



THE SIMPLE LIFE



THE HOME GARDEN

GARDEN CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER

Prepare Borders, Beds etc., now and the next few weeks by deeply trenching and manuring for Hardy Perennials, Roses, Fruit, etc., which should be ordered early.

Plant: Hardy Border Plants, Alpines, Biennials, Hardy Climbers, Shrubs, Deciduous Trees, Bulbs, and especially—Roses, Phloxes, Violets, Paeonies, Pyrethrums, Delphiniums, Gallardias, Carnations, Evergreen Shrubs, Roses, Clematis, Ampelopsis, Ivies, Strawberries, Hyacinths, Tulips, Narcissus, Crown Imperials, Irises, Lilliums, Solomon's Seal, Daffodils, Snowdrops, Scillas, Alliums, Lily of the Valley, Pot Anemones, Pot Hyacinths, Pot Narcissus, Pot Early Tulips, Pot Crocus, Pot Tuberoses, Pot Roman Hyacinths, Cabbages, Endives.

Sow: A little Cauliflower, Cabbage, Horn Carrot, Mustard and Cress, Onion, Radish, Turnip, Corn Salad, Lettuce, Spinach.

HOW TO PLANT TREES AND SHRUBS

EVERY year there are many buyers of trees and shrubs who are very much disappointed because they do not get good results. In some cases the plants die, in others they refuse to make any great amount of growth—they simply exist. As a result, the nurseryman supplying the plants is blamed for sending out poor stock, for the planter thinks he has given the plants a fair show. But the truth is that the buyer has neglected some of the little details which insure success.

In nearly all the larger nurseries the roots of trees are given a thin coating of puddled clay, which prevents the roots, to a great extent, from drying out. When packing, sphagnum moss or other moisture-holding material is put about the roots to further prevent drying out, so that when the buyer receives the plants they are in condition to start growing immediately.

It is when the unpacking is done that the trouble begins. Be prepared to cover the roots with damp soil immediately the plants are taken from the packing-box or the wrapping is removed. Only a few minutes' exposure to the drying winds of late March or April will dry out the roots so that they will be very seriously injured.

If you cannot set the trees or shrubs in the ground where they are to grow permanently, "heel" them in, i. e., dig a trench big enough to hold the roots, throw some soil over them and water them to work the soil in among the roots, put on the balance of the soil and firm it by treading with the feet. If the roots look dry when the plants are taken from the packing-case, immerse them for a few minutes in a pail or tub of water.

The ground where trees and shrubs are to be planted ought to be thoroughly prepared before setting the trees. I prefer to do this in the fall; but if you have not done it, do it now, before you order the plants, or as soon as the soil can be worked safely. Dig a hole on the site of each shrub at least two feet square—three is better; for each tree, three feet, but four is better. Dig two and a half feet deep and as the soil is being thrown out throw the stones to one side. When the hole has been dug to the required depth, pick up the bottom, leaving it rough, so that a better union will be made with the soil that is put back. Throw the small stones which have been taken out, into the bottom of the hole for drainage. Next mix with the soil taken out one-quarter of its bulk of well-decayed horse or cow manure. It will be necessary to turn it two or three times, to insure thorough mixing. Now throw the soil back into the hole, crowning it a little to allow for settling. If the work is done immediately before planting the tree, firm the soil so that it will not settle much after the tree has been planted.

If you have not the time to do this, or do not care to go to the expense of having it done, then, when planting, dig a good-sized hole, a foot or so larger than the diameter of the ball of the plant, so that when you put the roots in the hole they can be spread out. I once saw some trees and shrubs planted, the holes for which were as square as the breadth of the spade, the roots were crowded into these small holes and as a result many died, and the balance had a stunted look for several years. A plant put in in this way really never fully recovers from the damage done.

With the exception of rhododendrons, azaleas and their near relatives, set the plants just a little deeper than they were before. Spread the roots out carefully, throw in a little soil and lift the tree or shrub up and down just a little—an inch or so—to work the soil around the roots, throw in some more soil and turn a stream of water on the soil, put in enough so that the earth is thin mud. This will wash the soil into the crevices not already filled. When the water has drained away, which will be in an hour or two, throw in the balance of the soil, treading it firmly with the feet. Fill the hole just a little fuller than the surrounding soil to allow for settling. By thoroughly puddling the soil, about the roots, you can be sure that at least 90 per cent. of the plants will live and thrive; they will not simply exist for a few years and die.

Be sure you set the tree straight. Have one person hold it while another sights it, first from one side then from a point at right angles to the first sight. If the trunk is crooked set the center of the crown directly over the place where the trunk emerges from the ground.

Before setting the plant be sure that all of the roots are in good condition. If any are damaged in any way, remove the damaged

portion, cutting it off just above the injury. Use a sharp knife.

If you are planning to plant rhododendrons, azaleas, andromedas, mountain laurel, ericas or any other plants belonging to the erica family, the soil must be thoroughly prepared before planting. If you are located in a limestone country, the plants will do nothing unless the site in which they are to be planted is renovated.

Dig the soil out to a depth of two and one-half feet and thoroughly drain the place. In the bottom throw three or four inches of stones or coal clinkers to help drain the ground better, then fill the hole with soil taken from a bog which has been weathered for at least one winter out-of-doors. It is necessary that the peat or muck be weathered in order to sweeten it. Muck when taken from a bog is usually sour and even ordinary upland plants will not grow in it, the plants belonging to the erica family would be killed immediately.

To this soil add about one-tenth its bulk of well-rotted manure. It must be so well decayed that it looks like earth. Fresh manure of any kind added to the soil would be like giving poison to an animal.

When the ground is settled, if you are planting the great laurel (Rhododendron maximum), or the mountain laurel (Kalmia latifolia), which have been collected from the

be pruned back more than half, in order that the energy of the plant may be conserved as much as possible. Whatever is necessary, do not let the desire to get bloom the first year from them influence your better judgment, because the first year's bloom does not amount to much.

Such shrubs as the hardy hydrangea and the rose will stand a very severe pruning. These produce flowers on the current season's growth, and one of the objects of the severe pruning is to get many new shoots. In both of these shrubs cut out the weak wood and head back the strong shoots to two or three eyes. They will need a severe pruning like this each successive year if the largest flowers are to be obtained. The brier roses must not be cut back much after the first year, as they flower on the wood of the previous year's growth.

If you plant evergreens in the spring, get the plants from the nursery at the time the buds are just commencing to open. They can also be successfully planted in the late summer—August 15 to September 15.

Do not attempt to prune an evergreen back at planting-time or at any other time unless the plants look sickly or have been injured while en route from the nursery.

If the plants are received from the nursery after they have begun to grow, prune off all

HARMONY IN THE HARDY BORDER

I have been working to plan a hardy border which shall present from spring to autumn a succession of color combinations, each one of which shall dominate the border while in bloom and be its whole centre of attraction. Many are the descriptions of hardy borders that I have read, but the one of my dreams is still waiting to be realized. That there should be something in bloom from May to October and that no violent discord of color should be permitted is as much as the small gardener strives to attain, while borders devoted to a single color have been successfully planned in larger gardens.

The idea was suggested to me several years ago by one of those happy accidents that are the joy of gardening. One summer I raised a thriving lot of young foxgloves and pink cup-and-saucer Canterbury bells, and, as good luck would have it—for I had never seen either one of them before and was growing them chiefly for the sake of their names—I planted the fox-gloves in the back of the hardy border and made an irregular group of the Canterbury bells in front of them. The effect when they bloomed the next June was one of the loveliest I have ever seen. Behind the low-lying mass of delicate pink bells rose the tall spires of the foxgloves, some white and some a dull red that was only a deeper

unfortunately, biennial and so must be raised every year. Foxgloves are perennial, but short lived, and it is well to keep a supply of young plants in the nursery bed to replace any the winter may kill in the border.

The first of July gives another blue and white combination. By that time the tall English larkspurs have sent up their columns of azure, and it would be hard to find a more perfect background for the exquisite outlines of the pure white Madonna lily. But with all its loveliness the combination is a little cold, and a group of delicate pink hollyhocks near the larkspur adds the needed touch of warmth. As hollyhocks grow from six to nine feet they must go at the back of the border on a line with the larkspurs. To get them blooming with Madonna lilies they must be established plants; seedlings raised the preceding summer do not come into bloom until later in the season. The Madonna lilies go in front of the larkspurs, as they seldom grow taller than four feet.

The larkspurs have so long a season to bloom that they also play a part in the next combination with the little russet and gold coreopsis. This grows about four feet high and is best treated as a biennial. The seed is sown not earlier than the first of July, as plants started early enough to bloom the first year will never make a good showing the second. Larkspurs, on the other hand, are started as early as possible—April out of doors or March in a coldframe. Well-grown seedlings will send up several columns of bloom five to seven feet high the following year, and I have had established plants with as many as twenty-one stalks. Plant coreopsis to the front of the larkspur, whose solid blue ranks are wonderfully relieved by its thousands of sparkling blossoms.

August gives us two combinations. For the first half, cardinal flowers and tiger lilies. Every one who has grown tiger lilies knows the difficulty of finding anything to go with their peculiar yellowish pink color, yet when left to themselves they seem incomplete. You wonder why they are not more beautiful. This problem was solved for us by a stray seedling of cardinal flower that sowed itself in a group of the lilies. The clear red, free from all suggestion of yellow, emphasized the pink tones of the tiger lilies and made them more beautiful and satisfying than before. Tiger lilies and cardinal flowers grow about the same height, varying from three to five feet according to the moisture in the soil. It is best to keep the tiger lilies to the front, as their outline is an important part of their beauty. Though the cardinal flower is a biennial it self-sows freely, and the seedlings are easy to transplant in the early spring. In my garden tiger lilies have suffered more than any other from the "lily disease," but it is so easy to raise new bulbs that I have never troubled to treat the old ones. If the little black bulbs that grow in the axils of the leaves are gathered and sown in rows in the nursery in the autumn some of them will bloom the second summer, and nearly all of them the third.

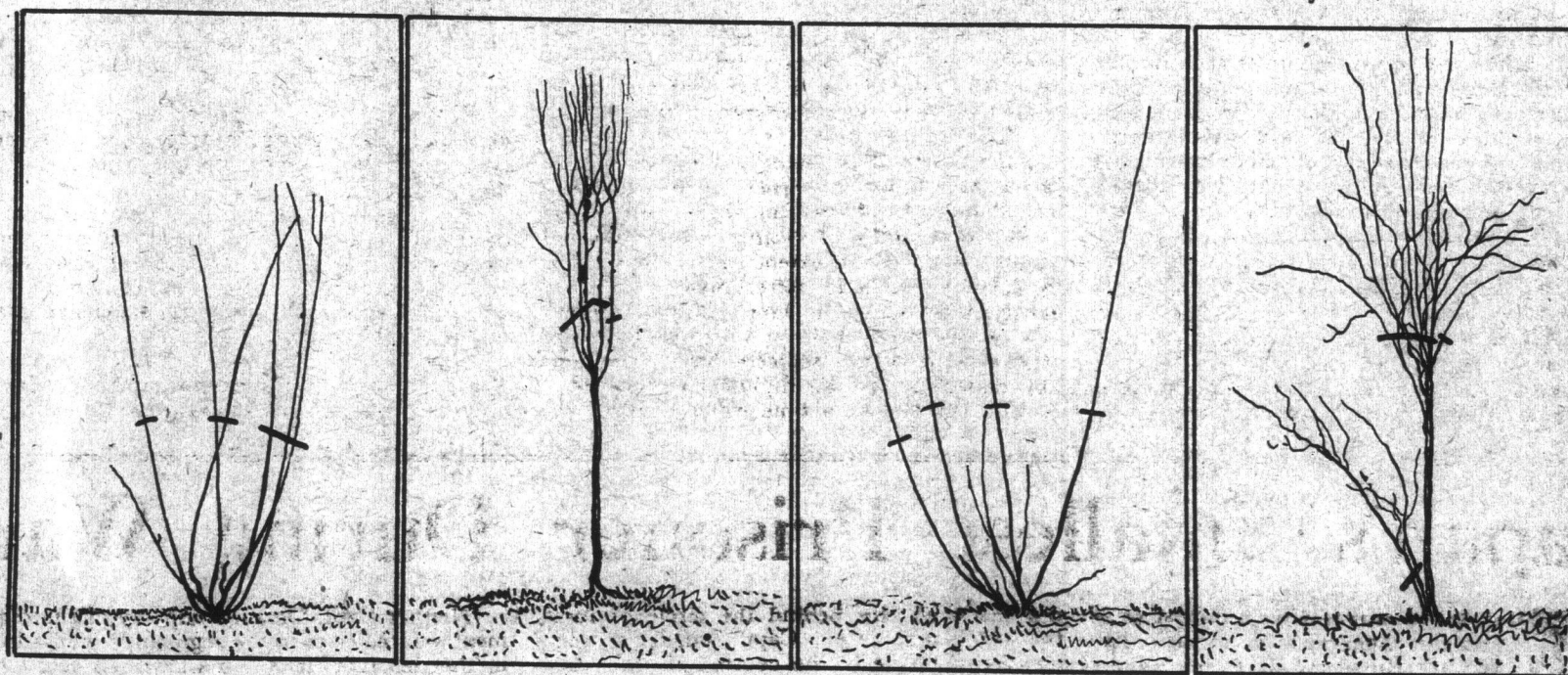
For the second half of August there are Veronica longifolia and white phlox. A comparatively low-growing phlox, like Jeanne d'Arc, should be used with the veronica, that the grace of its curving blue sprays may be emphasized against the white background. Veronica is about thirty inches high, to the tips of its flower spikes; the phlox should not be higher than three feet. Both are best increased by division of the root.

September, as I have already confessed, is a blank, but in October the border is glorious again with purple and gold. One autumn day I brought home from a walk three plants of the common purple aster. They were a scant three feet tall, but the blossoms seemed larger than usual. I soaked the roots free from the tangle of grass and weeds they were growing in and divided them into eight small plants. They received no care the following summer but ordinary weeding, and they sent up ten stalks between six and seven feet high and clothed to within two feet of the ground with side branches varying in length from two feet at the bottom to six inches near the top. Each plant was a pyramid of purple, and a more perfect background cannot be imagined for the great golden and lemon and orange globes of African marigolds. To carry out the idea of a hardy border one might use yellow chrysanthemums instead of marigolds, but unfortunately, the truly hardy chrysanthemums are scarcely in bloom before November and the asters are then gone. Marigolds, of course, are easily frosted, but the blossoms make a brave show long after the leaves are drooping and black.

Such a border as I have been describing, has, of course, one obvious disadvantage; it is practicable only for a large garden, as it must refuse admittance to so many of the host of May and June perennials that one cannot do without. Who, for instance, would have a garden without the great flame-colored Oriental poppy?—but not one of its contemporaries can stand beside it. The choice is further limited by the overlapping seasons of bloom of the successive combinations, making it necessary to choose plants that harmonize with those blooming just before and after them. Much, however, can be accomplished by taking care not to place successive combinations in juxtaposition.—Louise Shaw in Garden Magazine.

The leadwort (Plumbago Capensis) is the best light flowered bedding plant. Carry over winter by taking cuttings before frost. These, grown indoors, will make good plants in 4-inch pots for next year. Spring struck cuttings will not flower nearly so well as those struck in fall.

Trees and Shrubs as They Look when Received from the Nursery. Cut Them Back as Indicated by the Lines



wild in this country, set the plants two or four inches deeper in the ground than they were before; but if you have plants which were imported from abroad, they must be set the same depth that they were before. The imported plants can be easily distinguished from the native plants by the ball of roots. Each plant will have a very hard, compact ball of black soil. It is very hard to one not acquainted with the soil to tell whether or no this soil about these roots is sufficiently moist, so, as a safeguard, I would advise soaking it in water for four or five minutes before planting. When planting, pour lots of water about the plants in order that the new soil will make a good union with the soil about the roots.

When the tree or shrub is planted, prune it. A safe rule to follow with either, except in the case of evergreens, members of the azalea family, and such trees as magnolias, is to remove one-half of the wood. This may seem a whole lot, especially in the case of shrubs, but it is really very necessary for the best health of the family.

Plants when transplanted have no connection with the soil in the new location for some time. The leaves are all the time pumping water out of the soil up through the plant and giving it off. The moisture is taken into the plant through the white hair-like root tips, and until new ones have been made the plant is not capable of taking in a sufficient amount of water to meet the demand of the leaves. By cutting the plant back as advised, one-half or more of the leaf-surface is removed, which materially lessens the amount of water transpired by the leaves and the energy of the plant is thus conserved.

Many people prune their fruit trees back to a whip—remove all the branches, leaving nothing but a bare stock. This is the way to treat peaches and other stone fruits, but with apples and pears I prefer to leave branches six or eight inches long, as indicated in the illustration. When pruning like this, always make the cut just above a bud which points out, so that the new branch which starts will grow out rather than into the center of the crown of the tree. When planting such shade trees as the Norway maple, silver maple and the Carolina poplar, prune the tops back severely. They may even be pruned back to a mere whip and the top cut off about where the first branches are wanted—about eight feet from the ground.

When planting shrubs the rule I have already given of pruning back had better be followed by the inexperienced amateur, but to one who has had considerable experience circumstances will dictate just what is needed. A shrub with a good root-system need not be pruned back quite so severely as that if it is a good, shapely plant. It may be necessary to prune more than that in order to get a symmetrical plant. A shrub with few roots must

the new growth, otherwise the plant is very likely to die. Be very careful about this pruning; do it evenly, cutting as much from one side of the tree as from the other, for a lopsided conifer is a very unsightly object on one's grounds.

If the plant is spindly; that is, the branches are poorly furnished, cut the leader out. This may sound like heresy—but it is practised by the best growers in this country today. It is very easy to form a new leader, but before the new leader has formed all the lower branches will have closed up all the open spaces. To make a new leader, train up the strongest shoot starting from the axils of the branches of the top whorl of leaves. To do this, tie a stick to the trunk of the tree letting it stick a

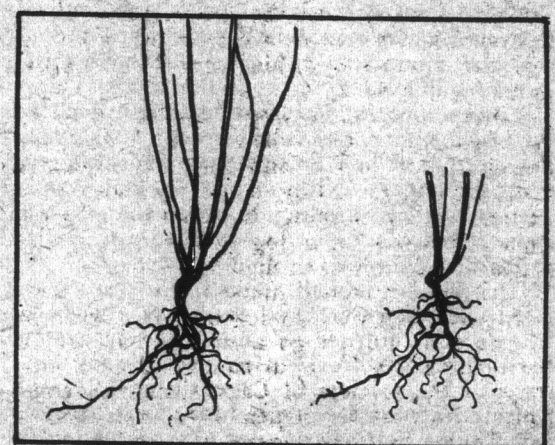
tone of the Canterbury bell pink. For two weeks that corner of the garden reigned supreme and we realized as we never had before how much more beautiful a flower can be when it is planted with another that brings out its beauty of color and outline. From this the idea grew of a border which should contain only such wonderful combinations, succeeding each other with as little overlapping as possible.

By dint of observation and experiment I have finally gathered together nine such combinations, giving bloom from the first of May until the middle of October, except, unfortunately, for the whole of September. That month in my garden calendar is bare of flowers of good perennials, or at least of any good enough for this hardy border.

The season opens with white tulips and hardy yellow alyssum. L'Immaculee is a good tulip for this purpose, and is prettiest scattered among the alyssum, neither in front nor behind it. These two are at the height of their bloom by the first of May and are succeeded by poet's narcissus with blue spring-flowering forget-me-nots in front. The touch of orange in the cups of the narcissus gives warmth to the blue and white and makes a harmonizing point of contact for the bits of alyssum still blooming. My idea is to make a border of these four, the whole length of the bed, forget-me-nots on the edge with narcissus behind them, and back of these two a band of alyssum and tulips. To relieve the stiffness of the long straight lines, the alyssum should jut back irregularly into the border, as I have tried to illustrate in the accompanying plan.

Third in order, to usher in the month of June, are lemon lilies and German iris. But only certain varieties of the iris may be used. Close to the lemon lilies should come the fawn-and-violet variety and last the purple and violet. A pure purple is needed on the end to carry through the color scheme, but the only purple variety I know blooms too early. The three I have described are common unnamed sorts, to be found in every nursery. German iris grows from two to three feet high, and the lemon lilies, which are a trifle taller, should go diagonally behind it. Both are quite over blooming by the fifteenth of June, when the glorious display of foxgloves and Canterbury bells claims the whole border.

Don't wait until autumn to sow seed for next year's blooming—that's my experience. Start the seed not later than the middle of May to get strong plants by autumn with plenty of crowns from which to send up flower stalks in the spring. Well grown fox gloves should have flower spikes four to six feet in height; Canterbury bells are about two feet high, and it is a good plan to set them well back from the edge of the border, so that the branches of the front row may lean to the ground and carry the color all the way down. They are,



A Rose Bush Before and After All the Weak Shoots Have Been Removed and the Strong Canes Cut Back to Three or Four Eyes.

foot or a foot and a half above the tree and tie the shoot selected to it. Use raffia or other soft material which will not cut.

The only thing that can be done to secure the successful transplanting of conifers is careful planting—see that the soil is in contact with all the roots and that there are no spaces in the soil to drain away the water, allowing the roots to dry out rapidly. I have found that it pays to syringe the foliage of conifers frequently during the first week or two after planting to maintain as humid an atmosphere about them as possible. It lessens the evaporation from the leaves. I have seen one thickness of burlap wrapped about the tree and kept moist for three or four days. This materially lessened the evaporation from the leaves. After removing the burlap, the tree was shaded three or four more days during the heated part of the day.

If you are planting any of the evergreen hollies—particularly the common one, Ilex opaca—the leaves must be stripped from the trees, otherwise there is but a small chance that the trees will live.—S. T. Johnston, in Suburban Life.