

GLIMPSES OF GARDENING



NICOTIANA NICKI-WHITE

What To Buy For Garden Fragrance

When snow is still on the ground it's hard to conjure up the memory of a still summer's night with the sweet fragrance of flowers drifting on the evening air.

But if you expect to create that idyllic setting this summer, some advance planning is in order. You'll need to obtain some plants known for their pleasing scent.

When you go to your garden center this spring, look for nicotiana, or flowering tobacco. It's one of the most fragrant of all bedding plants.

Two new varieties of nicotiana have recently been introduced by Pan-American Seed Co. They are Nicki-White and Nicki-Pink, both F₁ hybrids. These are prolific flowering, compact plants which grow to about 18 inches tall.

Nicotiana make excellent background plants for petunias or dwarf marigolds. Plant them under a window to capture some of their sweet fragrance indoors.

Planted in a sunny place, nicotiana will flower continuously all summer long right up until frost.

Both varieties of nicotiana will be available from garden centers and bedding plant growers this spring.

Seed Perennials Early To Prepare for Winter

One of the jobs you can get out of the way before the heavy gardening season arrives is the seeding of perennials.

Henry J. Smith, extension landscape horticulturist at North Carolina State University, suggests that flowering perennials that are started from seed early this spring will have longer to grow and toughen up for next winter.

"This means more and better flowers when they blossom next year," Smith said.

Smith suggests using a shallow box or flat in which to sow the seed. Put in a mixture of one-third loam, one-third peat moss and one-third sand. Keep it damp.

When the first pair of true leaves are well out, transplant the seedlings to individual pots or space them out in the flat. Plants should be large enough by September to set in a permanent perennial flower bed.

Foliage plants are well suited for outdoor planting, also. Smith said that fast growing foliage plants are especially useful to owners of new homes who need a screen or background planting that is fast growing and inexpensive.

One of the best in this category is the castor bean. It will produce an 8 to 12-foot plant within a few weeks. It bears leaves that are large and showy in bronze or deep red. Caution: don't allow the castor bean to set seed. Always cut away the bloom because the seed is deadly poisonous.

Another good large-growing plant is Tithonia or Mexican sunflower. It grows six feet with what Smith calls "interesting" leaves, and it produces bright orange flowers that can be used for cut flowers in the summer.

If you're in need of good low-growing foliage plants for use at the base of established shrubs or along a fence, consider these: coleus, the old-fashioned favorite; Joseph's Coat, another old-timer that's been around for many years, and kochia. This plant is fine textured and reaches two and a half feet in height.

New Booklet Is Guide To Babysitting

Children can be a lot of fun to be with — and as a teenage babysitter you can learn more about children as you perform a serious job and earn money, too. It takes training and practice to become a first rate sitter.

In a new booklet, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare gives practical guidance on how to be a thoroughly careful

babysitter. For a copy of Teenage Guide to Babysitting send 70 cents to Consumer Information, Dept. 10, Pueblo, Colorado 81009.

The booklet stresses that the most important part of your job is safety—keeping the children you care for away from harm.

Even with the best care in the world, however, accidents

will sometimes happen. Then you will have to know what to do. The general rule is this: Whenever the situation looks like it might be serious, don't waste time. Get in touch with the parents, a doctor, or the rescue squad at once.

So before the parents leave you with their children, be sure you have the phone number where they can be reached. Also ask them to

write down the phone number of a close friend or neighbor. For police or fire department, dial the operator.

Here are some situations you might run into and what to do about them.

Animal bites — When they are deep enough to break the skin, they can be serious. Wash with soap and water, and phone the doctor.

Remember what the animal looks like, and tell the parents and the doctor.

Something in the eye — Don't poke around in the eye. Tell the child not to rub the area. It's best to call the parents and tell them what has happened.

Burns — If it's a very light burn, you can run cold water over it. It's a deep burn, or

spread over a large part of the body, keep the child quiet and get help at once. DO NOT pull off scorched clothing.

Other information in the booklet includes your relationship with the child's parents, and how to entertain children of different ages.

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S. adv.



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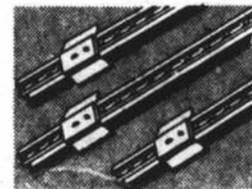
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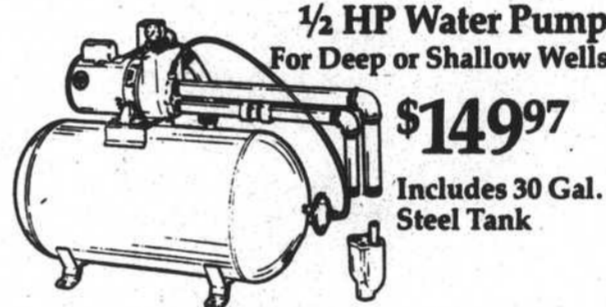
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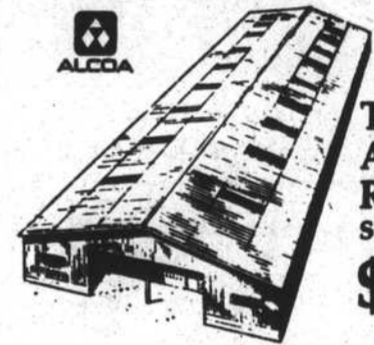
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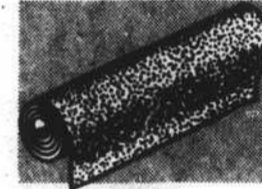
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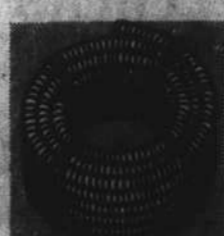
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