thousand and should be planted in September. Once planted in a proper place they require no further care.) Every home orchard can have its rich, long grass full of precious little flowers. Every poor old woodlot that has been despoiled by fire and cattle until there is nothing left beneath the trees but grass and poor grass at that—may have its native shrubbery and wild flowers restored to it, together with many of the choicest wild flowers of other countries. And above all, we can fill every permanent meadow with "daffodils that come before the swallow dars." The country gentleman who owns a ten-acre meadow, with a little brook running through it, has an unrivalled green canvas upon which to paint one strong, simple picture of surpassing floral beauty. The time required is six months. The cost may be twenty-five dollars.

Thomas McAdam, writing in the June number of the Garden Magazine, says that everyone naturally has at the start two wrong ideas about wild flowers and wild gardening. The first is that wild gardening is merely cultivating the plants and flowers that grow wild in our own country whereas it is also, and chiefly, a plan for growing the plants of other countries that are not suitable for garden cultivation in such a way that they will look like natives of our own country. For example, the favorite plant for wild gardening in this country is the poet's narcissus, a native of the Mediterranean region.

The second notion is that the only way to get wild flowers for one's home grounds is to dig them from the woods, whereas every kind of wild flower you ever heard of or will ever care to grow is cultivated by nurserymen. In some cases these men can actually deliver

plants to you cheaper than you can collect them. In all cases they can supply you with precious kinds that have been exterminated in your locality or never grew there. But the important thing is that these men propagate the plants—they do not rob nature or the public, and, therefore, they furnish us a chance to test our sincerity. For if we really love nature and respect the public's rights we will never pick wild flowers and will dig wild plants only to save them from immediate destruction, as for instance when woods are being cut down by real estate dealers or others. Half a dozen postals will bring you catalogues offering an aggregate of 1,500 species of native perennials, shrubs, and trees. It is so hard to bring home the fact that the necessity of taking plants from the wild never exists, that I must resort to some picturesque form of expression. I, therefore, challenge anyone to name more than six kinds of wild flowers that are worth growing and are capable of cultivation which cannot be bought from some nurseryman or seedsman. If you have a piece of woods of your own, there is nothing more delightful than to fill it with large colonies of wild flowers, because the flowers of the woods, as a class, are more refined than those of the fields, while those of the roadside are coarse and weedy in comparison. You will never get anywhere if you go for a basketful at a time,

which could be supplemented by adding primroses, cowslips, daisies, poppies, as well as a large variety of flowering bulbs, which can be added to the list and obtained locally.

CELERY CULTURE

Celery loves light, rich soil, and the flavor of the plant is much finer from that kind of land than when it is raised on a heavy clay, bog or peat soil. But it also demands plenty of water. Therefore a thorough preparation of the ground in dealing with the crop is more than usually profitable.

I reiterate, celery loves a very rich, light soil, well drained, and it craves plenty of water, often. Dig your trench, or bed, deep, put in some well-rotted manure, or if you can possibly get hold of it, some hen droppings, and if the soil from the chimneys has not gone on the rose bed, add that too. A little bone-meal and wood-ashes will not do any harm, for celery is not subject to indigestion from over-fertilizing.

Celery is an important crop for the home garden, as it occupies ground upon which some earlier crop has already matured. It can follow peas or spinach, for instance. It likes nitrogen in abundance and so does particularly well as a second crop on the ground previously occupied by peas.

sure that the leaves are well up, slide the boards in edgewise, raising the leaves as you make it perpendicular.

If you wish to use drain tile, set the plants a little further apart, according to the diameter of the tile used, five inches, inside measurement, being quite large enough. In order to place a tile over a plant, it is necessary to tie the leaves loosely together, with raffia, soft twine, or better still, with a strip of soft paper twisted, for it will fall to pieces when damp, and the plant will again be free. Tile and boards are best for early celery, and they are both extremely useful for keeping the plant clean, while the tile has the further advantage of keeping it cool. Banking is better for late celery, as it can withstand frost better when protected by earth, and the covering is more natural.

Beds four feet wide, and as long as you choose, may be made, and the celery plants set into them ten inches apart, with boards placed perpendicularly along the edges, to hold the plants in an upright position. I should not care for this method, since it would render weeding very difficult, though it would save land space. This celery would either have to be dug up and blanched by storing, or protected by earth or hay where it stood. I really think, for the amateur gardener, single rows are the best.

PROTECTING THE STRAWBERRIES

For several years I have satisfactorily protected my berries in what seems to be to be an easier manner, and that is by having cat scarecrows in the field. I take long, worn-out black stockings, cut off the feet, stitch the cut end across, pinch up and sew the corners so as to make ears, and sew on pearl buttons for eyes. Stuff them with straw, hay or excelsior, and tie a black cord tightly in place to make the neck. Drive a suitable stick into the ground and set the scarecrow upon it. A number of these will effectually guard the berries from the birds. They are no trouble to make, and accomplish the same results as a real live cat.

PROPAGATING HARDY GARDEN ROSES

The easiest and most satisfactory method of increasing one's stock of garden roses, I have found, is by layering. The special advantages of this method for the amateur are that no greenhouse and no cold-frame are necessary, and indeed no special care of any kind is required.

I have propagated roses in this manner with excellent results for several years, getting stockier, thrifter, and better flowering plants the first year than the two-year-old plants bought at the same time.

Early in June I bend down to the ground the branch to be rooted and with a hammer and forked stake, placed about six inches from the root, drive the branch one and a half to two inches beneath the surface of the soil. This crushes and bruises the branch at the point where it is pegged down, and the bruising seems to accelerate rooting. A hoeful of earth is thrown over the lowest part of the branch and trodden down firmly, completing the operation.

The following spring, when the buds begin to swell, the stalk is cut off at the ground level between the parent plant and the stake and the new plant is lifted up and reset wherever wanted. With rare exceptions, these have a good bunch of roots at the point where staked down and bloom profusely the first season.

The varieties of roses with which I have experimented are the common General Jacqueminot, La France, Paul Neyron, Francois Levet, Anna De Diesbach, and a very old yellow garden rose whose name I do not know. Results were satisfactory with the exception of Paul Neyron, which did not strike roots.—Exchange.

THE MOON DAISY

(Pyrethrum Uliginosum.)

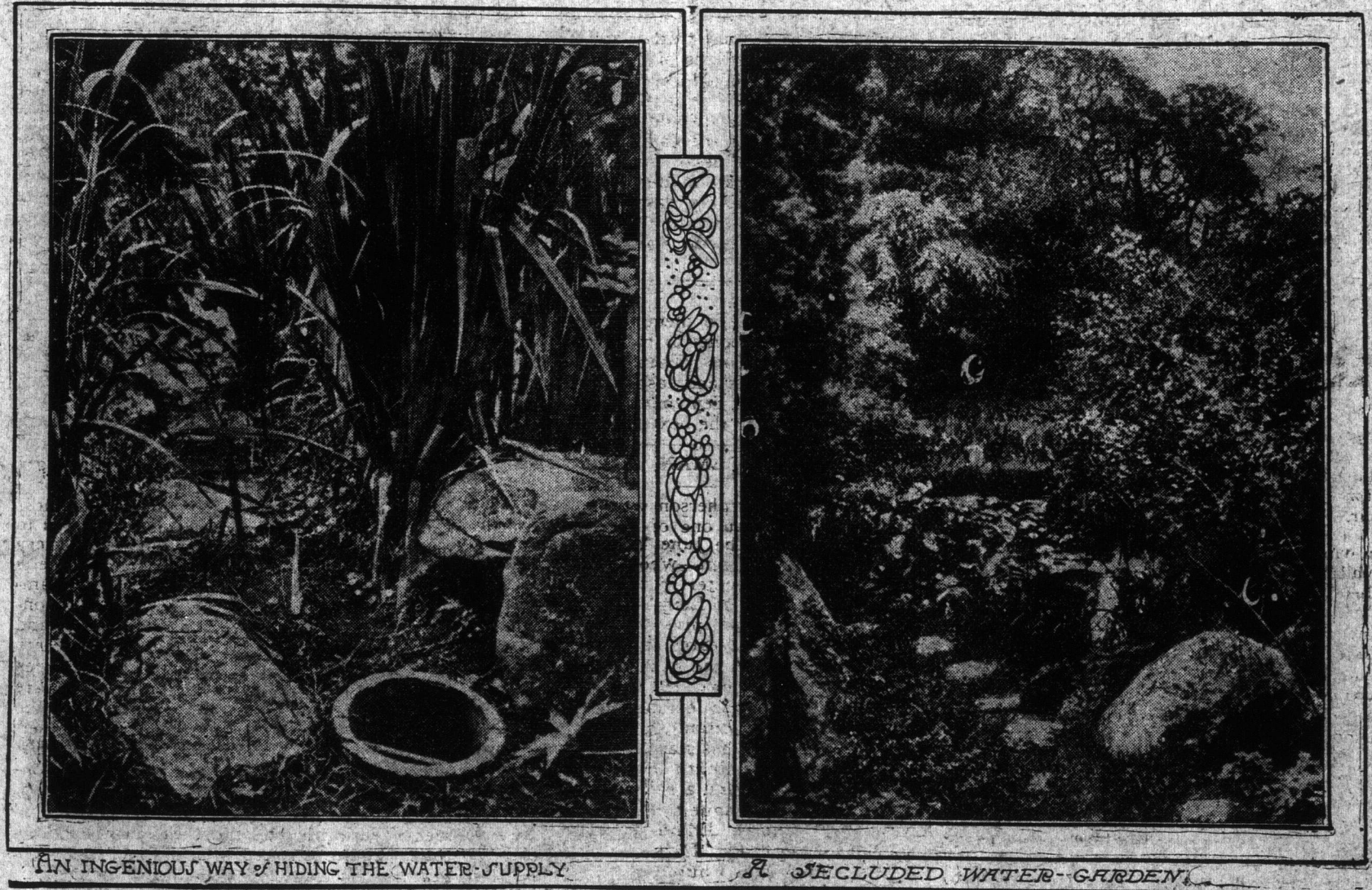
The Moon Daisy is a great favorite—tall, leafy and crowned with white flowers in the late year, flowers of a soft white, which seem to gain in beauty on moonlit evenings, much the same as the White-stemmed Bramble does in winter. No plant is more easily grown, if some care is taken, than the Moon Daisy; its growth is remarkably vigorous, and it increases rapidly, replanting of the strong tufts being needful, in our experience, once in every three or four years. One thing it does appreciate, and that is a moist soil. We planted a lot of it a few years ago, in a damp ditch, and there sprang up a little forest of stems and in autumn an abundance of flowers, which bent prettily in the wind. It is very pleasant to see the wavy flower-burdened stems on a sunny September day, when the Asters or Michaelmas Daisies are making blue clouds everywhere. The Moon Daisy may be planted whenever the weather is favorable, but only in well dug and manured soil, and watered freely during the summer if prolonged dryness is experienced. On a dry, hungry border the stems do not rise more than 18 inches. Its true beauty is only revealed when we see it as represented.—Ex.

WATER LILIES IN A TUB

Every one recognizes the charm of a pool of water in which there are a few gold fish. Add to this pool a few hyacinths for a border and a plant or two of parrot's feather and a transformation of increased delight will be wrought.

Such a garden may be made from half a barrel or a tub or, better, three or four of them placed together and sunk into the earth. The space between the tubs may be used for a rockery and the edges may be hidden with moss. The little umbrella plant, the calamus, many of the wild-growing sedges and the wild arrowhead are all useful to hide the artificial shape of the tub ponds.

The tubs should be half filled with rotted vegetable material from bogs or ponds, or with good loam mixed with one-third well rotted manure. Place several inches of sand on top of this and fill the tub with water. There are both hardy and tender nymphaeas. The former are especially desirable for tub growing for they bloom freely in shallow basins. There are day blooming and night blooming lilies. One lily plant to each tub is sufficient in addition to the border plants. The water hyacinths float on the surface of the water without root hold and a mass of them with their beautiful light blue flowers sometimes rivals orchids in rich markings and delicacy of color. The roots of tender nymphaeas must be stored in a cellar or greenhouse at a temperature of not less than 60 degrees and the hardy roots should be well covered with straw, if left in the tubs during the winter.



AN INGENIOUS WAY OF HIDING THE WATER SUPPLY

A SECLUDED WATER GARDEN

because it isn't human nature to resist bringing home a few of everything. The object of wild gardening is to get great glorious masses, to establish self-supporting colonies, dense in the centre and scattering at the edges, so that the species will seem to spread by seed in the direction of the prevailing wind. You can leave the trees just as they are, but the way to intensify the wildness of a piece of woods is to plant hepaticas and trilliums by the thousand, for the former are the earliest and the latter the largest flowers of spring in the woods. Look to the big things first, for variety will take care of itself.

The great charm of wild gardening in the woods is that you can paint pictures on a greater scale and with materials quite unknown to gardens, for a garden is typically a sunny place and the choicest flowers of the woods demand shade as well as coolness and never-failing moisture. One gentleman planted several thousand lady slippers scattered along a trail which follows a stony hillside brook through the woods and there is not the slightest thing to show that they were planted. It is vandalism to move orchids into a sunny garden, but in the woods they are thoroughly at home, and in this case they will be protected long after the summer boarders have found the locality and taken every lady's slipper from the neighboring woods.

The most charming and distinctive effects in wild gardening will generally be produced by using in great quantity a dozen or fewer species that are most abundant in the neighborhood, rather than an endless variety of rare plants from all parts of the country.

If, however, you have no woods and no room for anything more than a border of wild flowers, let me make this suggestion. Try to make a beautiful picture, not a mere collection of varieties. Plant not less than a dozen clumps of a kind. Otherwise you will not get the effect of colonies. The loveliest flowers will look homesick if planted singly and the appearance of the whole will be merely botanical—not artistic, nor true to the spirit of nature.

Any person who desires to establish a wild garden in or near Victoria should have no difficulty, providing they have the land and time at their disposal, as there is such an abundance of ferns, flowers and shrubs to be found in the woods and fields near the city,

Have you decided which way to grow celery? If so, let us set out the plants. The bed or row is made, raked fine, and the garden line run. Now make holes with the dibble, or, if your plants are too large, with a trowel, every six inches. Take up the plantlets carefully, having run a knife between them to separate the roots, and place them in a basket, box or pan, a few at a time. Set them one by one into the holes, firm the earth well round them, and at once protect each with a mulch. Proceed in this way to the end of the row. The mulch may be straw, leaves, hay, or cuttings from the grass—anything to conserve the moisture in the soil while the young plants get started. Water well after the mulch is on, and you ought to have celery fine enough to take a prize anywhere.

There are two diseases of celery, rust and blight. The former is shown by yellowish spots on the leaves, the latter first by watery spots, then by black dots. Good seed and healthy plants will probably escape both, but if forced to enter into combat with them use Bordeaux mixture.

There are several ways to blanch celery, so as to get the fine white stalks for table. One way is to make long rows, setting the plants six inches or a foot apart, and as they grow drawing the earth up around them to form a bank on either side. One great precaution to be taken in doing this is to be very, very careful not to get any dirt at all into the heart of the plant. Careful "handing," as it is called, is of vital importance. Gather the leaves up tightly in one hand, holding the outer ones well around the heart or the young leaves in the centre, and draw the earth well up to the plant, firming it well. It is wise to have two people at this work, as it is difficult for one to manage alone. You can make double rows in this same way, setting the plants criss-cross, six inches apart; just as rails are laid for an old-fashioned Virginia fence.

The plants may be set in single rows with enough earth drawn around them to hold them upright, and, when they are nearly grown, a board may be placed on either side, as close to the stems as possible, and almost to the top of the leaves. A strip or clamp is placed across the boards to keep them in position. A twelve-inch board would be wide enough, and the length in proportion to the length of the row to be blanched. To make

Blanching is done in three weeks if the plants are growing vigorously as in September; later as the winter gets colder it will take fully four weeks.

Keep some celery in the garden until after Christmas. If you are too busy to make a pit and the celery is already banked, throw some hay over the top of the bank, a little more when colder weather comes, and, finally, earth over that. If you can dig the roots and make a pit, it will be much easier to get at when you want it. Dig a small trench about one foot deep, line the sides with hay (salt hay preferably), place the celery in the trench, roots down, and close together, seeing that the hay surrounds the plants entirely, and then bank up the earth, so as to make a miniature mound. Work from north to south, so that you can enter this aboriginal dwelling from the southern end. If frost gets through the earth, it can't get through the hay. Thus the celery is safe and happy.

CUCUMBERS

To grow cucumbers to perfection plenty of heat, light and moisture are required. They will thrive in any good soil not too heavy or sandy. Seed may be sown as soon as the danger of frost is past. Six or eight seeds should be planted in each hill, the hills being about six feet apart each way.

In the early spring, seed may be sown in hills which are protected by glass-covered frames. When the plants have grown to about four inches in height, and there seems to be little danger of them being injured by insects or other causes, they should be thinned out to about three plants in a hill.

Frequent cultivation is needed until the vines begin to run freely. As cucumbers are subject to several diseases the old vines should be destroyed or cleared away in the autumn and the crop should not be planted two years in succession on the same land. The worst feature of cucumber culture is the insect pests, but these may be controlled by dusting with dry insecticides or even with bone dust.

Cucumbers for pickling should be gathered when quite small. They may be successfully preserved in brine, from which they are taken as needed, soaked in fresh water and placed in vinegar. There are many varieties, each good for a purpose.

The Duke of Argyll old Etonian friends, bled that the two of on two planks in the behind the house, a feat stand to this day, and thinking over that at the very principle. Since that time the eyes and heart. They Duke of Argyll, though have been somewhat of his ancestors in that he pursued an up-public career, devoting ics to the highest and -men. (Cheers.) Then ate. Whatever posts and they had been of rned them, and the done wisely and act- Lord Elgin to their day. (Cheers.) As to munificent generosity es recommended him distinction. (Cheers.) Newlands, he (Lord have been there that ame and his had been ersity as suitable for until he heard from that nothing would hat election that Lord himself at the disposal sity. (Cheers.) They the satisfaction with get on Lord Newland's.

Character

deserting the path kian policies." is to forget the present eived medieval pag- his readers: e duty not only of the advisers, but of every friend of the Empire, odesty, to aim at put- antic craze for the re- which is by no means us the respect which and which can never ar modern efforts and nslation made for the

BETTER COINS

of a great coin is like poem, or the formula must have its birth in it, some fiercely heroic national desire. In the conquering of Gaul were commemor- a new coin whereon d. The whole history narrated in the coin- Edward the Con- Sportsman. Why, American nation take ne, if ingenious, sys- poraneous history, in and gold. Our coin- paradic, unsatisfying e legendary sense, the few early coins ashington we have no realizing the features of our presidents. Our er currency constitute ry name and counten- States history, while ought but foreign- ll-proportioned birds. e stamps are, by their but metal coins are

plea for a new coin- andard metal and of a ere made, a coinage accuracy and art the glorious dead—Jef- n, Grant, Garfield, dent and practice in it be waived for once coins stamped with a osevelt. There might o this, however, al- t that he always will dents of the United t be recorded in his- country boasting its them the counterfeit lief figures, and sere- nation in commerce money, should, before me, have some token in the field of civiliza- ore concrete, more in- ally national than a e lady "Liberties," any of shooting stars hose talons are eter- ss darts and nonde- "The Coin of the axwell, in The Boie-