


Buds AND Blossoms

By **MAMIE MILLER**



"There is nothing grateful but the earth; you cannot do too much for it; it will continue to repay tenfold the pain and labor bestowed upon it." So says Lord Ravensworth.

It is very important now when we have plenty of rainfall to set out all the plants in your border. Trans-plant baskets of gold, wall flowers, petunias, gerberas, verbena, Canterbury-bells, fox glove and other perennials.

These plants will repay with many blooms before midsummer. Trans-plant perennial phlox and

shasta daisies, along with candula and snapdragon. If you were fortunate in having larkspur last year, it always softens the garden, gives variety of line to your border.

Don't forget to plant gladiolus at least every two weeks until July 15th. This gives you a blooming season until October 15th. While we are planting our gardens, let's not overlook our paths in our flowers. They may be made of brick, gravel, stepping-stone or flagstones.

Paths should provide a passage between two points. It can be pleasingly curved. Don't forget to plant your patio for much beauty this Summer. Check your garden accessories, such as trellis and arbors, bird baths, picnic tables and chairs. They should be repaired and painted.

If we look around in New Bern

we can see many beautiful trees now in bloom. The flowering crab and peach, and Judas trees as well as the dogwood, are in full bloom. The lilac bushes are well budded. If you don't have a lilac, be sure to put one out. They do wonderful in this locality.

Don't hesitate to plant more flower seed. Watch the garden supply stores, and select new and different flowers. Remember, our work pays off—the earth will be grateful, and when we plant seed we express our fullness of faith. According to the New Testament, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

TOT TALK



Bill Flowers, over at Central School, brought a cute story with him when he returned from the national gathering of elementary principals in Philadelphia.

One of the teachers who spoke there told of a disconcerting rainy day. When school turned out, everybody got bundled up and headed for home except a sole lingering lad.

Remaining in the classroom with the little boy was a little pair of boots. Naturally the teacher thought they were supposed to go together, like ham and eggs or ice cream and cake.

Putting the boots on the young man was a momentous undertaking, but the teacher finally made it after struggling for a quarter of an hour or more.

"These ain't my boots," the little boy said when the job was done. Hiding her overwhelming exasperation, the teacher struggled just as hard to get the boots off as she had to get them on.

As the chore was ultimately accomplished, the little boy added a postscript. "They're my sister's," he said.

GARDEN TIME

Tomato plants are in plentiful supply in Raleigh but they are not being picked very fast because of weather conditions. It will be best to have hot-caps handy if you want to make an early start. Homestead and Jefferson are both resistant to fusarium wilt but we still have no varieties resistant to bacterial (Granville) wilt. I would select one or both of these varieties for protection against the fusarium organism. If wilt is not a problem in your soil, Valiant is a good early maturing variety while Rutgers and Marglobe are good main crop sorts. "Big Boy," a large fruited hybrid, has done well for us.

It is not too late to plant "Glads" in the lower Piedmont and eastern Carolina. The Gladiolus is one of the most satisfactory of the tender summer blooming bulbs (corms). Planting should be made in full sun and out of the range of competition with tree roots for plant nutrients and moisture. Good drainage is essential. Planting may begin as soon as the soil warms and is dry enough. Use large corms and plant them about five inches deep in the lighter soils and four inches in the heavier soils. If the soil is reasonably good, fertilization

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is not necessary at planting time, but a side dressing of 8-8-8 fertilizer may be made after the plants have grown about eight inches.

Protect strawberry blossoms from frost by covering with heavy paper, plastic or heavy cloth. Covering with pine needles will help ward off light frost. Remove the covering as soon as frost danger has passed. Commercial growers have successfully protected from frost by

irrigation. The fine mist will freeze on the plants and protect at temperature as low as 26 degrees. Let the irrigation system run until the ice melts from the plants. Gladiolus growers have also used this system. Crank up the duster and sprayer and be prepared to combat some of the early pests which attack tender new leaves and shoots—aphids, flea beetles and cutworms, to mention a few.

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