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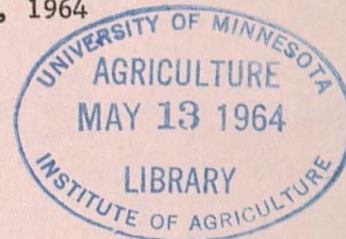
Yard 'n' Garden

Prepared and distributed
by the Minnesota Agricultural
Extension Service.



For use week of
June 1, 1964

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SUMMER PLANTING OF ORNAMENTALS

Potted nursery stock and better storage facilities have extended the planting season into the summer. Often potted plants can be set out throughout the summer. Many gardeners, in fact, prefer the container-grown plants because they are able to see the foliage and often the flowers of the shrubs they are buying.

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Potted nursery stock is grown in several different kinds of containers such as galvanized cans, tar-paper pots and papier maché. Regardless of the type of container, it should be removed at planting time.

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If you are planting container-grown plants, dig the hole slightly deeper than the container. Usually the plant is growing quite shallow in the container. After the hole is ready, remove the container and place the plant in the hole. Plants grown in metal containers may be more difficult to remove. In this case, place your hand on the soil and invert the container. The soil ball will loosen if you give the can a firm rap.

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Use a good quality top soil to fill around the roots of the shrubs. Firm the soil to remove all air pockets. Once the shrub is established, you can add fertilizer.

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It's not necessary to prune back a container-grown plant. Occasionally you may want to prune lightly, however, to improve the form or remove injured branches.

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