

# Boom in Home Gardening Anticipated This Year

## Plan a Garden Now and Help Make Community More Beautiful

### When the Gas Tank is Empty Turn to Your Garden for Healthful and Satisfying Recreation

**YOU'VE GOT TO HAVE A GARDEN IF YOU WANT TO HAVE A HOME**

I sympathize with city folks who live in little flats; They haven't Homes, but merely spots to hang their coats and hats, To sleep, perhaps to eat, to get their letters and their bills; But all the Garden-space they have is on their window sills.

Among the dangers of the street, with trucks and honking horns, Their children play, instead of having broad and grassy lawns

Where trees and shrubs and flowering plants leap from the living loam. —A house without a Garden is a House but not a Home.

The place may be a palace,—with a flat on every floor,

But it will be a Parking-space, just that and nothing more, Despite its marble corridors and gleaming copper dome;

For You've Got to Have a Garden If you Want to Have a Home. —Charles Henry Mackintosh.

This spring and summer we Canadians are going to have some leisure time on our hands due to the rationing of gas which will mean going without the pleasure trips to the country and beaches. How can we spend this leisure time? What better way could we answer that question than by finding aesthetic, intellectual and physical satisfaction in recreational gardening.

Gardening is no mere recreation; it partakes of philosophy, it ranks as a fine art; it provides material for whatever sort of intellectual exercise one may be inclined to take, as well as physical exertion of the most wholesome sort.

Home and garden are in partnership, for the garden is part of the very fabric of the home. It provides for the children a background of beauty, a playground safeguarded and healthful, and its products are growth-giving foods of supreme importance.

Gardening, in short, is a mode of life ideally suited to a nation of prosperous home owners, with ample leisure. Its devotees employ their leisure hours in a manner which improves themselves and their communities, increases the value of their holdings and which in time, as leisure increases, will transform the ugliness of our industrial scene into an ordered beauty unsurpassed anywhere in the world.

We realize more each day that Richmond Hill is Toronto's healthiest suburb. We are unable to find housing accommodation for the people who would like to take up residence here. Why not aim to make our little village Toronto's most beautiful suburb? Starting now — this spring — let's keep that aim foremost in our minds — Make Richmond Hill more beautiful. The first step would be to join the Horticultural Society and add your knowledge and help to that group of lovers of nature's beauty who each year try to make beautiful some unsightly corner of the village. When you have done this think next of your own surroundings.

Spring is a crucial period for the lawn.

To have a beautiful lawn you must feed that lawn — furnish it with all the elements growing grass needs. Many people fail to realize the amount of plant food removed from the soil each year by growing grass. They do not realize the necessity of replacing that plant food. They wonder why their lawn becomes thin, scraggly and weedy — and why re-seeding alone does not solve the problem.

The most desirable method of feeding is to apply a complete, balanced plant food — odorless, economical and easy to apply.

Plant food to be of greatest benefit to grass, should be applied to the established lawn very early in the spring. The most favorable

time to apply it is just as soon as spring thawing begins because—

The ground is still honeycombed from the effects of freezing and thawing and the plant food readily finds its way to the grass roots.

The nourishment is available to the roots, just as soon as root action begins, and when all conditions are favorable for growth — plenty of moisture from spring rains, cool weather, just the conditions that grass likes. Remember that root activity starts long before any sign of growth is visible above ground.

If water bills are a factor in your garden budget, by all means take advantage of early feeding, for plant food need not be watered in if applied before top growth begins. The early spring rains will take care of this watering-in process for you.

On large areas, the job of application may be simplified by the use of a plant food spreader.

A lawn that is fed early and given an advantageous start when all factors are favorable for the growth of grass, will be able to crowd out weeds and prevent germination of any weed seed that may have blown or washed on the lawn. Weeds start active growth later than grass, and if the lawn has a headstart, there will be no bare spots to encourage weed growth.

Early feeding will develop sturdy roots that are resistant to summer heat and drought, and that will support a green velvety carpet of grass the whole season through.

This column will welcome items of interest to gardeners. You may be able to help some one solve a garden problem by your experience.

March is the month to do a little indoor gardening. The geraniums which have bloomed for your pleasure all winter, fuchsias, coleus, begonias &c., should be slipped for readiness for those window boxes you are planning. With a sharp knife or razor blade, cut off branches, remove all but the top leaves and slice off the lower end close below a joint. Place firmly in clean sand and keep well watered. The old plants may be shaken out, removing the old soil, and repotted. This will set them back for awhile but they will soon recover and bloom just as profusely. If left in the old pots they are liable to get hard and stunted and grow or bloom very little.

Christmas plants, such as poinsettias, will be exhausted now, so they may be put away for a rest. Below a greenhouse bench on their side is an ideal position. Cyclamen and Christmas begonias may keep growing for a long time but we

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don't usually recommend keeping them over, though it can be done under proper conditions.

Start planning your outside flower and vegetable gardens and get your seeds ordered right away.

### Care in the Kitchen Cooks Hitler's Goose

It is estimated that approximately 15 per cent of food is wasted in the normal process of preparing and cooking. Much of this is unavoidable even in war-time; however, if only one-quarter of this wastage is eliminated by thoughtful planning and care, the saving would amount to 3 1/2 per cent. Here are seven examples:

1. Use measures and the clock. Accuracy in cooking prevents waste and produces better results.
2. Food value is lost through overcooking.
3. Soda added to vegetables destroys valuable properties.
4. The outer leaves of cabbage, if too tough to be served as a vegetable, make nourishing soups.
5. Peeling potatoes is a peacetime luxury and destroys valuable roughage.
6. Save fat by frying the bacon rinds separately. Use the fried rinds for flavouring soups.
7. Less sugar is required to sweeten stewed fruit if added just before cooking is completed.

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