

Home and Garden '83

Mix and match colors in the garden too

Exterior decorating! An outdoor room where we can create magic in an informal, formal or natural setting just by allowing our imagination to flow.

Color co-ordinating our most comfortable colors when mingling ornamental shrubs and perennials with trees and evergreens and unifying everything by choosing a few of the same types for elsewhere gives us rewards in creativity and self-satisfaction, doesn't it?

When planning a new garden or adding old favorites to an established one, money can be saved and disappointment avoided in the permanent additions chosen, if careful planning is done. They must suit your needs, of course, but the garden has to be able to provide their specific requirements too.

Are they hardy...time consuming...invasive where they eventually take over with an underground root network...fast or slow growing...too tall, or short...good in moist or dry soil...fruit or berry bearing to attract birds and shelter them from the elements...good for privacy or wind screening...tolerant to sun or do they need shade...able to bloom in sequence to provide constant color.

Overplanting also means overspending — they will grow given time and patience. If the bare spots between small shrubs, evergreens or perennials are less than appealing to you, carpeting the area with a rainbow of annuals blooming their little hearts away is a guaranteed pleaser.

Shrubs and vines with thorns are best planted away from doors, walkways and pools so needless scratches, especially for carefree children, can be avoided.

If bare root stock is purchased and you're unable to work with it right away, dig a shallow trench in a sheltered location, lay the plants slanting in it, cover the roots with soil and keep moist. (This is a temporary and protective measure for covering the roots.)

Nursery stock sold in burlap can be placed in the well-prepared soil with just the burlap at the top pulled back. Plant to the depth indicated by the soil mark around the stem base.

Paper-type containers should have the sides and bottoms carefully slit to allow the roots access out before planting and those in plastic pots should be removed entirely before planting.

Dig the hole larger than the pot size so the roots have spreading room, prepare the soil well before putting the occupant in (it'll undoubtedly be there its lifetime so the growing medium must be good), water and let drain away.

Place the stock in position and tamp the soil down as you fill in making sure there are no air pockets. Provide support if necessary and water well.

Gardening, whether in or out, is learned through perseverance. We all make mistakes but we must go slowly and learn by them. To enjoy the feel of the earth in our bare hands while we work away and think of the magic that will appear, makes it all worthwhile.

NOW IS THE TIME:

- To apply crabgrass killer before May 15 and fertilize the lawn.
- To clean garden tools and sharpen dull ones as they're easier and nicer to use. Discard any that are no longer useful.
- To save fireplace ashes as they're rich in potash. Apply very thinly in garden soil.
- To plant rhubarb down the side of the house to save valuable space and fertilize them, too, as they're heavy feeders and are hungry. Divide them in the fifth year.
- To remember when planting roses that they need at least a half-day of sun. Spray them with a disease preventative and give them a boost by feeding with rose food.
- To make sure perennials planted among evergreens are receiving sufficient sun and aren't shaded by the taller plants.

Shrub weeding can be reduced

Reduce the hand weeding and cultivating required in shrub beds by trying some of the pre-emergent herbicides this spring.

Even with their use, annual flowering plants can often be planted around the shrubs and evergreens for summer color. However, seeds generally cannot be sown in soil which has been treated with pre-emergent herbicides.

Green 'n' Growing

Elaine Gordon



- To plan on giving your children a spot in the garden for growing their very own vegetables. They'll learn the pleasures and rewards of gardening at an early age. They will eat them without hassles just because they have grown what's on their plates. Place all insecticides out of reach too.
- To check the rockery to see that the "little fellows" growing there haven't been uprooted over winter.
- To avoid the use of insecticides that are toxic to bees, especially when blossoms are out. We would all be in a sorry state if we didn't have these valuable insects in our gardens.

HELPFUL HINTS

- Bone meal in its soil is a geranium's delight.
- Avoid moving an Oriental poppy once it's happily established — they really dislike being moved.
- Weeds are easier to remove after a rain or hosing.
- If asparagus is cultivated too deeply, the

roots and crowns will be damaged. Horseradish, a perennial herb of the marigold family, needs fertile and deep moist soil in order to grow well.

Give a chain-link fence an attractive visual affect by planting morning glories adjacent to it.

Rhododendrons and azaleas adore a thick mulch — it's essential for them as it retains soil moisture.

Mint is an invasive sort and will quickly take over, so sink edging in the soil around the clumps and plant wisely.

Those tall and stately Delphiniums need rich soil and full sun with shelter from harsh winds and rain. Stake them early so they can't get blown over and divide now if they need it.

The huge leaves of the old-fashioned woody vine, Dutchman's Pipe, is a fast-growing privacy screen for those wonderful open porches so prevalent in older homes. It needs sun or partial shade and

Flowering shrubs

Evergreens, both winter contrast with snow.

But evergreens are relatively expensive, compared to the cost of flowering shrubs. And by substituting flowering shrubs, home gardeners can landscape their grounds with shrubbery that provides texture, contrast, flowers, fruit and fall leaf color, says Pat Tucker, head of the University of Guelph's grounds department.

Flowering shrubs mature quickly and they can easily be kept in shape by pruning. Indeed, they may require little corrective pruning during the early years.

the little brown-green flowers that look like small pipes, bloom in summer. Spreading perennials such as shasta daisies, dornicums, arabis, mums, coral bells, fall asters and primroses need to be

divided every three years or so to maintain vigor and excellent bloom. Perhaps your neighbors might have just the spot in their gardens for any extras you haven't room for.

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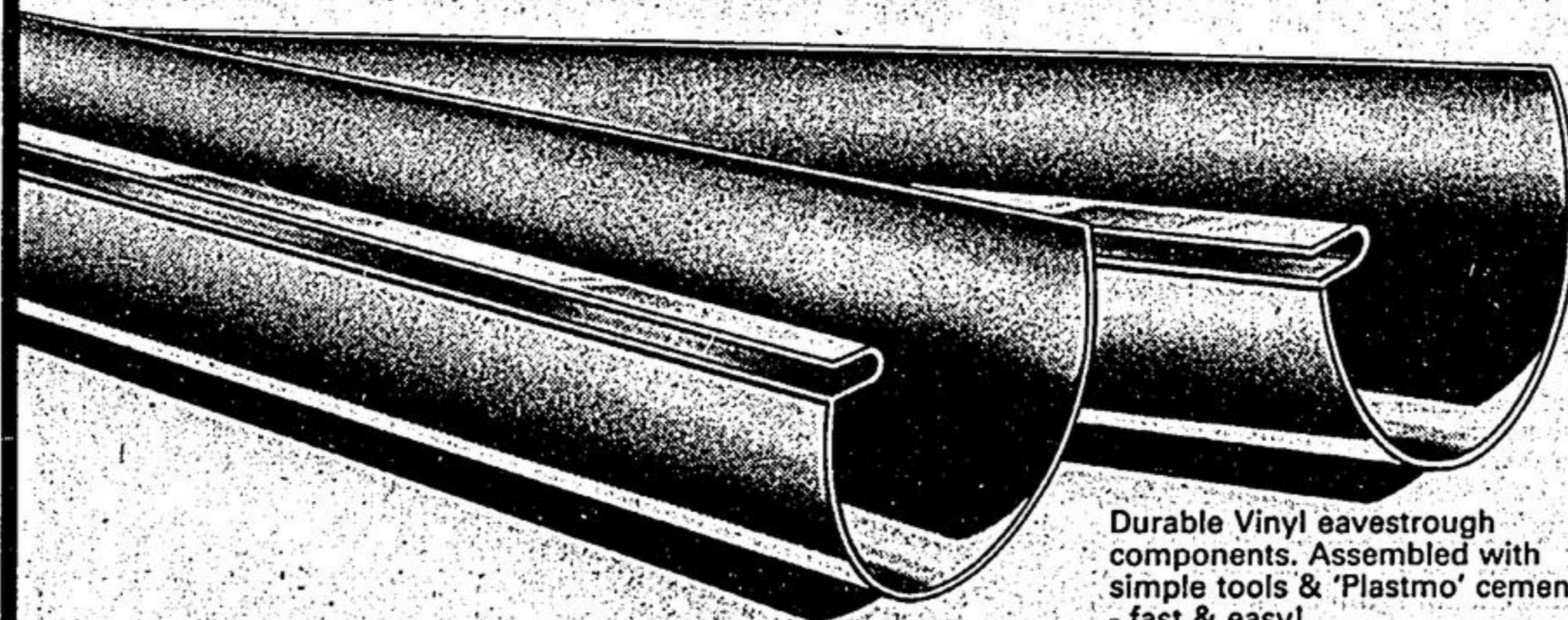


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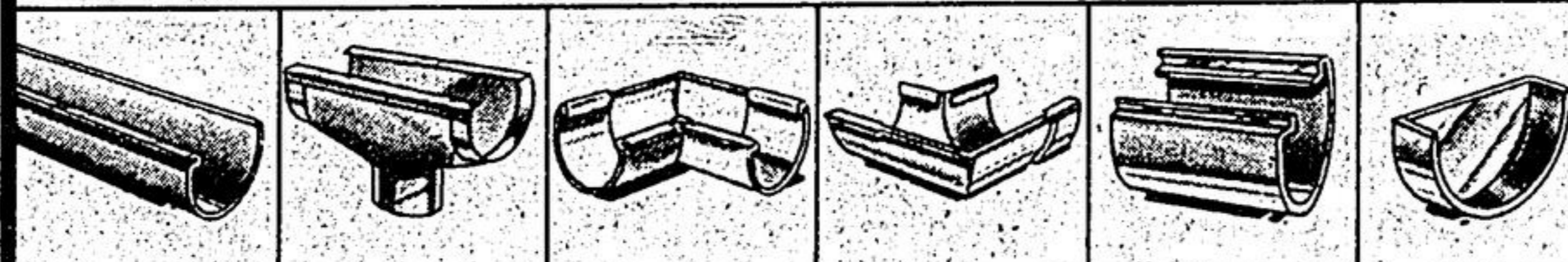


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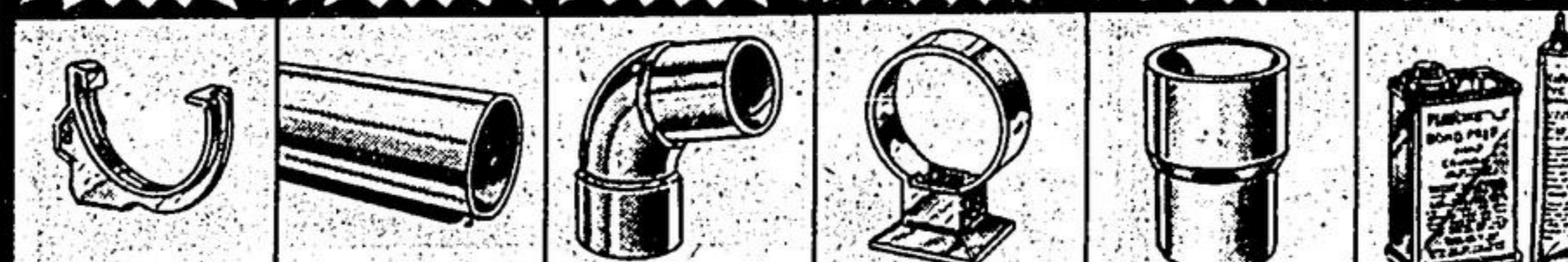
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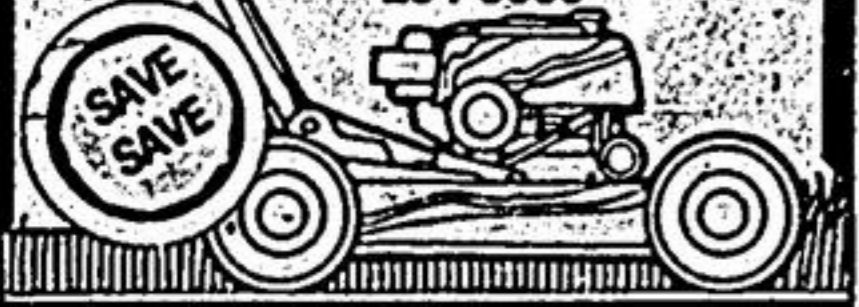
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