FLOWERS FOR LATE PLANTING: BY ADELLE THAYER THOMSON

In most locations the country over, April and May are deemed the ideal months for garden making. These months, however, are the busiest ones in the housewife’s calendar. Then it is that the dread house-cleaning must be done with its ever-attendant train of “extra” tasks, the spring sewing for the family accomplished, and when one lives in a rented home, the moving from one house and the settling in another is no uncommon thing. There is small wonder, then, that the coming of June finds many a yard still unplanted and the flowering scheme yet unsolved.

There is no need, however, if this condition exists to imagine that the day of grace for seed-sowing is past and that the yard must be without a flower display the rest of the season. Dame Nature, seemingly, has taken thought for just such a contingency, for a number of the choicest annuals give excellent results when seeded in June, and other flowering classes offer charming varieties that thrive with great vigor and beauty in spite of tardy planting.

Asters are a most satisfactory flower for late planting. Asters are exceedingly satisfactory from June seeding. To be sure, the blossoms appear later than those borne by stock planted earlier, but the harvest of beauty is yielded just as abundantly, and the individual flowers are larger and finer in texture than those matured during intense heat.

That cheery, low-growing little plant, the portulaca, so invaluable for brightening dry sunny places, should never be seeded until June. Dry intense heat is needed to germinate its seed, and when this variety is sown earlier in the season the result almost invariably is total failure. While the portulaca is an old-fashioned flower, in massed planting it is highly effective, and it may be...
depended on to give a constant showing of varying color from midsummer until frost. The double varieties will be found unusually pleasing.

Candytuft seeded in June will yield quantities of white flowers throughout August and September. This plant is desirable not only on account of its decorative qualities but for harmonizing the gayer blossoms of strongly contrasting shades. The variety giant empress gives best satisfaction for late seeding and may be sown even in mid-July.

Still another dependable white flowering annual is the sweet alyssum (little gem). The flowers mature about five weeks after seed germination and from that time on they present a constant glory of bloom.

The velvety many-hued petunias are always welcome flowers in any yard, and one is fortunate indeed to be able to add these blossoms to the list. The calendula, larkspur, bachelor’s button, California poppy, and French marigold are also sun-loving, sunshine-giving annuals that may be safely included among these desirable seeds for late sowing.

From the bulbous group may be selected three grand varieties—the gorgeous gladiolus, the stately tuberose, and the richly colored dahlia. Gladioli bulbs planted successively a week apart throughout the month of June and into early July will give a summer flowering pageant that is hard to equal for beauty. Setting the bulbs deep—from 5 to 7 inches—will dispense with the need of staking the plants, and in this manner the objection that is so often made to this unsightliness will be overcome. The tuberose set in June will flower in late August and throughout September, while the dahlia often perfects flowers in July from June planting.

From the class known as greenhouse plants, one may have as many varieties for immediate effects as the size of one’s pocketbook allows. Geraniums, pansies, salvias and begonias, however, are about the most useful and effective.
All of the perennial class thrives from
June seeding. And although these plants do
not flower until the second year after ger-
mination, they offer, perhaps, the best solu-
tion of the flower problem for the busy
housewife. Yes, it will pay to plant peren-
nials, for after these plants have become
once established they are fixtures in the
garden and one need give no special thought
to the flowering scheme. In spite of neg-
lect or the thousand-and-one things that
may interfere, the planting of perennials
will mean a never-failing flower display.

THE USEFULNESS OF THE
DUMB WAITER FOR SMALL
HOMES

Dwellers in city apartments are
so accustomed to the dumb waiter
which forms a part of their kitchen
or kitchenette equipment, that both
its presence and efficiency are taken as a
matter of course. But in the ordinary pri-
ivate house—except where the owner is quite
wealthy and many servants are kept—a
dumb waiter is not even thought of.

Strange as this fact may seem it is readily
accounted for. We have used our practical
inventions, our up-to-date labor-saving de-
vices in the interests of the financial enter-
prises of the cities, and tried to overcome
the discomforts of congested population and
make life at least livable in its sunless and
airless homes, by the adoption of many me-
chanical contrivances. But we have over-
looked the fact that the families who live
in smaller private houses in our towns, sub-
urbs and outlying farm districts could also
derive a great deal of help and satisfaction
from the installation of some of the devices
which the city person considers indispensa-
able to hygiene and comfort. We have stud-
ied and applied the principles of economy
and efficiency in the management of our
business, in the equipment of our factories,
stores, restaurants, public utilities, but it is
only recently that we have discovered that
such principles are equally applicable to
the simpler problems of our homes. We
are finding out that the devices which facili-
tate the labor of the janitress and add to the
comfort of the tenants in a six-story city
apartment house, would be equally wel-
comed by the housewife, servants and fam-
ily in a two- or three-story private dwelling.

Think what a help it would be for the
mother of the family who does her own
housework—and nowadays such women
form a great majority—if she could have
a small dumb waiter installed in her
kitchen! How much back-aching work of
carry up and down stairs it would save her,
how much time and energy it would con-
serve. Cellar stairs are apt to be poor af-
fairs at the best, generally much too steep
for ease or safety, and almost invariably
they are badly lighted. The task of bring-
ing up a heavy scuttle of coal or kindling
for the fires, or taking down the ashes and
garbage (for the menfolk often are not
there to help), the storing and fetching up
of potatoes, apples and other vegetables,
trays of jelly glasses and canned fruit—all
the countless carrying and climbing that a
housewife’s daily round of labor involves—
could be simplified by the use of a dumb
waiter.

The various types of dumb waiters upon
the market are designed for many different
kinds of uses, for light loads and rapid fre-
quent service, and for heavy and less fre-
quently work, the prices and the expense of
installation varying, of course, accordingly.
With each outfit the manufacturer supplies
drawings and directions for its proper in-
stallation. As one authority puts it, “sat-
isfactory results from the installation of
hand power elevators and dumb waiters de-
pend first upon the selection of an outfit
suitable to the conditions and requirements
and second upon the proper installation of
the outfit selected.”

With one of these useful, step-saving de-
vices in the house, and the additional com-
fort of whatever other mechanical aids the
owner can afford which will put the domes-
tic system on an economical and scientific
basis, the housewife should find her work
both easier and more agreeable. And at the
end of the day, instead of feeling too tired
and nervous with the drudgery of house-
work done under difficulties to relax and
enjoy the “fruits of labor,” she would be
able to take part in all the interests of the
little evening reunion, in the quiet of dusk
and in the pleasant social hours after the
lamps are lit.

In a house where there are many children
to be cared for or where there is an invalid
who may not have the inestimable blessing
of a trained nurse, a dumb waiter pays for
itself many times over in the comfort it
affords to not only the woman who must
take the many steps, but the people who
need to have the steps taken for them.