

GARDENING.

OCTOBER THE FOURTEENTH. Not long to go. Indelible in the mind of this elderly gardener is this important date. By then all tender plants must be under cover as Jack Frost usually appears at that time. So look to your geraniums, fuchsias and other treasures.

Life is never perfect for a gardener but this year has been better than most. The wet spring has produced luxuriant growth and roses have done particularly well and, strangely, we have not been plagued by aphids.

Let's talk roses, for the planting season begins soon. Wonderful plants which grow well in most soils except those that are cold and wet. They do not like shade and you should not plant them in ground that has supported roses previously unless there has been a gap of three or four years. Try some. The catalogue of a local grower lists over 360 different varieties of hybrid teas, floribundas, climbers, ramblers, patio roses, shrub roses and those for ground cover – there are roses for almost every conceivable location but not for the shade. And roses have not lost their fragrance and many recent introductions are noteworthy for scent.

Another plant that has been developed near at hand is the winter flowering pansy. They are in great variety and planted now will bloom until you need the ground for summer bedding.

These pansies will stand the hardest of frosts and despite being shrivelled by the cold come up smiling as soon as the temperature rises.

Finish planting your bulbs and also the setting out of biennials such as wallflowers, sweet williams, forget-me-nots and polyanthus. There are some very colourful primroses available – they are fine for beds but for a reason I do not know they sometimes attract vine weevil when planted in containers. And to get rid of vine weevil will cost you a lot of time and much money.

Remember October the fourteenth. All tender things inside please. If you are a vegetable grower be sure that your potatoes are lifted, cleaned and stored before then. I am not saying that your gardening will end on October 14th, for there will still be lots to do.

I'll be with you in the next issue and until then wish you well.

A.V. Mitchell.

WYCHWOOD PLAYGROUP

Milton-under-Wychwood Village Hall

Vacancies 2½ - 5 yr. olds. Monday - Tuesday - Thursday, 9.30 - 11.45.

PPA Registered, Qualified Supervisor. Tel 01451 810042. Call in and see us any time.

Friday Mornings are a Family Session, 10 - 11.30. Drop in for a coffee and a chat.

Babes, Toddlers, up to 5 yrs, all enjoy Friday Sessions.