

Buds AND Blossoms

By MAMIE MILLER



Spikenard and saffron, calamus and cinnamon, with all trees of frankincense . . . —Song 4:14. Fifteen or more kinds of crocus are from the Holy Land. Saffron is a product of several species of crocus. Soon after the flower opens, someone gathers them. It takes 4,000 stigmas to make one ounce of saffron. The stigmas are dried out in the sun, pounded and made into cakes. It is used to make yellow dye. A crocus was so important that Joshua made a law on it. In Oriental countries it is made into perfume.

In olden days it was sprinkled on the floors of theaters and churches for weddings. It added color to soups and stews. It was used for medicine as a stimulant. In the spring Palestine is covered with all colors of crocus. We will soon have crocus blooming in New Bern. It is the bulb that North Carolinians were requested to plant to make the State more beautiful. Longfellow wrote in the Golden Legend:

"Hail to the King of Bethlehem,
Who wears it in His diadem;
A yellow crocus for the gem
Of His authority."

Mulch all plants now after spreading fertilizer sparingly around plants and bulbs. Plant more seeds. Study the seed catalogue. Select the new varieties on sale this season. Always put larkspur seed in your refrigerator before planting. Keep chilled at least three days.

Pour boiling water on petunia seed before planting. The petunia is a member of the tobacco family, so may be treated as tobacco seed. Boiling water softens the outer covering, making germination easier.

Put cuttings of feverfew out now. Keep dahlia tubers well protected, pick the medium size, not the extra large ones. They produce the larger blossom.

Be sure to put out more pansies. Candula may be planted now. Place more orders for basket-of-gold and snapdragon. Put out forget-me-nots.

Spend days planning your planting. The anticipation is as great as the reward. Live with you planting and enjoy it as is expressed in this poem.

The Voice of God
You've never heard the voice of

GARDEN TIME

I let the deadline catch me this time without a prepared article for my "Garden Time" so I am quoting one recently prepared by John Harris for his "Tar Heel Gardener." Hope you enjoy it:

"Why do men and women garden? To satisfy their physical and aesthetic appetites—not altogether. There's another angle to this business of gardening. It falls under the heading of mental hygiene or therapy.

"A few years ago in Elizabeth City I found an excellent gardener who had never seen his garden. He was totally blind and did all his gardening through his sense of touch. Amazingly, his garden was clean and even his rows were fairly straight. Why did he garden? For the fresh vegetables, yes, but mainly because of the self-satisfaction received and the feeling of success. A few nights ago a lady called, full of enthusiasm for her new home, and wanted a list of fragrant plants. She was blind.

"During the war I recall giving first prize in a garden contest to a gardener who did all his work from a wheel chair. It's the early morning aromas, the watching for rain, the waiting for spring, the satisfaction of harvest that makes me click," he explained.

"Gardening is a wonderful exercise for a handicapped child. It develops his body as well as his brain. My own 11-year-old son, Rand (a victim of cerebral palsy), already knows more about gardening than some adults. Of course, it isn't always easy. It takes time and patience—they get in the way, make a mess of things, but the results are worth it. They have to learn and do learn rapidly. Many are the vegetables and flowers that have been pulled up for weeds, but he knows the difference now. Right now my lawn has spots of dead grass. Rand explains to visitors that these spots are where he put too much fertilizer and failed to distribute it evenly. How else do you learn these things?

"I worry little about his getting on plants—he helped plant them and knows where they are. Much to my embarrassment he said to some guest recently, 'Please get on the walk, you're stepping on our ophiopogon.'

God?
Look at the stars above,
Their luminous orbs of many rays,
Speak of infinite love.

The universe to you doth speak
You need not know her laws
The grass, the flowers, all growing things,
In them there are no flaws.

The season as they come and go,
The wind, the sun, the rain;
The voice is there and everywhere,
It speaks and speaks again.

So lift your eyes to the starry sky,
And feel the voice of God.
Oh fainting heart, oh weary soul
And His great works applaud.
—Katherine R. Barnard.

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Family Relations Expert Says Make Most of Time

"How can we do the things we ought to do and all the things we want to do without whizzing through life like a rocket," asks Mrs. Corrine J. Grimsley.

Mrs. Grimsley, family relations specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, suggests these "time stretchers" to help you make the most of your life:

Never hurry! For each moment saved by speed, two moments are lost "resting up."

Try to live by a plan—not a rigid schedule, but a clear idea of what you hope to accomplish.

Know how long a particular task will take. If you don't have a clear idea of its value you can't budget your time any more than you can budget your money.

Skip the non-essential time-consumers on your list. How important or necessary is each task?

Take a generous "hunk" of time to do absolutely nothing. Relax!

Wanting to do things is what keeps most people moving! At the end of the day they don't feel pushed because they know it has all been worthwhile.

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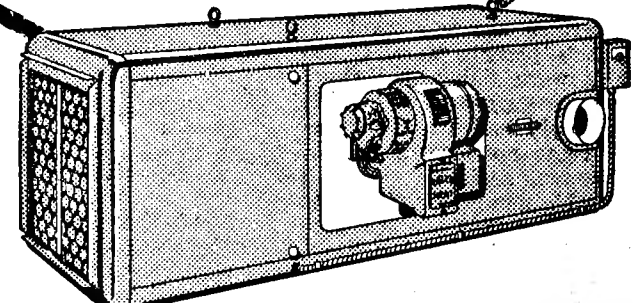
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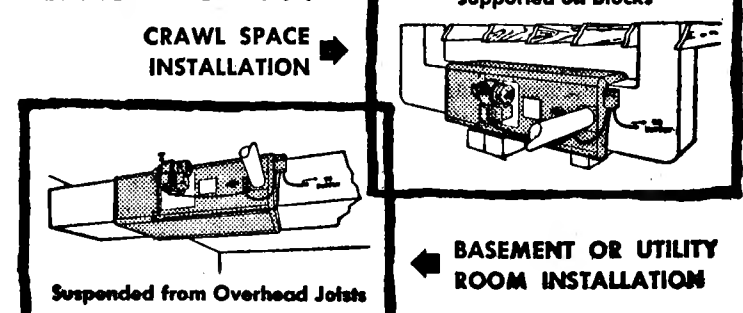


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