



GARDEN TIME
m. e. gardner
n. c. state college

Perhaps some suggestions about jobs that should be anticipated at this season of the year might be helpful.

Be prepared to spray or dust your roses as soon as growth starts in order to control black spots, aphids and other diseases and insects. Spray is best because of better sticking qualities to foliage and stems. If you dust, be sure to apply after each prolonged rain or hard shower.

If you want large flowers, disbud by removing all buds, other than the terminal one, on each shoot for teas and hybrid teas.

If you have apple and peach trees in your home garden, prepare to spray them regularly, too. Would suggest an "all-purpose" spray for apples and also for peaches. Directions for mixing and applying will be found on the container. The fruit tree spray program is the one that is usually neglected.

Prune the early blooming shrubs if they need pruning: spiraeas, flowering almonds, flowering quince and forsythias. Remove the older flowering shoots to encourage strong new shoots for next year's bloom.

About the time the major forest trees come into leaf is a pretty good sign that danger of late spring frosts has passed. This growth index is really more reliable than using the "average dates for the last killing freeze or frost in the spring" supplied by the weather man.

Using this index you can select

the time for sowing seeds of annuals out-of-doors. Among the kinds are sweet alyssum, coreopsis, gaillardias, aster, larkspur, poppies, and gypsophila.

Also, when the danger of frost has passed, annuals and bedding plants may be set directly in the garden. Among the many are these: amaranthus, aster, celosia, coleus, cosmos, dahlias, marigolds, petunias, salvia, verbena and zinnia.

Plant gladioli at two week intervals for continuous bloom. This is one of the most satisfactory cut flowers for you and your friends to enjoy.

The lawn should be fertilized if you have not already accomplished this chore. An 8-8-8 mixture at the rate of 35 pounds per 1,000 square feet of lawn area is good. Mow ryegrass twice a week if you overseeded last fall.

Mulch azaleas, camellias and other plants to conserve moisture and reduce soil temperature. Pine straw is good.

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