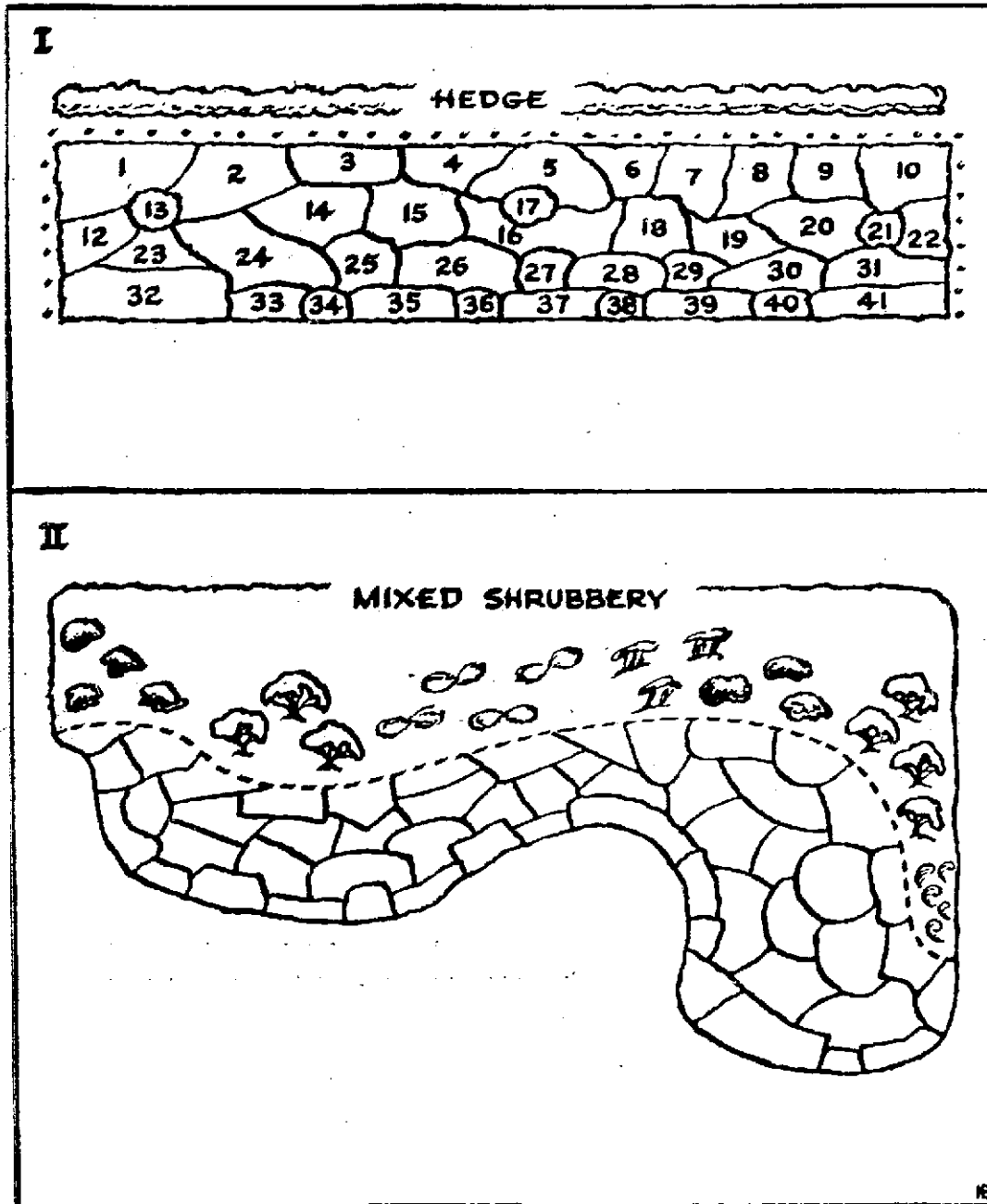


# Nothing Pleases Like A Flower Border



**M**OST people are at their happiest when accomplishing something that is apparent. Few activities offer more scope in this direction than the border of flowers that springs up afresh every springtime. There is a wide choice of reliable plant material dealing with season of glory, stature, coloring, texture, and fragrance.

The flower border is surprisingly adjustable. We can make it over, in small or large part each season. Or, we can furnish it with durable plants that thrive for years and years if left undisturbed. Examples are noted in peony, dictamnus or Gasplant, scabious, gypsophila, platycodon, anchusa, limonium, mertensia, eryngium, echinops, hosta, thalictrum, and others. A border made up of this latter class will maintain the general atmosphere of the home flower border year after year.

**THE MIXED BORDER** — one that combines hardy perennials, bulbs and some masses of annual bedding plants — has become very popular. The gaps which may occur from time to time in the perennial border can quickly be made gay with tulips, scilla, muscari, lilies and other bulbs and with transplant annuals supplied by the market gardener.

Borders vary in their plant needs according to soils; light exposure relative to direction; light intensity brought about by shading from trees and edifices; and moisture relationships. Today we discuss the subject generally, dealing with hardy herbaceous perennial plants.

**PLACEMENT AND ARRANGEMENT:** The border shows up to good advantage against a background of greenery. This may be low evergreens, mixed shrubbery, a hedge, or vine-clad fence. It is well to have the back row about 4 feet or farther from the shrubbery. Narrow borders are not easily tended.

To obtain varied mass effects in pleasing degree, the border should be six feet or more wide. Plants should be selected for height at the back, intermediates in the centre, and low growers at the edging and front.

One of the most satisfying features of perennials is that some open the spring with April flowers. Others 'hang on to summer' with bright flowers persisting very late, sometimes to November 1. Due heed should be given to colors, textures (fineness, coarseness), plant outline, and congeniality of association.

**BORDER MASSING.** Two sketches are supplied to indicate possible ways of arranging borders. One is six feet wide and straight, a shape often dictated by limited space. The other is wider and follows a natural contour. The straight border is backed by a hedge, clipped or natural; the other by mixed shrubbery.

There are numerous ways of combining plants in borders. The names of plants suggested in our border, corresponding to the numbers in the sketch, are:

1. Aster, Morden Carmine, five plants.
2. Aconitum (Monkshood), three.
3. Delphinium, tall hybrids, five.
4. Helenium, Riverton Beauty, five.
5. Bocconia (Plume Poppy), seven.
6. Aconitum, three.
7. Echinops (Globe Thistle) four.

## Over The Garden Wall

No. 661

by W. R. LESLIE

Landscape Consultant

8. Delphinium, tall hybrids, five.
9. Giant Daisy, three.
10. Aster, Olga Keith, five.
12. Delphinium, Chinese, four.
13. Peony, one, (accent plant).
14. Lythrum, Morden Pink, four.
15. Shasta Daisy, one to three.
16. Monarda, Croftway Pink, seven.
17. Lily, Chinese White, three.
18. Achillea, Perrys White, four.
19. Scabiosa, Caucasian, five.
20. Memecollis, Daylily, four.
21. Dictamnus, one.
22. Platycodon, Chinese Balloon Flower, five.
23. Campanula persicifolia, five.
24. Gaillardia, Bergundy, six.
25. Achillea, Perrys White, four.
26. Chrysanthemum, garden nine.
27. Dianthus, Shadow Valley, three.
28. Phlox, Pyramidal White, six.
29. Lythrum, Morden Rose, three.
30. Chrysanthemum, garden, nine.
31. Iris, seven, and Aster, Prairie Eventide, five.
32. Campanula, Carpathian Bellflower, white, twelve.
33. Iberis, Evergreen Candytuft, twelve.
34. and 40. Gypsophila, Rosyveil; one of each.
35. Dianthus, twelve.
36. and 38. Veronica, three in each.
37. Aubrieta (or Aubretia), twelve.
39. Ajuga reptans (Carpet Bugle) twelve.
41. Campanula, Carpathian Bellflower, blue, twelve.

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**PLANT STOCK.** All items mentioned are available from local prairie nurserymen. Herbaceous plants move poorly in many instances and prairie-grown stock is preferable. Plant in deeply worked soil that is fairly rich and well laced with rooted organic material.

**REFERENCES:** Be sure to have two Canada Department bulletins on your book shelf:

Publication 795: Planning Your Garden and

Publication 970: Growing Herbaceous Perennials.

The Prairie Garden, 1963, has plans for borders; the 1961 issue has more detailed plans. These are worked out by Hector Macdonald, supervisor of metro parks, Winnipeg. We all seek Mr. Macdonald when we need the fullest possible information on border plants.

(The Prairie Garden, 1963, will be mailed to any person sending a dollar to 92 Queenston Street, Winnipeg 9, Manitoba. The 1962 issue is still available, and at half price; 50c).

Column, 662, in Tuesday's Free Press will pursue the intriguing subject of perennials.

## Gardening Quotations

Spring has always come to me early — perhaps because I have usually gone down the road to meet it. It has come to me early in March on the wings of a warm, wild, rainy wind, full of the smell of sap, the odor of living bark and swelling buds, the fragrant promise of blossoms.

For many years one of my regular spring comrades has been the author of the justly famous poem, beginning:

When tulips bloom in Union Square,  
And timid breaths of vernal air  
Go wandering down the dusty town  
Like children lost in Vanity Fair.

As surely as the little pools of spring rain glitter in the grassy meadow; as surely as the shy ferns incur their trustful, delicate fronds; as surely as the eaves of the apple trees are hung with fringes of delicate blossoms . . .

(Archibald Rutledge)

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A gush of bird song, a patter of dew  
A cloud and a rainbow's warning,  
Suddenly sunshine and perfect blue  
An April day in the morning.

(Harriet P. Spofford)

If there be one season of the year wherein outdoor flowers are more keenly appreciated than any other, it is without doubt that of spring. All of us welcome the season when Nature puts on new apparel and appears in all the freshness of vigorous youth. And rightly so, for fallen indeed is the state of those in whom the joyousness of spring finds no answering echo.

Garden lovers in particular greet the springtime with open hands and gladsome hearts, for then appear in beautiful blossom a hundred and one plant treasures. Who among us does not welcome that sweetly pretty harbinger of spring the Winter Aconite (*Eranthis Hymalis*) with its small, clear yellow flowers? And with what pleasant thrill we note the first expanding blossom of the Snowdrop!

Possessors of gardens differ widely in their tastes and affections for different classes of plants but all agree in the desire for subjects which produce flowers early in the spring.

Of material both herbaceous and woody there is ample and in every garden there is room for improvement. The central truth which all should realize is that in gardens it is in variety not in uniformity that beauty must be sought.

In the woods and by the road-

side and on the margins of swamps a number of native woody plants put forth their blossoms very early in the spring and escape the notice of the multitude who pass them by. (E. H. Wilson; Arnold Arboretum)

★ ★ ★

"Grandma had little trouble in persuading chronically-tired Uncle Jerry to spade the garden in the spring. He was as good as a robin at picking up worms and grubs. He would get enough in a couple of days to give him a summer's supply of fish bait. He stored them in an old horse trough filled with earth mixed with coffee grounds and bread crumbs. One day someone left the cover off the trough, the chickens discovered it, and 'bang' went Uncle's supply of fish bait. My, but he was furious. He had to dig bait for the rest of the summer."

(George E. Luxton; Flower Growing in the North)

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Yet we must give the children leave to use

Our garden tools, though they  
spoil tool and plant  
In learning. . .

(Edward Rowland Sill)

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