

Blooming Plants Flourish After Being Repotted.

Repotting means moving a plant from one container to another. Changing a plant to a smaller pot sometimes is the way to bring it into bloom. This is particularly true of African lilies, amaryllis, begonias and geraniums, which bloom best when slightly pot-bound.

Plants growing in large tubs and planters are difficult to repot. However, once a year almost all container grown plants should be given some new soil, if practical. One way to do it is to top-dress. Remove some of the old soil by digging down one inch or more, replacing it with new soil. The idea is to add as much new soil as possible without damaging the root system of the plant.

A GOOD SOIL mixture for top-dressing includes one part good garden soil or compost, one part peat and one part sand or vermiculite or perlite. To a peck of this mixture add one-half cup bone meal and one-half cup blood meal. Use this mixture to replace the old soil you remove from the container. Changing a plant to a larger pot is needed when the soil ball becomes matted with roots. To find out, tap the pot rim on the table edge to jar the soil ball free. Plants should be repotted only while they are growing, as otherwise there would be no root growth to penetrate the fresh soil.

Soak new clay pots for several hours in a bucket of water. Otherwise they will be so dry that their walls will absorb the moisture intended for plant roots. Before re-using any kind of pot, scrub it clean. Plastic and glazed ones are easy to treat them like dishes. To clean old, dirty clay pots, put them in a bucket and pour boiling water over them. Add a half cup of bleach and let them stand for a few hours. Then they will brighten up with just a little scrubbing.

When transferring a plant to a larger pot use a new pot one-half to one inch larger across the top. Slip the plant inside and put new soil under and around it.

The foregoing is in answer to one of the questions being asked by gardeners.

Q. Our new home is in a woodland area and we are anxious to landscape so that the naturalistic appearance will be preserved. Can you offer some suggestions for a do-it-yourself project?

A. If the plot is heavily wooded, you will want to sort out trees that you will keep and get rid of those that are unnecessary or unhealthy. Trees in a woodland are constantly subject to the law of survival of the fittest. Many of your trees may soon be losers in this battle.

Cull out the poorer trees and give the more desirable ones a better chance. Limiting competition, fertilization, insect control and careful pruning will help the remaining trees acquire their natural beauty.

After getting rid of unwanted trees, you may be faced with the problem of eliminating unwanted brush and vines such as poison ivy and honeysuckle. Much of this growth can be removed mechanically by grub hoe and brush hook, but don't depend on this method alone. Chemical brush killers used carefully will help clean up the area and keep it clean. Ammoniacal is very effective on poison ivy and honeysuckle. Keep it off the plants you wish to keep because it may kill them also. Use of 2, 4, 5-T is effective on general brush applied as a directed spray to the base of the plants. Also, 2, 4-D plus 2, 4, 5-T applied to foliage will work effectively.

A period of two to three years should be allowed to rid a wooded area of unwanted brush before planting ornamentals. In most cases, fallen leaves can be left in place without their hampering brush control.

Meanwhile, paths through the wooded portion can be planned and constructed. The paths may be just compressed earth, or you can use flagstone, slate, wood mounds or other paving that will blend into the surroundings. The paths will be the avenues from which you view future plantings. The paths and plantings should give the illusion of wandering through quiet, secluded woodlands.

Your woodland area will be an excellent place to use the shade

pet or turf will give the landscape effect you desire. Some of the plants suitable for woodland gardens include azaleas, rhododendrons, blueberries, drooping leucodaphnophylla, holly, Japanese skimmia, mountain laurel, wintergreen barberry, witch hazel, box huckleberry, ajuga, lily-

of-the-valley, pachysandra, partridge berry, vinca minor and plantain lily.

Q. We want to plant a few trees for shade as well as ornamental. However, there is a problem of the soil being too dry to solve first. My husband is a radio amateur and tall trees are undesirable too close

to an antenna. We would like to know, if we plant a young maple and a ginkgo, how tall will they be in five years? A. The rate of growth of any tree will depend, to a large degree, on soil fertility and available moisture. Even the slow growing oaks will grow much faster if properly planted

in a favorable environment and kept well fertilized. Some newly planted trees literally stand still for years because their roots were allowed to dry out seriously while they were out of the ground or the soil ball was not kept moist, or they were poorly planted. Normally, trees grow faster than most people

realize. There are no good figures available for five years, but Morton Arboretum, Lisle, Ill., does have total growth figures for 10 years. Here are some of them: silver maple, 25 feet; sugar maple, 22 feet; Norway maple, 15 feet; pin oak, 18 feet; red oak, 18 feet; white oak, 13 feet; American elm,

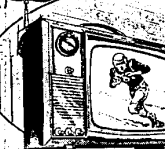
30 feet; Chinese elm, 31 feet; mulberry, 30 feet; ginkgo, 14 feet; sycamore, 34 feet; European beech, 15 feet; black walnut, 15 feet; horse chestnut, 18 feet; and Washington hawthorn, 18 feet. This growth rate may not prevail in every area, but it does give a general idea of what to expect.



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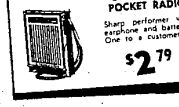
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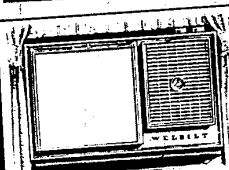
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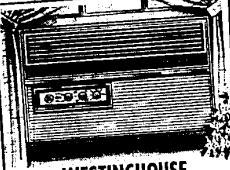
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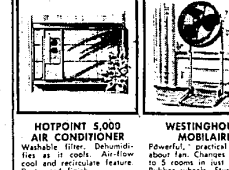
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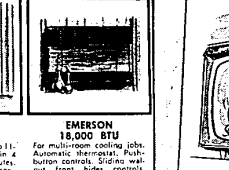
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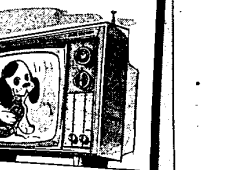
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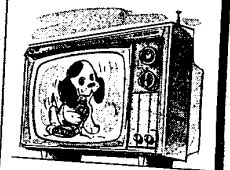
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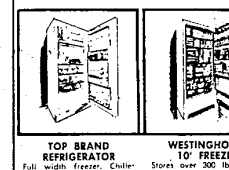
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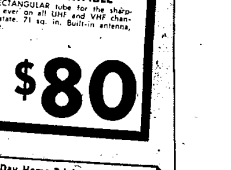
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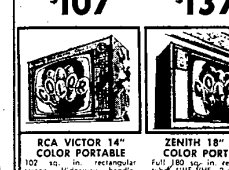
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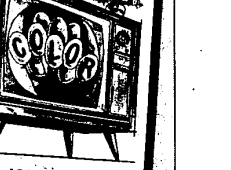
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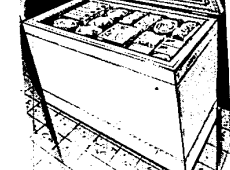
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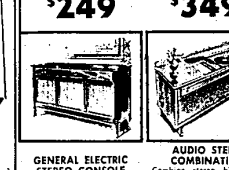
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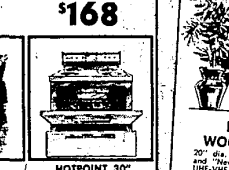
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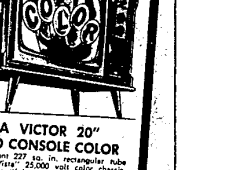
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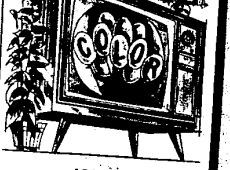
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