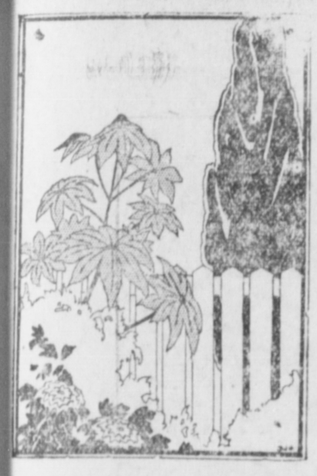
Gardens and Gardening In Northern British Columbia

PLANNING FOR THE GARDEN SHOULD BE DONE AT ONCE AND SOIL SHOULD BE DUG AS SOON AS WEATHR PERMITS

While this is not exactly gardening weather, it is the time of year when people should be planning their gardens for the coming season. Cultivation should commence as soon as weather permits.

The soil in the garden must be dug and cultivated again and again for one purpose, that of ventilation. This idea doesn't often occur to the gardener laboriously plying a spading fork or hoe, but that is what he is doing. He is ventilating his soil to let the air into it and to expose as much of it as possible to the sun. Every spade or forkful turned over exposes that much more of the soil to the sun and to the air and makes the soil more accessible to the air to a greater depth.



The Texture and Color of Foliage Is an Important Factor in Decorative Gardening.

Scientists now tell us that the ancient formula of "earth to earth" is an inappropriate symbol of death because the soil is teeming with life, millions and millions of bacteria being always at work to create and maintain life, converting chemical elements into food for plants and the plants in turn for man and the beasts and birds.

The activity of bacterial life is regulated by the amount of air and moisture that can penetrate the soil. Digging and cultivating is in realty fertilizing for each digging or stirring of the soil increases the chemical and bacterial activities in the soil and thus liberates more food locked up in the soil for the plants.

Dig the soil this year and hoe with the idea in mind that you are fertilizing the plants at the same time you are destroying weeds and improving the tilth. Turn the spade or forkful of earth clear over when you dig the garden. The top layer has had air and sun. The layer at the bottom of the spade is to be exposed to the elements.

RAISING DAHLIAS FROM SEED

The dahlia, queen of the autumn garden, is now grown more extensively than any other fall flower and the ease with which new varieties may be grown from seed and a collection of wide range of colors obtained has made the growing of seedling dahlias a big gardening feature. The dahlia may be grown as an annual, blooming the first year from seed.

Dahlias Grown From Seed

The main requisite in growing seedling dahlias is to get an early start. The large flowered varities should be sown not later than March to be certain of getting a blooming season in the garden of reasonable length. Many greenhouses will grow a flat of dahlia seedlings for a small fee and thus relieve the gardener of the work and worry of bringing the seedlings through safely until planting out time.

Sprays Hold Insects in Check

GARDENING IN RUPERT

Effort Will Be Made to Encourage Beautifying City This Season

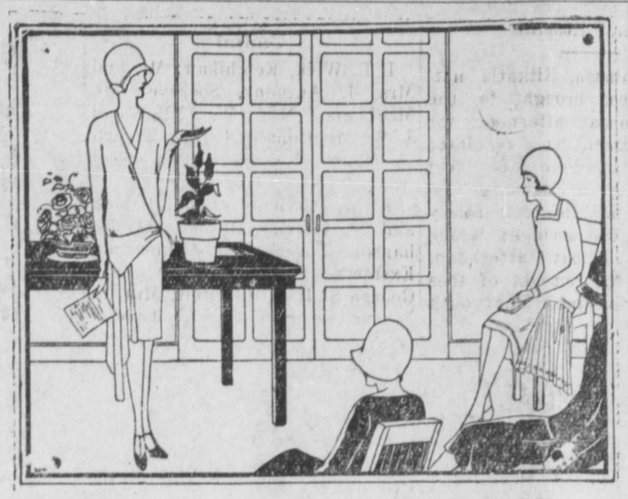
An effort will be made by The Daily News to encourage the beautifying of Prince Rupert by means of the gardens and with that in view a page of the paper will be occasionally devoted to gardening. This is the first number and it is expected to continue throughout the spring and summer.

Readers are invited to aid in this work by giving hints and asking questions. While conditions are different here from many other places, the general science of gardening is much the same everywhere. The great thing is to begin cultivating early. A number of Prince Rupert people already have dug their gardens or at any rate have commenced doing so.

NITROGEN AND OTHER SOIL FOOD NECESSARY

Fertilizing has become a matter of chemical research to such an extent that a gardener is able, if he so desires, to have his soil analyzed and find out the fertilizing element that is needed and supply it in the form of chemical salts. However, it is not often necessary to go to this trouble, for the general character of the soil tells the observant gardener what is needed.

There are three most important chemical foods for plants in the soil, nitrogen, potassium, or, as it is usually called, potash, and phosphorus. Usually we are most concerned with furnishing nitrogen, the most needed and most largely consumed element. Nitrogen is the food most needed to promote leafy growth. The "ammonia" in stable manures is a common source of nitrogen. Stable manures, leaf mold and chemicals such as nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia furnish nitrogen in quickly available form.



Members of Garden Club s Exchange Experiences

PLANS FOR EARLY SOWING

Plans for early seed sowing follow close upon the sending away of the annual seed order. The greatest waste in gardening is in seed sowing and in the death of the tiny plants after the seed has germinated. Plan this year to save the lives of the tiny plants and to get full germinating value from the seed.

Plan Now to Save the Tiny Plants

Make the soil for the seed boxes for early sowing fine and porous. Run it through a sieve to get it fine and add a little sand to make it porous. Caked and cracking soil due to the fact that it is of too close texture gives a lot of trouble in seed boxes. Be sure to have plenty of holes for drainage in the box. Cover them with pieces of broken flower pots or tablewear. Above this put a layer or about half an inch at least of course material, small stones are excellent. Over this put fine soil to a depth of two inches and an ideal seed box is ready.

Make the Soil for the Seed Boxes Fine.

Sow in Rows in the Box and Sow Thinly.

Have glass ready to cover the seed boxes and do not keep the atmosphere under the glass too close. Put a match under one side of the glass to give a little ventilation.

Simple Planting Schemes Are Best Employed.

SIMPLE PLANS MOST EFFECTIVE IN ANY GARDEN

Planning the flower garden along definite lines is becoming more and more an accepted practice due to the wide dissemination of garden information through magazines, lectures and garden club activities. Even the simplest border is best planned before it is planted.

Consideration of space available is the first consideration. It is useless to buy more seeds or plants than the border can accommodate. It is also best to employ simple planting schemes so far as color is concerned. They are much more likely to be effective when to try to work out elaborate plans calling for a variety of color.

Planning the Flower Garden Has Become an Accepted Practice.

One general color effect for the small border, such as a strip across the back of a 50-foot lot, is easier to handle and usually much more satisfactory than a plan calling for the association of three or four principal colors. A pink and rose border, for instance, using pink petunias, salmon rose zinnias, pink asters, pink cosmos, pink ten-weeks stocks, pink snap-dragons with occasional individual or small groups of plants in blue or white for contrast and to relieve monotony is easily worked out and one of the most popular.

A Narrow Edging Adds Much to the Effectiveness of a Border.

Blue borders using the blue of annual larkspurs, stocks, petunias, the blue tones of asters, Chinese forget-me-not, pansies and violas with contrasts of pale yellow and pink are attractive.

Yellow borders with orange or scarlet contrasts are brilliant and effective. Yellow snapdragons, nasturtiums, annual chrysanthemums, California poppies, annual sunflowers, zinnias, with the reds and oranges in these same plants make a lively illumination. A touch of scarlet of zinnias adds fall brilliancy.

A narrow edging adds much to effectiveness of a border. Sweet alyssum is a standard and excellent one, giving bloom the entire season. Alternating the white and the lilac varieties is a planting advocated by some garden writers which has achieved great popularity.

For the red and yellow border the dwarf French marigolds or the miniature tagetes signata pumila, tiny marigolds are fine material. The pink and rose border may employ dwarf ageratum to excellent effect, the lavender blue giving a fine contrast.

SOW EARLY IN ROCK GARDENS

Many Seeds Require Frost to Help Them Germinate

Frost has an active part in spurring many seeds into germination. This fact is one of the modern discoveries of horticulture. It was brought into prominence through rock gardening interests which found that many alpine seeds needed to be frozen and snow covered to germinate freely and quickly. As rock gardening has become a very important development in gardening, the raising of rock plants from seed has attracted much study and attention.

Many of these rock garden plants are easily raised from seed if subjected to weathering.

Alpine Seeds Need to Be Frozen to Germinate Freely

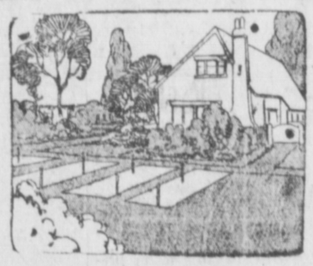
This is particularly true of the primroses, favorite rock garden subjects. Seeds of these plants should be sown in boxes or frames, snow may be heaped upon them to speed germination. With the thawing and freezing treatment germination is prompt as soon as warm weather arrives.

Primrose seeds germinate poorly in many cases if sown after the middle of March. Delphinium seeds germinate well at low temperatures while if sown during May or late they often prove disappointing.

Sow seeds of perennials of slow germination in frames as set the boxes in the frames as a matter of convenience. Frozen early as the soil can be worked. Sow in boxes in the house and soil can be taken from the garden and thawed in the house for the seed boxes while the soil in the frames is still frozen.

Some Annuals May Be Sown on Frozen Ground They Will Germinate With the First Warm Days of Spring.

Some annuals may be sown upon the frozen ground in the open to good purpose. These are the poppies, centaureas and annual larkspurs. These are the hardies of annuals and will germinate with the first warm days of spring and give early bloom in the garden. All will stand considerable freezing without harm. Seedlings which have self-sown and germinated in the fall often survive below zero weather and continue their growth in the spring.



Sow Primrose Seeds in Boxes and Set Them Out to Freeze.

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