

The Green Thumb

By Gordon L. Smith

The Tiny Plot

It is really amazing the results in satisfaction and beauty one can get from a tiny plot of flowers. And they will not take much work either. A little digging and a few packets of seed or boxes of started plants are all that are needed. If one has more time it can be enlarged, and as one's interest grows more frills can be added. The quick-growing annuals can be useful, as grand covers in front of shrubs and around the base of roses and lilies.

Some, like ageratum and sweet alyssum, make trim edgings for formal beds. Others, like certain petunias and the California poppies, give charmingly informal effects. In the perennial borders they can be used to fill spare left hand after spring bulbs, or to provide all-summer effects around early bloomers such as the Oriental poppy, bleeding heart, or peony.

Not Too Many Colors. If your garden is small, it is best not to have too many colors. A long border is prettiest if the masses of color shade into one another in drifts. Avoid a spotty effect. Don't forget the value of occasional white—especially if you enjoy evenings in the garden. If you want to attract humming-birds and those "haughty great night moths," plant for fragrance as well. Nicotiana will draw them. Cosmos is a favorite with the little goldfinches.

Try Experiments. It is always exciting, also, to raise something entirely odd, or new each year, or to experiment in some new field. A "blue garden" or a garden border planted for "vening"—joyment is fun to work out. A new variety of an old favorite might be included each annual not previously in your garden—for instance, do you know the spicy, fragrant annual dianthus? Add a new flower-friend each summer to your local list.

Proof Wanted. "Lead me five dollars old man. I promise you, on the word of a gentleman, to pay it back tomorrow." "Bring the gentleman round and let me see him."



One Way of Relaxing After a Hard Day's Work—Something new in the National Film Board's rural program is a picture, of Scottish origin, showing how a young couple—with the assistance of neighbors—overcame the problem of crowded living quarters and the necessity of helpful relaxation.

"After Six O'Clock"

"After Six O'Clock" is the story of a venture started by a young couple in Scotland. They lived in an apartment, and although they were happy, they had their troubles too.

Their chief trouble was noise—noise emanating from the next-door apartment of a young trumpet-playing enthusiast, who practised his art both night and day.

They attempted to reason with the trumpet-fiend, but to no avail. "You have your right to silence," he said, in effect, "but I also have my right to make noise with my trumpet." There seemed to be no solution to the problem.

The young couple pondered the matter, and began to see that both parties had their rights. But where could they practise these rights without bothering their neighbors? Then the idea came to them—an idea which is applicable in Canada as it is in Scotland. Why not make a community centre, where everybody could make the best use of their talents in their spare time?

A bit dubious as to the reception their idea would get, they began to approach their fellow citizens cautiously. But their fears had

no basis in fact. It soon appeared that many other citizens of the community held the same ideas. The minister of the local church, the town school authorities, and many other community groups expressed their interest in the project.

Soon a citizen's committee was formed, and a financial target decided upon, and attained through various promotional stunts. In short order the committee located a suitable building. The members cleaned it up, painted it, and were soon plugged into such activities as sewing, amateur drama, folk dancing, sketching, children's games—and trumpet playing.

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