



## The LANDSCAPE DEPARTMENT BY CUSHING SMITH, M.E.



### ANNUALS AND THEIR USE IN THE GARDEN

Annual plants are those whose seeds must be sown every year. From seed to seed is often less than a year, and their beauties are packed into the few months intervening. Over half of the plants of the world are annuals. The more staid perennials are essential as the main and permanent effects in our gardens, but the annuals fill the spaces which may be bare one season. Their very uncertainty of color, height, and even length of bloom make their presence sought after by every garden lover.

The very fact that there are so many varieties of annuals makes the decision as to their selection almost entirely a personal one. There are a few standard and tried friends which no garden should be without. Among these are the asters, zinnias, petunia, marigold, four o'clock, sunflower, phlox, bachelor's button, verbena, calendula, morning-glory, sweet-pea, nasturtium, few of which are attacked by bugs and fungi.

If you would grow annuals for cutting and decorating purposes, grow them in rows as in a vegetable garden, and cultivate them as specimens, and harvest their blooms without fear of destroying the color scheme or effect of your garden border.

Perhaps some of my readers would like to grow plants of distinct varieties, securing all of the different species of one kind of plant. Then send for a packet of seeds of all of the asters, or all of the phlox, or all of the balsam, and you will learn much of the wide gamut of color.

of form, and see an intimate study in evolution of that one variety.

If you would sow the seed early, sow them in flats or shallow boxes, not over two inches deep, in a loose, well-drained soil. Keep the boxes in a sunny window or if possible place them out-of-doors and cover with a light of glass, or matting on cool nights. There are many kinds of annuals which can safely be sown out-of-doors directly, and perhaps it is better to delay the growth rather than to secure too early flowers with possible damage by late frosts.

In the preparation of the soil, make it fine in texture, soft and deep, so that the fine roots of the plants do not remain in the upper half inch of the surface, there to become dried out in the compacted surface. Keep the surface loosely mulched, using a rake or small hoe. You will thus conserve the moisture near the surface by capillary action. When watering, soak the ground clear through.

Avoid any formal bedding effects with annuals, and I should say with any plants or bulbs. Can you see any beauty in a harp or a star, or an angel or a crescent if made of pinks, salvia or zinnias? Grow the annuals in the flower border, preferably with perennials and not in flower beds in the lawn, where the difficulty of keeping the geometrical beds lined up and square is a source of more discouragement than the weeds which will creep in from nowhere.

For mass effects and bold color displays near the back of the borders, the coarser varieties are best. Here the sunflower, castor bean may be

planted for the back rows; the zinnias for bright scarlets and lilacs; African marigolds for their brilliant yellows; nicotiana for whites. There is no good blue annual in this class. For lower-growing and less important displays, there are the California poppies of orange and yellow; petunias for purples, violets and whites; larkspurs for blues and violets; bachelor's buttons for blues; coreopsis for yellows; gaillardias for orange yellow and browns, and the china asters for their August and September blooms of many colors.

For children and for some of us who may ever be children the everlasting flowers have interest not to be denied. Perhaps as bunches of paper flowers they have little value, but their bright faces are welcome in the border. Do not underestimate the hardy annuals in your study of gardens, and do not permit them to be forgotten in the present zeal to grow perennials. No plants from China or from other parts of the world will quite take their place.

### Conduct Health Clinic At Evanston on April 16

The next regular health clinic of the Evanston Tuberculosis association will be held at the Red Cross Room in the City hall, Davis street, on Wednesday morning, April 16, at 10 o'clock. In charge at this clinic will be Miss Lydia R. Sheall, public health nurse for this community, and any one desiring a free chest examination by an accredited specialist is invited to attend.

Health clinics for Evanston are held on the first and third Wednesdays of each month under the auspices of the Chicago Tuberculosis Institute. These clinics are open to residents of New Trier Villages.

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tional matters in Illinois is indicated by the fact that more than 100,000 children in the state are suffering from malnutrition. Too often these children cry for food and the mother answers with a dose of soothing syrup, it is said.

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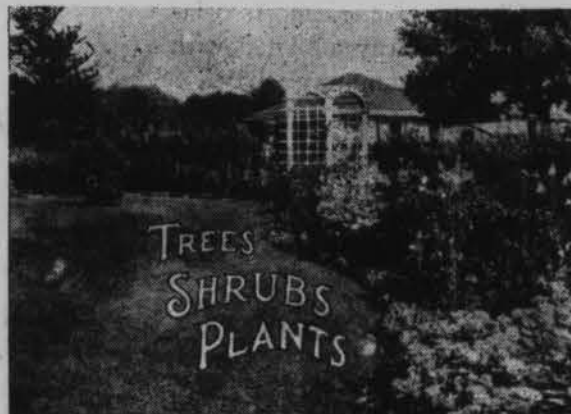
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