

## Garden Topics

By GORDON LINDSAY SMITH  
No Garden Handicaps

There is one nice thing about gardening. No matter what sort of a spot we have, there are some things that will grow. In this business one hears much of fine, rich loam and sunshine, and while those conditions may be ideal for a lot of plants, there are others that actually prefer a location far from favorable. In poor, dusty soil, for instance, there are hardy flowers like portulaca, alyssum, zinnias and many more that will make a good showing. Then the dark corners near walls or under fairly dense shade are ideal places for begonias and pansies and certain fern like flowers that shrink away from the bright sun. Even soggy corners where their favorites and poor windswept rocky slopes. Rugged climates, too, are no handicap. Indeed in some northern gardens are grown the very finest of vegetables and the brightest of flowers. Away up or rather down in the northern tundras in the summer time the ground is aflame with bright bloom. In any good Canadian seed catalogue will be listed flowers and vegetables that will thrive in unusual places and it will pay to study these special likes if we are to do the best with unusual locations.

### Timely Hints

Experienced gardeners have all sorts of little tricks that will add to the interest and satisfaction of gardening. One of the oldest is to soak seed before planting. This applies especially to vegetable seeds, like peas, beans and lettuce. By soaking for a very few hours just before planting, germination is hastened and several days are saved. With the earliest potatoes, sometimes it is a good thing to allow a few of the tubers to sprout in warm sunshine in a window or warm room. Then we plant very carefully with the sprouts undamaged and pointing upwards. With carrots and beets it will help to prepare the rows with special care, digging out the poor or hard soil to a depth of six inches or a foot, and filling with rich soil with plenty of humus and manure. In such the seeds will germinate quickly and the young vegetables grow without being crowded. To cause this special soil is very open there will be less need for thinning and the roots will grow straight. With melons, cucumbers and squash we usually sow in specially rich hills with some old, rotten manure if we can find it. We may also cover for a few weeks with glass or some of the special papers caps to protect from late frost or cool nights. With all bedding plants, it is a good plan to pinch back after transplanting and especially to remove any flowers or buds. This pinching encourages stouter and healthier growth and in the end we get much harder and bigger blooms.

### Watering

In watering it is well to remember that one thorough soaking in dry weather is worth a dozen sprinklings. This rule applies to lawns too. A light sprinkling that lays the dust, encourages the roots to come near the surface where soaking on the other hand encourages the roots to go down where they will be safe from the heat near the surface and where they will also find more plant food. In a great many cases where there are trees nearby light sprinkling also brings the roots of the trees close to the surface where they will ruin both the grass and the lawn mower. With lawns incidentally it is advisable either to use a very fine mist of water or else remove the nozzle altogether and really soak.

### Less Seeds and Faster

On the market are certain hormone sprays, which will make things like tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, etc., fruit faster and earlier, and also very substantially reduce the number of seeds. So of-

## ELLEN'S DIARY

By an Island Farmer's Wife

Beautiful days. May gives now to the farmers. A sunny, warm, fresh and new. Days which hasten their choring to bring them early to the fields of morning. To catch there in another spring the subtle scent of fresh-stirred earth as cultivators cut and fine and smooth their fields for the seedling.

And over against the silver of an horizon when the cool dews of the hills about and the day was still young and sweet, a farmer sowed young grain. We stopped a moment in the yard with James to watch the scene—to catch again the promise of the seed-time and to admire the magic of the season spread all about. Then no breath of wind stirred; birds sang their praises in the silence prevailing.

At the barn Rob was turning the cows to pasture; Jamie was busy over a matter of a broody hen he was carrying off to confinement, Gage and the dog at his heels. "It's a lovely time of year, isn't it, Ellen?" James offered. He sighed then, thoughts over the fields to the east, "too nice—to be missing," he said softly.

"And oh, I must tell you" granddaughter said, talking to us by phone today "the red tulips are blooming—and the golden willows are out now in pretty new leaves! And did you know that the Muscovy duck is laying. . . And did you hear that this young fellow of ours wandered away down the lane yesterday? And wasn't it funny that a sow in the orchard frightened him so that he turned back. . . and wasn't it good too? Or he might have been drowned! I guess" and we could fancy the whimsical smile. "He won't make a farmer, will he? Not if he is frightened of a pig! And the orchard you should see it! It's just yellow with dandelions. . . You'll have to come home to see. . . everything."

Home! James speaks of it now that a wind we do not seem to notice much at Alderlea, moans about this house. "If we were home, Ellen," he offers "it wouldn't sound one bit the same. What cherished havens are Homes! Blessed above every other dwelling, no matter how lowly our own may be. "I wish—so much that I could come with you. Home" Karolyn said with great longing when with Rob and the boys we came away from visiting her in hospital at week-end.

It sounds a mite sad, the wind which moves about the eaves and now dashes shining drops of rain against the panes. "It will do good" James nods. "The land has been too dry to cultivate well of late. Past the children's bedtime, he came this evening along the night-fields which lie between. We must peck, without even choosing his steps but unconsciously following our favorite path hither, one well-trodden in recent years.

He must climb the stairs then, hoping that sleep had not claimed them. But, young bodies weary with the affairs of their day, minds we believe, perplexed with unvoiced thoughts, they were already far and ever away. And "Any tears today?" James queried softly tucking the covers about them—Jamie with his arm about the little lad. "None—not one!" we whispered.

No, no tears today—but folks burning busily to the duties that claimed them. . . sun over green fields, quiet haze of May veiling the distant hills. And now, shining drops of rain against the panes.

Until tomorrow—Diary—  
Good-night. . . .

ten in our climate the first blooms fail to set fruit or do so only in a limited way. That's where these special sprays come in handy but they must be used exactly and according to directions. They are fine for some plants but deadly to others.

Next Week  
Support, Double Planting, Special Tools Will Help.

## Musical Festival Winners



The Hunter River C. G. I. T. organization are, Front Row, left to right: Elaine Cousins, Nellie Andrew, Doris Smith, Lynn Way, Second Row, Dorothy Bernard, Laura Sherran, Ida Nesbitt, Third Row, June Spence, Bertha Smith, Beulah Montgomery, Fourth Row, Shirley Spence, Alice Bagnall, Peggy Burns and Winnifred Newman.

## Household Scrapbook

By Roberta Lee

### Paint Brushes

Brushes on which paint has been allowed to harden often prove difficult to clean. Heat vinegar to the boiling point and soak the brushes for twenty minutes. Then boil gently in strong soap-suds for a few minutes. The brushes will be like new.

### Invisible Hems

If you don't want the new hem to show, place a turkish towel over the ironing board, and iron on the wrong side of the hem. This will make the hem practically invisible.

### Season Springily

It is wise to season springily. Everyone's taste is different when it comes to salt and pepper and more can be added readily by the individual.

## Cook's Corner

### Salmon Souffle

Watch the temperature of the oven—too high a heat is likely to make the mixture "break" in an unpleasant way.  
2 slices side bacon  
4 tablespoons flour  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
Few grains cayenne  
1/4 cup milk  
3 eggs, separated  
1 can (approximately 1/2 pound) salmon.

### For The Birthday

Cut bacon in small pieces and pan-fry until cooked. Blend the flour, salt and cayenne into the bacon fat and bits; stir in the milk. Cook the sauce, stirring constantly, until smoothly thickened. Beat the egg yolks well; stir in the hot sauce; cool to lukewarm. Drain salmon; mash bones and flake fish into very small pieces; fold bones and salmon into the lukewarm sauce. Beat eggwhites until stiff but not dry; add to fish mixture and fold in the beaten eggwhites until they have been reduced to the size of large peas. Turn into a greased casserole. Bake in a slow oven—300 degrees—until mixture feels firm when touched lightly with the finger tips—about 50 minutes. Serve immediately.

## Modern Etiquette

By Roberta Lee

### Q. What is the correct way to eat baked potatoes?

A. They should be served split, with butter in the heart. Smooth the butter into the potato, which is eaten from the skin. Do not take the potato from the skin and mash it on the plate.  
Q. If one is in doubt as to whether a written invitation can be accepted, how should the acknowledgement be worded?  
A. The acknowledgement must state definitely whether invitation is accepted or regretted. It is imperative that a decision be reached before answering.

## The Stars Say --

By Genevieve Kemble

### For Tomorrow

A continuation of the current challenging situations, with perhaps a more pronounced menace of loss of funds, prestige or pride is possible, if one must transact financial operations with those in high places. While debtors as well as creditors may give some annoyance, again the soft pedal may turn away opposition. The social approach might help prospects, although little may be expected from elders or old institutions, those with "pull".

Those whose birthday it is may find a continued state of perplexity and confusion in putting over deals or cherished wishes with the satisfaction and ease anticipated. There are signs of a "cold shoulder" from those in influential places whose endorsement or capital might seem vital. Neither would there be much encouragement from elderly persons or old institutions. These might feel inclined to take a chance even in case of a promising promotion or flourishing proposition. Postponement would be better than blunder. A child born on this day may have sound talents and ambitions, being friendly, sociable and optimistic as well. Its personal affairs may be more engaging than business tie-ups.

## DOROTHY DIX'S COLUMN—

### You'll Find Right Girl

#### Recovery From Disappointment May Be Slow, But It's Sure

DEAR MISS DIX: I'm a young man of 27, single and a veteran of World War II. I married at the age of 18, while in service, and was divorced two years later after realizing that my feeling for my wife was only infatuation. Since then I have met several girls but can't seem to care for any of them. My interest lasts but a few weeks, then dwindles. I meet someone else, and begin all over again.

Will I ever really settle down and find someone exciting enough to hold my interest, or am I so immature mentally that I haven't the capacity for real love?



Muriel Nissen

ANSWER: You have nothing to worry about, Roger! Your romantic life is running a perfectly natural course. You have no emotional involvements to hamper your work or peace of mind. Feminine companionship is available in just sufficient quantity to provide pleasant evenings, without unreasonable demands on time or attention. Your interest will become fixed on one girl soon enough, so enjoy your emotional freedom while you have it.

### DON'T RUSH THINGS

Your unfortunate, youthful marriage has left its scars, and they're taking time to heal. Don't try to rush the process. Twenty-seven is somewhat short of senility, and you have years ahead to meet the right girl, marry and settle down.

Many men are still seeking a good wife at your age—and for years after.

Perhaps your sad experience with marriage has made you hypercritical of young ladies. It doesn't do to expect too much of them, for they, alas! are not entirely perfect. If you can't come to a happy medium, however, it's better to be fussy than not particular enough. When you do meet the right girl, she'll need no fanfare. Without undue preliminaries you'll know the search is over—and she'll probably know it before you do.

Accept the gifts the gods provide, and stop fretting over Cupid's apparent lack of interest in you. He'll hit the mark yet.

DEAR MISS DIX: I have been invited to my aunt's shower, but since I am only 14 years old, my mother thinks I'm too young. What do you think?

ANSWER: Since you have received an invitation, surely you are entitled to accept. Your aunt apparently has more faith in your ability to be a gracious guest than your mother has. By being a proper

### How Can I . . .

By Anne Ashley

### Better English

By G. C. Williams

### How Can I . . .

Q. How can I wash straw matting with a cloth dampened in hot water, using a handful of salt to a bucket of hot water. Wash only a small space at a time and wipe dry at once. This also prevents it from turning yellow.

Q. How can I remove mustard stains from linens?  
A. Boil the linens in water, in which has been dissolved one teaspoon baking soda to each quart of water. Boil until the stain has disappeared, and then follow with the usual laundering.

Q. How can I remove tarnish from brass?  
A. Rub well with vinegar and salt; then wash in soap and water and apply any good silver polish.

### Better English

By G. C. Williams

### 1. What is wrong with this sentence? "My wife and myself are the only ones present."

2. What is the correct pronunciation of "hearth"?

3. Which one of these words is misspelled? Ninth, nineteenth, twelfth, hundredth.

4. What does the word "appease" mean?

5. What is a word beginning with inf that means "unhappiness"?

ANSWERS  
1. Say, "My wife and I." 2. Pronounce hearth, a as in arm, not herth. 3. Twelfth. 4. To make quiet; to calm. "They were endeavoring to appease his anger." 5. Infelicity.

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### That Body Of Yours

By James W. Barton, M.D.

### MORE ABOUT PAIN IN THE NECK

Sufferers with neck pain tend to think it is caused by the position in which they hold their heads, or arthritis of the joints in the spinal column of the neck.

In adults, pain is often due to infection of teeth or other parts of the mouth, position in which head or neck is held, muscular affections and injuries. In the elderly, neck pain may be caused by arthritis in the spinal joints of neck, high blood pressure and cancer.

The neck pain of acute inflammation of the tonsils, throat or larynx is usually that of a sore throat which hurts when eating or talking and there is usually a rise in temperature, fatigue, and other symptoms of an acute nose and throat infection.

The neck pain of infantile paralysis (polio) is usually in the back of the neck; pain is increased by bending neck.

Another severe pain in neck is caused by the bones in back of neck getting out of place or becoming subjected to great pressure as from a blow on the head or a fall from a height.

14519 12-20 30-42  
by Anne Adams

### Morning Smile

#### Veritable Forest

"The weeds in my garden are quite a problem. I have to shout 'Timber!' when I cut 'em down."

#### Ladylike

In a large store a man who had gone to make a purchase noticed that nylons were being sold in one of the departments, and decided to get a pair for his wife. He was a dignified, middle-aged man and soon found himself buffeted by a crowd of frantic women, also after nylons. He stood it as long as he could, then, with head lowered and arms outstretched, he barged through the crowd towards the rapidly-diminishing stock of hosiery.

"Here!" cried a shrill voice, "can't you act like a gentleman?" "I've been acting like a gentleman for an hour," replied the man, still charging forward, "but from now on I'm going to act like a lady!"

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