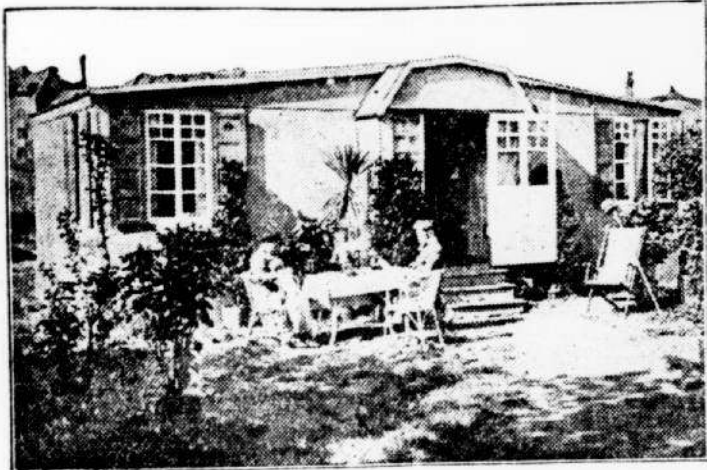


The HOME BEAUTIFUL

Flowers and Shrubby

Their Care and Cultivation



How Beautiful Is a Flower Farm.

HAVE A FLOWER FARM

By E. VAN BENTHUYSEN.

The demand for choice flowers never falls and the big cities of the United States sell enormous quantities. They must be fine though.

The city man who wishes flowers for a special decoration does not care how much they cost if they are the best that can be grown.

Flower farming is an agreeable occupation. But little help is required. The costly adjuncts, such as curing, drying, housing and storing are not required. Plants increase in value, and once a place is going it continues to increase in productive ability with each year.

Flower farming does not require rich soil, but it must be quick and responsive. Some of the requirements for success, however, demand that your farm be located near a railway station and should have the convenience of a telephone, ice or a cold spring, and a good road to town.

Start in a small way. Be content to buy from 100 to 500 plants each year until your plants get old enough to divide and build your stock from. By starting in a small way you will acquire the necessary experience to cope with the situation and understand the workings on a larger scale. No book knowledge can compare with a year's actual experience.

There are many plants that increase prodigiously. Others take several years to be strong productive plants. The hydrangea will pay for itself in a single year. The peony takes longer to arrive at perfection.

If planted in the fall the peony will bloom the first season, but young plants are apt to be too quick in getting out in the spring and the buds may be injured by late frosts. One thousand bushes three years old will produce 30,000 flowers.

The dahlia is a good flower to grow. It can be planted June 1, come into bloom about August 15, and will be in full bloom by September. It is a free, easy early bloomer, has bright colors, long stems and good plump tubers.

The peony must not be overlooked. Its requirements are simple, yet at a few periods they are very easily damaged.

Plants that are kept dormant by being dug in the fall may be planted until June with fine success. When planting peonies in clayey ground they should be set about four inches deep, but in light, sandy soil or loamy soil five or six inches deep.

Never use much manure the first year on newly planted peonies, and never overmanure them. Cultivate them about three inches deep, then apply about one inch of manure and work well into the soil in the spring.

Plant peonies in the bright sunshine away from trees that are liable to shade them or whose roots may sap

the plant food in the soil where they are planted.

Peonies are grown from a division of old plants and also from seed. It takes from five to eight years to come into full bloom from seed.

To get the best results from phlox they should be planted new each fall or spring and given plenty of water while in bloom.

Hardy phlox can be transplanted at any time, preferably in the spring or early fall by dividing the old clumps. Plant in April about fifteen to eighteen inches apart and pinch the tops back when about four inches high. The result will be that they will give a maximum of flowers and a very large head of bloom. Give an occasional dressing of manure or manure water.

When a very large mass of plants is desired, pinch back about one-third of the stems about May 1 and about three weeks later another third should be pinched back. This lengthens the season of blooming and adds to their beauty.

PLANT FOR BEAUTY

By L. M. BENNINGTON.

A tropical effect can be obtained by planting a round bed with a few castor-oil plants in the middle, with tall-growing cannas around them. Use elephant's ears for the border.

A glorious hedge is obtained from salvia. Plant a triple row of the red sage, as it is often called. Set it, but early in June, and let it grow unchecked until it is a blaze of color.

If the aphids attack the sweet peas spray them with strong soap suds.

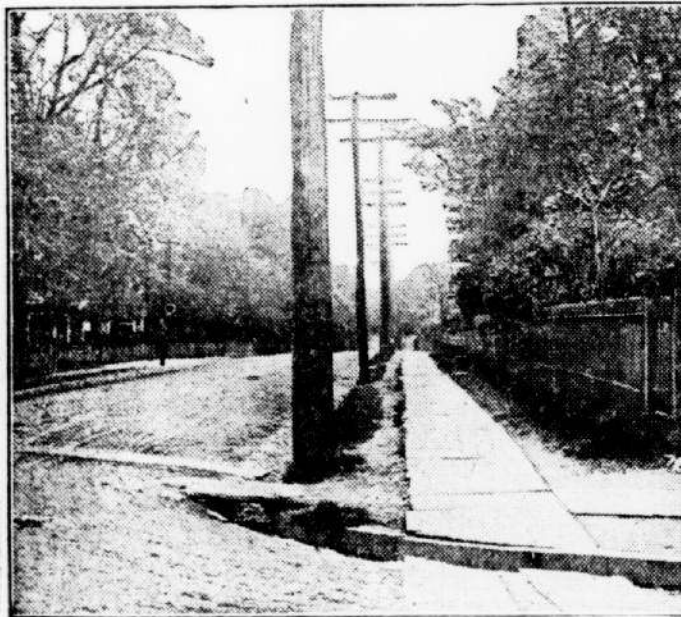
Give heliotrope rich, porous soil, composed of leaf mold, thoroughly rotted manure, and sand to make it friable. It requires good drainage and plenty of water and will not thrive in heavy sour soil.

Ever-blooming larkspur is a novelty that has proved hardy and beautiful. It grows to a great height, four or five inches tall, and is a constant bloomer. As a hardy perennial of great beauty it is well to try the Albion, white and bella-donna, sky blue, they are a riot of gorgeous coloring and a great improvement over the oldtime larkspur.

Sow mignonette every two weeks until the middle of July. There is no flower so fragrant and it is easily grown and will supply plenty of perfume for the home rooms.

Much better than the commercial fertilizer is well-decayed manure. It supplies humus, which improves the capacity of the soil for holding moisture and admitting the air to the roots.

Take care of the palms and plants that have been growing in the house all winter. Do not expose them to the full sunshine of the garden. Keep them in a secluded spot until they become accustomed to it.



The Beauty of Homes and Streets Can Be Enhanced by Planting Hedges Instead of Having Fences Around the Home Lot.

MAKE GOOD CUT FLOWERS

Annuals of easy culture that make good cut flowers are many. No matter how many perennials you have some easily raised annuals are necessary for the beauty of your garden.

In the white-flowering annuals you can select sweet alyssum, which is so attractive in bouquets and so fragrant; carnations, candytuft, chrysanthemum, Cosmos, early and late flowering, Dianthus, Gypsophila, Nicotiana, Pansy, Phlox, Ten Weeks Stock, Sweet Peas, Verbenas, Zinnias and Scabiosa.

Blue—Ageratum, Centaurea or Bachelor's Button and Aster.

Lavender—Ten Weeks Stock, Sweet Peas and Asters.

Yellow—Nasturtiums, Poppies, Mignonette, Stocks and Zinnias, An-

thrinum, Calceola, Calliopsis and Marigold.

Red—Carnation, Poppy, Peony, Stocks, Sweet Peas and Zinnias.

HYDRANGEAS

In the spring hydrangeas should have some branches cut out at the bottom to give them a more compact and sturdy look. They should occupy a sunny position in the garden and be protected from the cold winds of autumn. When the buds begin to swell in the spring cut the branches at the bottom and the plant will quickly throw up shoots that will produce large heads of bloom.

The plants should be watered occasionally with liquid manure. Hydrangeas make a good house plant if good air and sunshine are given them.

IS CONGRESS SLOW?

LAWMAKERS SEEM TO BE KEEP-
ING LEISURELY PACE SET
IN PAST.

HOW LOWER HOUSE DAWDLES

Hearings in the Naval Committee Have Consumed Much Time—Unlimited Senate Debate Generally Considered Greatest Cause of Delay.

By GEORGE CLINTON.
Washington.—Speaker Champ Clark has denied with something like indignation that the house of representatives is "dawdling" along with legislation. Some time ago another member of congress, a Democrat, but one holding membership in the upper branch, said publicly that congress was far behind in its work. It is this statement, which was sent broadcast through the country, which perhaps is responsible for the letters which congressmen of all parties are said to be receiving asking why they do not "speed up."

To an outsider who can separate himself from the politics in the case it seems that congress is just about keeping the pace which was set for it in the past. When the Republicans were in power they were charged with dawdling, and now that the other party has control the same charge is laid at its door. The truth is that congressmen, being like other folk, are moved by all kinds of elements either to linger over their work or in some specific cases to push it perhaps too rapidly.

It is somewhat interesting to learn, however, that most of the criticism of the slowness of congress which has come from the country, not only recently but for many years past, directs itself to the house of representatives. It is true enough that the house does go remarkably slow on legislation occasionally, but taking it as a rule the representatives are racers on the legislative track as compared to the tortoise-paced senators.

The reason is very simple. When the majority in the house makes up its mind to put a bill of legislation through it adopts a rule limiting debate and fixing the hour for a vote. In the upper house senatorial courtesy and a belief, or at any rate an alleged belief, in the beauty of free and long discussions keeps the senators from establishing a rule to shut off discussion. They can talk for a whole session on one bill if they want.

Long Hearings on Navy.

Probably a considerable part of the complaint which has been made concerning lagging action in the house of representatives this year is due to the long-drawn-out hearings in the naval committee on the subject of naval preparedness. Weeks and weeks have been spent in hearings. It is said that all kinds of inconsequential matters have been discussed in the committee, and that if the real object of the hearings alone had been given consideration the bill might have been reported to the house long ago.

Ever since congress was a congress the party in power has prepared in advance of each session a program of the greater legislation which it was intended to sanction. The house of representatives has little or no difficulty in putting through the measures which the majority party leaders have determined upon as part of the program. When one of these measures gets into the house it goes through rapidly. The trouble, as has been said before, comes in the senate where free discussion and no rule to bring it to a close enable the opponents of any measure to talk against it at great length.

In the house in one way there is such a thing as dawdling. It has marked pretty nearly every session for the years that one correspondent at least has been in this city. It is a peculiar kind of dawdling. Its manifestation is to be found in the attempts of the majority leaders, or of cliques in the house which may be composed of members of both parties, to prevent the passage of some species of legislation which has not been sanctioned in advance by the party leaders, but for which there seems to be an insistent demand from many people throughout the country.

Lesson in Dadd's Ride.
Army officers in Washington maintain that the ride of Colonel Dadd and his troops proves one preparedness point. It may be the feeling of the officers on this matter and some things which officials of the government say concerning it will have its effect on proposed future legislation when the whole subject of preparation for military defense is under consideration.

A sixty-four-year-old cavalry colonel with 400 troopers made fifty-five miles through the night in seventeen hours and at the ride's end fought for five hours against a numerically superior force of men hardened to service in the field. The American regulars won a marked victory.

The contention of military men here from the first has been that real preparedness consists in having a mobile army strong enough to strike at an enemy on the instant of his appearance. It is urged that regulars so far as stamina is concerned always are prepared. The argument therefore is that preparedness need not concern itself with the personnel of a regular army trained as our army always has been trained.

While civilians, and this includes the

A Lover's Quarrel.
"All is over between us," said the fair one.

"Oh, say not so," he pleaded. "I love you more than life itself."

"No, Harold. You have proved yourself unworthy of my love and I can never marry you."

"Then give me back my ring," he demanded.

"Oh, Harold," she cried, "if you feel so badly as all that about it I suppose I'll have to give you another chance."

legislators of course, admit that absolute preparedness would mean the possession by Uncle Sam of a regular army big enough to do things on the instant, they urge the rooted objection of the American people to a large standing army.

Men Must Be Prepared.

The main point, as army men view it, is that this ride of Colonel Dadd and his 400 troopers shows what real preparedness means for the individual, and it is further urged by the men of the service that this physical condition which is necessary to make men endure under all conditions cannot be attained by National Guardsmen or by volunteer forces until they have been given months of daily training after the same manner that it is given to the men who follow the flag as regulars.

Apparently the effect will be hereafter to impress upon the country that real preparedness consists in preparedness of men. It takes continued service to keep men hard and fit for work which may come unexpectedly. The sixty-four-year-old colonel who made his fifty-five miles in seventeen hours and then fought for five hours has been an active soldier for forty-four years, this time including his service as a cadet at West Point. Dadd is one of the few officers of high rank in the American army who never has had "swivel chair" service except for a period of time which is negligible.

Regular Is Always Fit.

It is learned from officers who have made a study of the whole preparedness situation that it is their belief that if congress should authorize a regular army of 250,000 men, which would mean an army all told of about 350,000 men, the people could rest content that this country would be safe from foreign invasion. It is not at all likely, judging from what one hears from congress, that such a force will be authorized for a good many years to come, but admission is made by the lawmakers that the maintenance of an army of this size would cost less than to support a more elaborate soldier-raising scheme which involves simply a partial preparation for service of men whose main pursuits are found in civil life.

The army men say, and they point to Dadd's achievement to sustain it, that the regular of all branches is fit for instant service in the field. He is trained daily in all military branches and the physical exercise which he gets, the regularity of his hours and his substantial and good food keep him ready for emergencies. This naturally enough is not true of the civilian soldier who gets a month or so of training every year and has the rest of the time to do what he likes with himself.

Brave Army Post Women.

An army post after the troops have been ordered into the field is perhaps one of the best places in the world at which to find a text for a peace propaganda. The chances are, however, that the women and children of an army post would object to having their manifest anxieties made the subject of discourses.

Army women and children say "good-by" to husbands and fathers with cheerful faces, and if there are tears afterward it is more than possible that resentment would come if any use were made of them in what might seem to be an attempt to turn the militant ones from their duty.

The cavalry the other day was ordered from Fort Myer, which is just across the Potomac from Washington, to the Mexican border with the possibility, perhaps even the probability, that the service tour might be extended into the field where other cavalrymen already had taken up the chase of the Mexican bandits. The quarters at Fort Myer still are occupied by the families of the fighters.

When women of an army post thus are left behind with all the anxieties and uncertainties connected with the case they make a great showing of courage. Bridge parties, teas and kindred social affairs still are the order, but many a woman's heart is played and many a possible trick overlooked by some ordinarily expert woman bridge player when she sits at table with her thoughts on the border instead of on the game.

The condition of things at Fort Myer today is duplicated at many other posts in the United States. The men have gone and the women and children have stayed. The newspapers are read eagerly enough by the ordinary civilian in order to get news from Funston, or Pershing, or Dadd, but the army women take the morning and the evening paper the instant that they can get it and read the headlines with something that is not far removed from dread.

In Washington and at Fort Myer there is not evident in army circles the dreadful anxiety that was so manifest during the Spanish war. The casualties in '98 on the battlefield were not very great, although a considerable number of officers were killed or wounded. The gripping anxieties of the Spanish war itself were due in large part to the exposure to dread disease which was the lot of the army man. Men came back from that service who had never heard a bullet whistle, and yet had met a worse foe, fever. Many an army officer was compelled to retire from the service because of disease which had fixed itself upon him in the insanitary camps of one section of the United States and of Cuba.

There is little worry among the women of the army today because of the danger from disease. Typhoid and yellow fever, the chief disease foes of armies fighting in a southern climate, have been routed by the scientists of the medical corps. The doctor, however, cannot turn aside a bullet nor a saber stroke.

Industry of Flax Raising.

At the present time about 2,200,000 acres are devoted to the raising of flax, chiefly in North Dakota, Minnesota, South Dakota and Montana. The flax is grown primarily for the seed, from which linseed oil is manufactured. The annual crop amounts to about 20,000,000 bushels of seed and is valued at approximately \$33,000,000. The crop also yields approximately 1,000,000 tons of straw, but of this only about 200,000 tons are put to any profitable use.

In Woman's Realm

For the Afternoon a Costume of Taffeta Silk Is Among the Best—
May Be Had in Pictorial All Styles and at All Prices—
Pretty Bonnets Have Been Provided for Delight
of the Little Miss.

A quiet and simple afternoon costume of taffeta silk, follows the mode in a conservative way and justifies its reserve by its charm. It is a design essentially youthful, with the lines of its full skirt unbroken and the fullness a mere matter of width shirred in at the waist. Such artlessness belongs to the young and lends its own air to the wearer.

The little coat disposes of its fullness above and below by shirring at the waist line. It dips at the front and back of its skirt and has cascaded revers. The sleeves are full but of a simplicity to match the skirt. Two bands of velvet ribbon finish them and appear also on the coat revers. A narrow sash of the silk ties in the most casual manner at the front, with its ends hanging a little below the bot-

tom of the coat. They are pointed and untrimmed. The easy-going coat is smartened by a high flaring collar at the back, and its open throat gives a glimpse of lace in the blouse worn under it.

The suit as pictured is made of black taffeta, but the design would be successful in any color of silk, with velvet ribbon to match, used for trimming. For general service nothing could be better. The coat is available for wear with lingerie gowns and separate skirts, and the skirt may be worn with any sort of blouse, so that each does double duty. In selecting taffeta suits the plainer models will make themselves very useful in this way.

Taffeta appears to have taken the world of fashion by storm, and there

held firmly by a millinery glue which keeps them in place. Mounted in this way they form, with the roses, a prim wreath having the appearance of embroidery or painting, both of which, by the way, are used in spring millinery.

Ties of narrow tulle ribbon in a fairly dark blue shade hang from each side, and the same ribbon is used for a facing about the underbrim. Black is noticeable among the bonnets for little girls, but it is always enlivened with flowers and ribbons.

A bonnet of chiffon and taffeta, at the left, has a sort of puffed crown of silk and two ruffles over the silk-covered brim. They are finished with cut lunestitching, as is so much of the millinery for grownups. A frill of narrow lingerie lace is set near the edge of the



YOUTHFUL AFTERNOON COSTUME.

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No one is happier at the Eastertime than little maids who bubble over with frank joy in new finery. They are

underbrim, which is bent into a point at the front. Here and at each side a small rose is set on the edge of the brim. A sash and ends of tulle ribbon add any color desired to the bonnet, which is shown in white and in light colors. The sash is finished with loops and ends at the right side.

What Settled Him.
She—"You'd think he'd got more feet! He's a Son of the Revolution, and—"

He—"I know—but he married a daughter of the revolution!"—Judge.

Beauty Hints.
Careless washing and imperfect drying are the reasons for more red, unsightly hands than anything else. The slightest dampness of the skin in cold weather will make the hands chap and crack. Hot water should not be used more than once a day at most for washing the hands, and then they should be rinsed in cold.

At night, before retiring, when the hands have been well washed and dried, rub in a fair quantity of a good cold cream or camphor ice. Then

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