



In the Garden

Give your Home an Attractive Setting

April is Shrub Planting Time

Trees and shrubs provide one of the best means of beautifying the area surrounding your home. Even if your home has not been completed, you can work out a garden plan on paper and commence planting now.

When planting trees and shrubs, place them where they will give the most striking and decorative effect, taking into consideration the type of soil they prefer and whether they like sun or shade. The direction in which your garden faces is another important factor in choosing the right position.

Mix plenty of poultry manure into the soil when digging the beds, so that the shrubs will have a good start. Then dig the holes. Each shrub will need a hole at least two feet deep and three feet across to give the roots enough room.

Advanced specimens of these shrubs and trees, if planted immediately, will flower from late winter to spring: Flowering fruit trees, Azaleas, Wygelia, Benthamia, Choisya, Eugenia, Fortythia, Goldfussia and the Wattle. Magnolia, Brachysema, Brunfelsia and Oleander bloom from spring to summer.

Among the loveliest of the shrubs that add colour to gardens in summer are: Abelia, Brugmansia, Catalpa, Cestrum Nocturnum, with its night-perfumed blooms, Erythrina, Genista, Grevillea Banksii, Lasiandra, Crepe Myrtle and Tamarix, the flowering Cypress. They are most attractive for large of small gardens.

HEDGES.—Hedge plants are usually planted in a continuous trench of about 3 ft. in width. The top soil

is taken out and the sub-soil broken up. There are many varieties of hedge plants, none of which need much attention apart from regular watering and trimming when they reach the desired height. Hedges of privet or cypress will need constant pruning, but the flowering hedges of Diosma, Nerium, Veronica and Escallonia need only to be trimmed occasionally. When pruning a hedge trim it a little narrower at the top, as this allows the sunlight to penetrate to the base of the plants and prevents an ugly gap between the ground and the beginning of the foliage.

MUSHROOMS.—The successful cultivation of mushrooms depends a great deal on having the right temperature conditions and suitable manures. They are usually grown indoors, away from rain or heat, and do best in a temperature of from 50 to 75 degrees. Planting time is from March to July, and mushroom spawn bricks are broken up and planted in beds covered with a 12-inch layer of thoroughly prepared compost consisting of manure and straw. About a week after planting the mushroom bricks, the beds are covered with an inch of loamy soil and given a light watering daily for the next six to eight weeks. At the end of this period the mushrooms appear in relays, with an interval of a few days between each.



Left:—

Pretty Eileen Coleman, of Brewarrina



Right:—

Pretty Joan Gray and Sonny, of Enngonia

