

In your garden

Can you believe it's time to plan for fall?

By AILEEN ADAMS

This has been a slow spring — but it has had its advantages. After the early heat which literally cooked the daffodils, prolonged cool weather made the tulips last and last — in some cases into June.

It seems to me the lilacs were never so lovely and so abundant, but a friend tells me I say that every year!

All the flowering shrubs wintered well and have shown a constant procession of bloom.

The peonies are about to burst out — the columbines are flirting their petticoats and the wild phlox is streaming down the hillsides and into the valleys.

In the midst of all this beauty and abundance it is hard to think that June is the time to plan for this fall and next year's garden.

Look at any catalogue and you will see marigolds and zinnias taking up maximum space. This is because they are so popular, so easy to grow, and in such variety.

Marigolds can be tall, short, or medium with single, double or a solid cluster of petals, in yellow, gold, orange and mahogany shades. The 1979 All America winner, Queen Sophia, has blooms of 2½ to 3½ inches across with soft rusty red petals bordered in golden yellow.

The taller varieties would be best planted as box plants; the smaller types could still be seeded, although they will be late blooming.

Sow in well prepared ground in rows nine to 12 inches apart and cover with about one-quarter inch of fine soil. Choose a spot where there is lots of sunshine — at least six hours or more. And you should have flowers until the first killing frost. Don't worry about a

chill in the air; it seems to enrich their colors.

Zinnias swept the boards for the 1978 All America selections.

If you choose to buy box plants of zinnias and marigolds, try to select young plants not yet in bloom. Small, vigorous seedlings will not suffer transplanting shock and will adjust quickly to their new environment.

This is also the time to begin thinking of next year and that delightful group of flowers known as biennials.

Biennials are a little less sturdy than perennials and take a little more work than annuals, but a low border of Sweet William or a cluster of Canterbury bells chiming out their colors are well worth the effort.

For those that should be seeded in June we can start with aquilegia (columbine) and add deep blue forget-me-nots, Canterbury bells (campanula) and Foxglove (digitalis) are the next to bloom. The tiny English daisy (bellis) and the tall Hollyhock are also in the group.

Silver dollars or Honesty (lunaria) should also be sown soon to give you the silvery seed pods you'll need for winter bouquets in 1980.

Biennial seeds should be sown outdoors when the soil is warm, or planted indoors in a mixture of soil and peat moss. The young plants produced can be transplanted in September to where they will bloom in next year's garden.

The ministry of agriculture and food advises trimming and shaping evergreens this month. Yew, pine, Mugho, cedar and juniper are the most important plants to prune at this time when new growth is soft and easy to cut.

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Sale ends JUNE 24TH. Although all items on sale are in good supply, there is a chance some items will be sold out before June 24.

SHERIDAN NURSERIES



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Oshawa: King West Garden Centre, 847 King St. W., 728-9429
Kitchener: Forest Hill Garden Centre, 100 Elmsdale Rd., 743-4146

Raffle winners

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