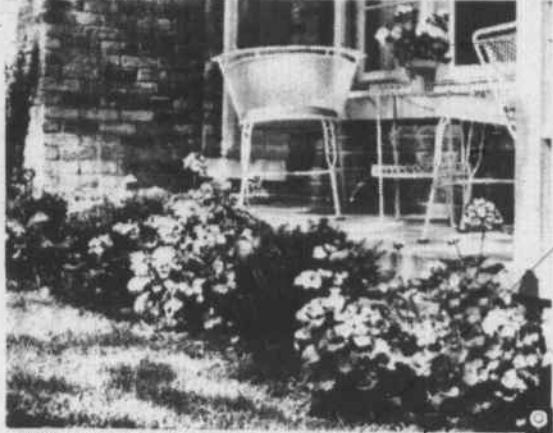
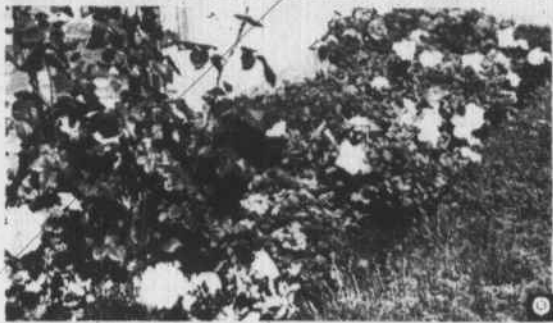


NATIONAL LAWN and GARDEN WEEK - March 20-26

FLOWERS BY THE DOOR



The most rewarding place to plant flowers is by the door for then you see them each time you go through. Dooryard gardens are popular with apartment dwellers; becoming more so with home owners. Low-growing annual flowers are suitable to use.



Furnishing bloom for a long season are petunias, ageratum, geraniums (now you grow them from seeds), dwarf marigolds or zinnias, pinks, sweet alyssum. In shade try begonias, coleus or impatiens. Upper garden pictured shows geraniums between yews, the lower one petunias and ageratum planted hit or miss fashion.

TRANSPLANTING



Here a dibble is used as a tool to guide a tiny seedling into a compressed peat pot.

When the seedlings in your seed starter have reached the 4-leaf stage (2 seed leaves and 2 true leaves) it's time to move them to separate pots.

Which type of pot to use depends, of course, on your individual taste. There are clay pots, peat pots and plastic ones.

There also are compressed peat pellets that expand when in water to reach 2-inch-pot size.

Naturally these should be soaked before the seedlings are set in them.

The seedlings are tiny and must be handled carefully so as not to break their delicate roots.

A dibble or a pointed wooden plant label or even a demitasse spoon are all tools that will help do the job properly. Fingers are usually too clumsy.

First lift a group of seedlings from the seed starter. Separate one individual from the group, using the tip of your tool.

Handle this little seedling by one of its true leaves as these are larger than the seed leaves.

Make a hole with the tip of your tool in the center of the previously filled pot (in the case of compressed peat pots the growing mixture is already there) and insert the roots.

The seedling should be set at the same depth as it was in the seed starter.

Firm the growing medium to the roots, once more using the tip of the dibble, label or spoon. And that's that.

The question of whether to use soil or another medium to grow seedlings to maturity is an open one.

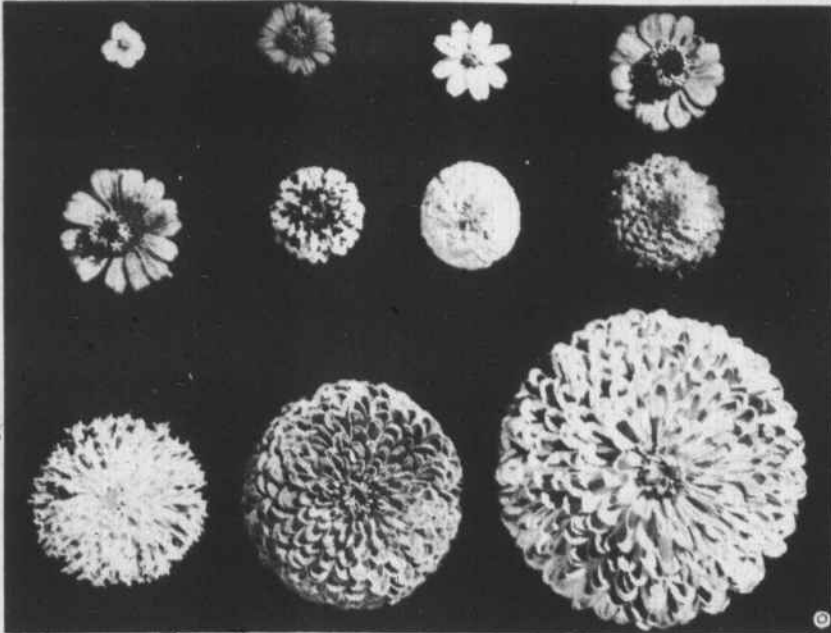
Soil has to be sterilized while such materials as vermiculite and perlite do not. But even sterilized soil contains nutrients, while these must be provided to plants growing in anything else.

This is usually done by watering the seedlings regularly once a week with a dilution of a liquid or solution of a crystalline fertilizer.

This, too, is unnecessary at first when compressed peat pots are used as some fertilizer already has been added.

It is never too late to start saving a few dollars, and we believe they will come in pretty handy some time in the next few years.

THE SEVERAL FACES OF ZINNIAS



Zinnias have many faces. Just as human faces do, they differ in form, size and color. Left to right on the top row are blooms of a tiny, pumila zinnia, 2nd and 4th are multifloras, 3rd is low-growing, ground-hugging Zinnia linearis.

The range in heights and flower sizes of zinnias is from 3 feet to 8 inches high and from 6 inches to 2 inches across a bloom.

As a result of this wide range, the gardener can look over his planting plan, decide on the size zinnia he wants, select a flower color compatible with nearby plants and find a variety to fulfill his requirements.

Zinnia faces to greet you from your summer garden include the species, linearis, which is an excellent ground cover since the plants grow only 8 inches high.

It also fills window boxes with distinction and can be used to edge the front of taller plantings. The bi-colored, yellow and orange flowers liberally stud the plants.

Up the height scale a bit, growing to a foot high, are the Haageana type, more commonly called Mexican zinnias. The well-known Persian Carpet and Old Mexico are typical. Blooms on each plant of Persian Carpet differ in coloring but all are variations on a red and gold theme. Old Mexico plants may be 16 inches tall;

have 2 1/2 inch wide flowers, variegated red and yellow.

Lilliput zinnias form bushy plants to a foot and a half high bearing double, pompon-shaped blossoms in many colors. Seeds of separate or of mixed colors are available.

Two feet high are the Cut and Come Again (or Elegans pumila) zinnias, placing them between the giants and the lilliputs in height. The dome-shaped flowers are 2 1/2 inches across.

Fantasy, with shaggy but graceful 3 inch blooms on 2 1/2 foot plants is of the cactus type, with quilled petals. The dahlia flowered zinnias boast 4 to 5 inch, double flowers on robust 2 1/2 foot plants.

Topping them all are the tetraploid varieties with double the usual numbers of chromosomes. These stand a yard high and boast 6 inch wide blooms on disease resistant plants.

State Fair is an example of a tetraploid variety. Instead of separate colors, seeds come for color groups, as lavender and purple, or with all colors mixed.

TWO FOR BLUE



Blue lace flower and summer forget-me-not are two easily grown annual flowers that boast blue flowers. Blue is the scarcest and most-desired of all the flower colors.

That most wanted color — blue — is the flower color of 2 easily-grown annuals — anachusa and blue lace flower.

Anachusa (an-kew-suh, accent on the kew) has the common name of summer forget-me-not because of the difference in its flowering time from that of real forget-me-nots which bloom with the tulips.

Blue lace flower is known almost exclusively by its common name because the botanical name, in Latin, is a difficult one to spell and pronounce.

It grows best in areas where weather is cool. The seeds should be planted as soon as the ground can be worked. The delicate, 2 1/2-inch-diameter heads of blooms will form on plants a foot and a half tall. You can enjoy them either indoors or out.

Summer forget-me-not is tolerant of poor soil but needs sun to bloom its best. Plants will flower all summer from seeds sown in spring.

The variety Blue Bird is most popular. It has 1/4 inch flowers in clusters at the tips of the main stem and each side shoot from it. Each blue bloom is centered with white.

The stems are 1/8 inches long and can be cut for indoor use if cut ends are plunged into water directly after they have been severed.

Anachusa is a particularly good "mixer" — that is it looks well when grown alongside any other kind of flower. Seedlings transplanted from your seedbed or row can be set in groups in a border to fill in the areas where bulbs bloomed earlier.

BABY DOLL



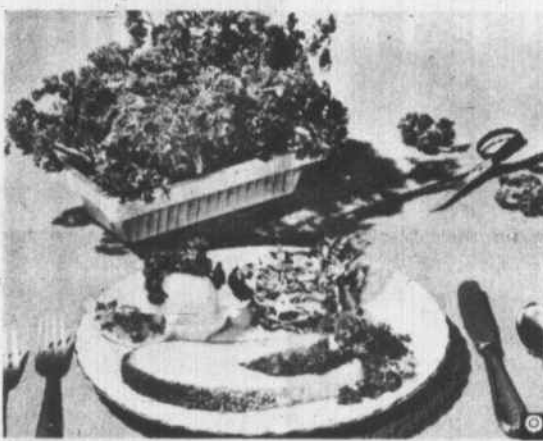
Every once in a while there's a flower that is so dainty, so appealing, that it can properly be called "cute". Such a one is Baby Doll, a tiny pink.

The little plants grow only 6 to 8 inches high, yet they are, in season, so full of bloom that the leaves practically disappear from view.

The flowers are large for the size of the plants, are single, have plain-edged instead of frilled petals, and vary in color. Some are solid shades of red, pink, rose, carmine or white, some combine 2 colors in separate zones.

Because of their low stature and of their compact growth, they are ideal for solid beds of color.

PRETTY-UP WITH PARSLEY



Parsley's chief use is to pretty-up various foods like meat, fish or potatoes. But cooks use plain-leaved kinds for strong flavor, curled leaves for more delicate taste.

While some people like to nibble on parsley just as others nibble on a lettuce leaf, most people who are not cooks regard parsley merely as an ornament.

The cooks know the value of parsley's high vitamin content, particularly available when it is finely minced. They use it in soups and stews, mixed with butter for a sauce, sprinkled on crusty French bread with seasoned salt to make an unusual open-faced sandwich. An even more off-beat use is sprinkled on soup in the form of a figure to amuse convalescent children.

Cooks, of course, are all for flavor and the strongest flavor is in the plainest parsley. Plain or Plain Italian Dark Green or Single are all varieties with flat, glossy, uncurled leaves.

As the curl increases, the flavor becomes milder. From the names of some varieties you can judge their flavor — Moss Curled, Extra Curled Dwarf. But, from other names, like Paramount, which is probably the most popular variety, you can guess little. Paramount is described as "triple" curled.

All parsley varieties, plain, double or triple-curved, are easily grown: if the gardener is not impatient. It takes about 3 weeks from the time seeds are sown until they sprout.

Plain or curled, all parsleys may be used to pretty-up a platter of cold meats, a lemon slice, a portion of fish, or mashed potatoes. In fact, any dish that needs prettying-up is enhanced by sprays of parsley.

Getting The Vote

A well-known Republican, in giving advice to a colleague, said that his method of getting votes for the Republican Party this year was to give every cab driver a large tip and then tell them, "Vote Republican."

"I use a slightly different method," said the second Republican. "I give them no tip at all and then tell them, 'Vote Democratic!'"

"Just Minding Our Own Business"



Since Mr. and Mrs. Cannady are part owners of Wake EMC they're going to mind that business by attending its annual meeting on Friday, March 28. The meeting will be held in the Wake Forest High School gymnasium in Wake Forest on that date beginning at 7:30 p.m. Like to help run your own business? Then we'll be looking for you.

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