

THE GARDEN

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649738816

The Garden by Rachel R. Todd & W. N. Wilkinson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

RACHEL R. TODD & W. N. WILKINSON

THE GARDEN



THE
GARDEN
CONDUCTED BY
RACHEL
R. TODD
M.D.

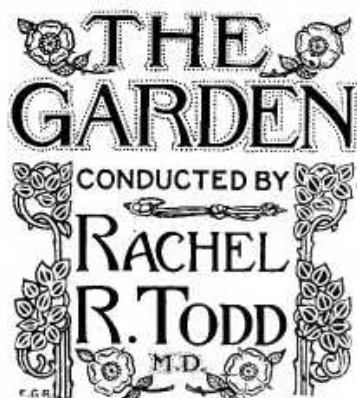
COMPILED AND EDITED
BY W. N. WILKINSON

Published by The World,
Toronto, Canada.

Copyrighted 1913.

PRICE \$1.00

713856300-1483



COMPILED AND EDITED
BY W. N. WILKINSON

Published by The World,
Toronto, Canada.

Copyrighted 1913.

PRICE \$1.00

SO MANY readers of The Toronto World have made inquiries as to whether it is possible to obtain the articles on The Garden, by Rachael R. Todd, M. D., in pamphlet form, that Mr. W. N. Wilkinson, managing editor, has compiled a series of these articles, dealing with spring planting and the care of the garden during the spring and summer. This is the first volume, and will be followed by one in the fall, containing hints on planting, the growing of bulbs and care of flowers during the autumn and winter. Care has been taken by the editor in revising the matter for this volume to eliminate extraneous matter. As each article deals with some one subject only, the index at the end of the book, will enable a quick reference to it.



Rachel R. Todd, M. D., C. M.

PLANT CHARACTER STUDY

Different individuals require different treatment, enjoy different pleasures, dread different dangers, and are threatened or overshadowed by different sorrows.

Almost in the same way, all plant life is made up of nature forces, vastly contradictory. The final results of the working-out of these forces spell life—or death.

Like human beings, plants are threatened with different dangers. They are immune from certain diseases, or they are predisposed to the same. They are proof against the ravages of certain insects, certain vermin, certain molds, or they are very susceptible to the life-draining effects of such.

Certain plants require rich, nutritious soils, which same soils would quickly cause other plants to mold, rot, or, on the other hand, would produce a rank and unnatural growth, too intolerable to be permitted.

Certain plants require warmth above ground, warmth below ground, a nice modicum of moisture, and a close protection from draughts. These, by the way, are those that revel in loneliness. They love to be left undisturbed, in sole possession of earth, air and currents—and they breathe out the fragrances of heaven itself.

Again, we find plants that need as consistent attentions as young children. They must be coddled. Above all things, they must be loved. They want their faces washed daily. They love a daily tepid bath. They shiver and grumble when they get wet, cold feet. Adverse winds, an unfortunate draught, hot or cold, simply crinkles them up. They get their faces and limbs sunburnt if they stand in the sun before they are quite dry. They become unhealthy if they are too muffled up.

And so runs the story. As with humans, just so with plants. A successful mother knows her children. They do not realize, yet, that she does know them. They have a divine intuition that sends them running to her to be "kissed and made well." In some cases the hurt is not too real, and quite often the hurt is very real—but bearable; with the help of mother love, forgotten.

A successful gardener knows his plants. If he adds a member to his collection he sets about learning the nature of that plant. He studies its habits, its needs, its nature—and uses common-sense and mother love.

ORDERING YOUR FRESH STOCK FOR THE SPRING

The gardener who knows just what new stock he wants orders that stock early, and, therefore, gets the pick of the choicest material, for as a general rule all florists and nurserymen assign their stock as the orders come in, reserving each order, marked, until a suitable time for the shipping of it arrives.

Besides it is only fair to these men who raise immense stock to let them have some idea of the amount of stock to be early disposed of. If you send in your order for a dozen choice two or three-year-old rose bushes late in March, the likelihood is that, weeks before, the choicest of these bushes have already been reserved and marked and set aside for the benefit of the "early birds."

Then, too, all plant men like to deal with customers who order early, judging, and rightly so, too, that these customers know what they are about. Nurserymen like to deal with people who know what they are about, because these customers are more likely to do well with their stock than others.

And every nurseryman likes to know that his choice stock has gone into the care of someone who will appreciate the fact that a good article has been sent, which is worthy of the best care, and which will give the best results.

So early customers are good customers, because they are good advertisers. Don't you think that when a man gets a splendidly successful bush or tree or plant from a certain firm, and that plant surpasses all his expectations—don't you think that man is going to order more stock next year, and be the means of other gardeners patronizing his firm also, because the successful man will always call that firm "his firm"?

Then, too, don't forget that ordering early means planting early, planting early means successful gardening.

In the case of small fruits, for instance, late planting is poor gardening, because the stock often dies, and in any event the harvest is late, and, therefore, often frosted.

Take plenty of time to look well over your new catalogs.

SOME FIRST PRINCIPLES IN PLANNING A GARDEN

One of the first principles in planning a garden is "to make bloom the waste places."

Following close in importance is the principle of filling up awkward corners or gaps and concealing unsightly gaps. And here it is that we are able to make use of such things as rockeries, summer houses, pergolas, groups of shrubs, or even one single shrub properly placed, trellises covered with trumpet honeysuckle or wistaria, and many other tricks of the trade.

A third point is to plan for privacy in the home surroundings, because privacy is always absolutely essential to home charm. Here come in our hedges, our lines of shrubs, our clumps of evergreens. As pointed out before, an element of mystery in the planning is always helpful to charm. Why? Now ask why. Isn't a half-hidden element always an absorbing one, and therefore stimulating to the imagination?

A line of level-topped, close-clipped, impenetrable evergreen hedges always hides something, and hiding protects. Now what is that hidden? Or why—now why, does that clump of crimson-flowered spirea look so secretive, and how comes it so high? On what is it planted? And so forth? A clever gardener can form some pretty problems to set the prying passerby a-guessing.

All this means charm in a garden.

And lastly, do not forget the underlying principle of every successful garden, that is the principle of true proportion, without which every form of garden decoration, whether it be a simple arch or a stately pergola, a summer-house of quaint design or trellis covered with trailing vines; whether it be a water garden, a rockery, or a simple group of shrubs to fill an uninteresting corner, is lacking in perfect charm.

Give due regard, then, to proportion. Do not plant a tall and stately yucca on the uppermost reaches of your rockery; nor yet leave an iris clump alone at the foot of a formal rockery. Do not dwarf your small ten-by-twelve back lawn, by a large round flower bed, nor yet have a clump of peonies in a narrow three-foot border.

SOME GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF PLANNING A GARDEN

But when we speak of gardens all so glibly we do not necessarily mean those pleasure grounds of the rich, with their row on row of beautifully-ordered beds; their rose gardens and their pergolas; their rock gardens, and their lily pools; their summer-houses wreathed in smiling vines, and their arches gayly wound with flaunting roses; their shrubberies and their trim hedges; their flaming beds of blazing perennials, where the stately digitalis looks down in haughty scorn upon the saucy upturned faces of the fragrant pinks, perky amidst a forest of gray-green mist; and the proud larkspur with its waving spears of amazing blue (what monarch was ever so royal) strives to reach those heights unknown to all save the peerless hollyhock.

No. Every man may have his garden, though it be but a small backyard, gay with golden coreopsis and purple pansy; a tiny spot of marigolds and sweet alyssum; or a dainty border bravely supporting the creepy, crawly portulaca and the incomparable myosotis.

Here in the small spot the simple possessor may reap far more happiness from his carefully-tended plants than is obtained by the wealthy man, who leaves all the work, and, therefore, all the true joy, to his paid gardener.

Do not forget that man measures happiness by what he himself experiences, and not by what someone else experiences. And so it is quite possible for him who possesses but a tiny pot, but who knows every tiny bud and branch and leaf of them, to reap even more true joy than the man who, possessing lordly acres, knows not one of all his rare possessions.

ASKING QUESTIONS

Nothing is more disappointing to a gardener than to find that a newly-tried plant is not up to his expectations.

There may be one or two reasons for this failure. Either the gardener himself has not given the proper amount of care in the cultivation of this new plant, either as regards soil, situation, exposure or attention, or he has expected too much from his new plant.

In the middle of the summer is a good time to look around at the various beds and borders of neighbors' gardens, or those larger and more formal ones, situated in the public gardens of parks, squares, and any other grounds that may be thrown open for the benefit of the public. One may always get fresh ideas from these places. Or one may recognize some of the very plants that are growing at home, and compare them with others. One may see just how tidy certain borders and beds may be kept, with little or no trouble, all depending upon the kind of border plant put in.

In the large public gardens, where large staffs of men are kept for attending the beds and lawns, one may often reap a very appreciable amount of information by asking a question or two. Always ready to give

any hints they can, always glad to receive a word of praise, one will find them to be perfect storehouses of the best kind of information—that is, reliable information reaped, in most cases, from pure experience.

ANNUALS—BIENNIALS—PERENNIALS

An annual is a plant which completes its life cycle, from germination to seed-ripening, within one year.

The seed is sown in the early or late spring; the seedlings are transplanted, or not, according to the variety of plant; bloom appears, comes to perfection, fades; finally seeds form, either as a berry, seedpod, etc., and, if the plant is left undisturbed until the seeds are ripened, the plant seeds itself in the ground, and may, or may not, re-appear from these seeds next year.

Such plants are: Asters, petunias, phlox drummond, marigold, nicotiana, verbena, poppy, portulacca, ten weeks' stock, godetia, morning glory, sweet peas, and many others too numerous to mention.

No experienced gardener will neglect the annuals, because long ago they proved their worthiness. Those named are among the most popular, and most easily grown. These are, moreover, capable of giving a beautiful display of bloom with a minimum of trouble. Grown from seeds in a few short weeks, flowering over a more or less long period of weeks, they give plenty of color, bloom and a certain amount of fragrance.

For convenience, we divide annuals into hardy and half hardy varieties. Hardy annuals are those that may be sown out of doors, in the beds or borders where they are to bloom, or may be transplanted. Half-hardy annuals are those which germinate much more slowly, and in order to obtain seedlings that will bloom before the frosts come, the seed must be planted either in a hotbed or greenhouse where they may receive the required heat to cause sufficient growth. Then they are transplanted outdoors in the selected places. Some of these latter are: Ageratum, carnations, gallyardia, golden feather, dianthus, celosia, and others.

Biennials are plants that complete their life cycle in the second year from germination. Sown one year, they bloom and ripen their seeds the next year. Some biennials may be classed among the perennials, according to the manner of sowing. That is, if sown for three years in succession, they may be safely left to perpetuate themselves year after year. Biennials that are popular, and easily grown, are: Foxgloves, wallflowers, sweet rocket, sweet William, primula, Iceland poppy. Several biennials that are hardy are absolutely essential in every well-ordered garden, in order to have some stock that will surely bloom.

No gardener will depend upon annuals alone to provide home flowers.

Perennials are those plants which require at least two years before bloom appears, and the plant will live three or more years.

When gardeners speak of perennials, as a rule, they have in mind herbaceous perennials; but, strictly speaking, perennials include shrubs, trees, and bulbous plants.

Many biennials may be counted as perennials, especially if the seed of the plant in mind has been sown for two or three years in succession. They may thereafter be left to increase to such an extent that, sooner or later, their roots may be divided.

Such plants are the columbine, sweet william, peony, the different hardy lilies, such as lemon, orange, maid-lily, spiderwort, the many varieties of bellflowers, clematis, and many others.

A careful and observant gardener may find out for himself many valuable points about his various roots and shrubs by exercising a little careful experimenting.