

Gardening

with
Marjorie Keates

February - time to start the garden! The seed for Spanish onions, leeks, celery and geraniums should all be started this month. If you don't have a catalogue yet, the Harrowsmith Source Book - available at your local library - has a great selection of seed-houses and nurseries that mail out catalogues. Stokes is my own particular favourite because they give so much information - a good description of the plant, the number of days to germination, to maturity, excellent instructions for starting the seeds and they are prompt in filling orders.

When you're ordering seed, don't forget to order some tomato seed for late summer planting for winter fruit. Order seed that grows into short, sturdy plants such as Stakeless or Patio. These varieties have been developed for container growing and can be grown on a sunny window-sill. They produce good-size fruit - Stakeless, 8 oz.; Patio 2" diameter, dark red fruit.

Strawberries are so easy to grow. If you are going to try some this year the variety Redcoat, which was developed in Ottawa, has a lovely sweet, spicy flavour. Choose a site with at least six hours sunshine and within easy reach of the water supply. The plants do best if there is plenty of organic matter in the soil so use wood-ashes when planting. Mix the ashes into the soil well. Follow instructions that come with the plants as to depth and method of planting. Mulch well with straw or pine-needles and keep the mulch renewed as it breaks down. Try to keep the blossoms and most of the runners picked off the first year. The second year, enjoy the fruit.

Parsley seeds are very slow to germinate. They can take up to 6 weeks. In order to speed them up it is usually suggested that you soak the seeds overnight and plant the next day. Then, I find, the seeds seem to stick together in a black gritty mess! Try planting the dry seed from the packet in the seed tray or flat, water, and place in a plastic bag and put them in the freezer for a few days. Remove from freezer and place in a warm spot, still in the bag, and hopefully the seedlings will be up in less than a week. When the seedlings appear, remove the bag.

What to do with your Christmas poinsetta? After the coloured bracts die, reduce the water supply and keep the plant nearly dry for several weeks. Then cut the stems back by two-thirds and start watering again. This is to encourage new bushy growth. The plant in its pot can be put outdoors next summer with your other houseplants and brought in in September.

THE

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ATHENS HIGH SCHOOL CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Athens High School Centennial Committee would like to contact all former students and teachers for a reunion to be held July 11-13, 1980. The celebration will mark the school's 100 years at the present location.

However, the school actually started 120 years ago when Athens was called Farmersville. The Farmersville Grammar School opened in 1860 in the upper floor of an existing building, and was moved in 1877 to the Town Hall. A new school was completed in 1879, on the present site. In 1921 the school was destroyed by fire, and while it was being rebuilt, classes were held in the new Town Hall.

The celebrations start Friday July 11 with a wine and cheese get-together at the high school. On Saturday there will be a tour of the school, class reunions, historical displays, and a welcoming assembly with opportunities to share memories. A buffet dinner and dance with a 12 piece band is scheduled for Saturday evening. Local churches will conduct special services on Sunday.

If any former students or teachers wish more information, it can be obtained by writing the Athens High School Centennial Committee, Athens, Ontario. Tickets to cover all the events of the weekend are available to \$20.00 each.



4-H Homemaking Club

When friends get together for good times, food is always part of the fun.

Is entertaining ever more frustration than fun for you - or more preparation than participation? If so, you may need some of the new partyfood ideas in "Food for Friends".

This 4-H Homemaking Club Project will be offered in Leeds County this winter.

Some of the recipes are Tacos, Cabbage Rolls, Pizza, Crepes, Chicken Cacciatore, and Chinese Style Pork.

Entertaining with energy conservation in mind is stressed throughout the project. Members learn how to determine the cost of energy used by various small appliances in making the mouth-watering recipes. They also become familiar with the important features of each appliance.

So, for good eating, learning, and fun besides, come out to "Food for Friends".

We are presently looking for volunteer leaders for this program. The requirements for forming a club are that there are two adult leaders and a minimum of 4 young people. Membership age is 12 to 26 as of March 1st, 1980. If you would like to get involved contact Jean Riddell, 267-1063. Leaders workshops begin January 15th.

REGISTRATION FORM

(Please print, do not write)

NAME _____ (nee) _____

ADDRESS _____

YEARS ATTENDED ATHENS DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL _____

I will attend Centennial Homecoming (check) _____

Enclosed is \$ _____, for _____ registrations.

NAME OF SPOUSE _____

TO FACILITATE PLANNING, RETURN FEE/S AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO JOHN WEBSTER, CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, P. O. BOX 279, ATHENS, ONTARIO K0E 1R0.