

Buds
AND
Blossoms
By
MAMIE MILLER

"Turn unto the Lord your God: for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and of great kindness."--Joel 2:13.

Plant bulbs that may be left in the ground the year round. The following will give you plenty of beauty with little labor: Alliums, crocuses, tulips, grape hyacinths, narcissi, irises, lilies, squilly snowdrops and many others.

Avoid use of green manure on flowering bulbs. Bulbs do not need too much moisture for root growth.

Dig up canna tubers this fall and place them in boxes or pots, with each division having an eye on it. Put them two inches in the soil. This will give you a longer canna season next spring, as they will sprout indoors earlier than in the garden.

Don't plant maples, elms or poplars if your space is too small. They have over-possessive roots. Did you ever stump your toe on an overgrown root? It was a perfect way to get out of a little work by having a smashed toe.

Enjoy the fall and winter. Henry David Thoreau said, "Nature will bear the closest inspection. She invites us to lay our eye level with her smallest leaf, and take an insect view of its plain."

This week, for our Buds and Blossoms poem, we turn to Archibald MacLeish and his "Immortal Autumn."

I speak this poem now with grave and level voice
In praise of autumn of the far-horn-winding fall
I praise the flower-barren fields the clouds the tall Unanswering branches where the wind makes sudden noise.

I praise the fall it is the human season now
No more the foreign sun does meddle at our earth
Enforce the green and thaw the frozen soil to birth
Nor winter yet weigh all with silence the pine bough.

But now in autumn with the black and outcast crows
Share we the spacious world the whispering year is gone
There is more room to live now the once secret dawn
Comes late by daylight and the dark unguarded goes.

Between the mutinous brave burning of the leaves
And winter's covering of our hearts with his deep snow
We are alone there are no evening birds we know
The naked moon the tame stars circle at our eaves.

It is the human season on this sterile air
Do words outcarry breath the sound goes on and on
I hear a dead man's cry from autumn long since gone
I cry to you beyond this bitter air.

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