

Maisie Landis

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length of time the soil in the bucket will need airing, however. The herbs have their own particular advantages and disadvantages. Many are hard to keep under control.

Rosemary will not winter well in Pennsylvania and must be taken indoors during the coldest months but the attraction of fragrance and visual beauty outweigh the problems," remarks Mrs. Landis.

Although some herbs can thrive on poor soil conditions, Mrs. Landis says they should, for the most part, have good soil with proper drainage and plenty of sun. The plants may be started from seed or purchased ready to transplant from garden centers. Many such as mint, dill, and fennel are hardy perennials which will winter well and reappear in the spring to continue another year's growth.

A number of magazines and books are available from state and national garden societies and bookstores providing herb garden cultivation information. Very recently many cookbooks have come on the market containing recipes for using fresh and dried herbs. Several delicious recipes follow, which use common foods for their base. They may whet your appetite and urge you to dig up a spot in the garden to plant an herb for your own use.

New Potatoes and Caraway Butter

Cook the potatoes in their jackets and then peel very quickly. Roll them in a pan in which butter and caraway seeds have been simmering for about five minutes.

Asparagus and Chive Butter

To serve four have two pounds of asparagus, cut off the bottom woody part of the stalks. Steam over hot water for about 20 minutes, or until a fork goes easily into the thickest stem. Remove to a hot plate and serve with melted butter to which has been added one teaspoon lemon juice and a large tablespoon of finely chopped chives.

Individual Pizzas

Count out two pizzas for each person served. Use English muffins, split with a fork. Toast outside halves very lightly in a broiler. On each untoasted side place one slice American cheese, one large slice ripe tomato. Sprinkle with olive oil, then with finely minced garlic, oregano and basil. Put under the broiler till tomato and cheese are done. Dried herbs work as well as fresh in this recipe.

Iced Mint Tea

Steep a good handful of mint stalks right along with the tea for five minutes. Then pour off into a big pitcher before it gets bitter. Garnish each glass with a sprig of mint. Do not add sugar or sugar syrup unless you prefer sweet teas.

You may already have a number of herbs growing around your home of which you were not aware. According to the definition of an herb as "a plant which may be used for physic, flavor or fragrance," (THE HERB GROWER, July, 1950), the list includes bachelor's button, fall dandelion, goldenrod, johnny-jump-up, milkweed, mountain laural, Queen Anne's lace, roses, violets and verbenas. Now that you know what they are you only need to know how to use them for physic, flavor and fragrance!

Find some books on herbs or better yet go to the Fulton House and see the herb garden there. You may be fortunate enough to meet Mrs. Landis or the other herb enthusiasts of the Drumore Flower Club working in the beds. You'll not get away without at least a spark of interest in growing and using your own herbs.

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