

Be selective when choosing trees

In this cycle of weather you have more time to cogitate about new ideas tossed your way than in the spring when your back is bent double tending up your property.

There are some trees which are real pests on property and you should be aware of them if you buy a home and "there they are." They should be eliminated. Also, avoid buying them in the nursery supermarket.

If you buy a Chinese Elm, the chances are it is a Siberian elm. It does not have the beautiful vase profile of the elms and will break up in storms, and your lawn is a mess much of the time. The elm leaf beetle likes the Siberian elm.

This tree has surface roots which will make lawn mowing difficult. It has vast numbers of seeds to vex the home gardener.

Another group of trees to avoid are the box elders, silver maples and cottonwoods, all fast growers with brittle branches. In the spring when the cot-

tonwood drops its seeds you will think the heavens are raining cotton.

Lombardy poplars are often seen in the country. They grow like marching soldiers with a narrow vertical profile. Take them off your list and out of your property. They are susceptible to borers and the Cytospora canker. Soon a dreamed of landscape line of vertical trees can become spotty because of having to eliminate the sick ones.

Some of you, due to the topography of your property, have pools due to drainage. You may hope the water will remain because it adds to the natural beauty. Many of these ponds leak without a proper clay base to hold the water.

There are emulsions to seal ponds that can be applied to the surface. They sink to the bottom, becoming a seal. If this is your problem, contact U.S. Water Conservation Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, Phoenix, Arizona 85025.

Many of us admire iris as a per-

ennial but there are always those pesky borers which can move in and spoil a plant.

Edwin Rundlett, a garden writer has this sage tip. In early March cover the exposed rhizomes with soil and plant on the dead leaves a handful of dry old leaves, or what have you. Ignite and burn all of the old foliage. This will eliminate the borer eggs and weed seeds which have been caught in the old dead leaves. Be sure and water down any mulch which might be in the flower bed.

Buckner Hollingsworth who wrote "Gardening on Main Street" has this tip to share. Take an 18" square of chicken wire and lay it on the top of your emerging peony foliage in the Spring. As the plant grows, gingerly raise the wire at different times. Eventually the wire becomes supported and covered up by strong foliage. The peony bush will have good form.

If you feel like adventure in your

vegetable plot you might like to try some rare seeds from all over the world—Italian white eggplant, Japanese perennial parsley, Russian comfrey, and more. The list of seeds of rare vegetables from all over the world is almost endless. Write Nichols Garden Nursery, 1190 North Pacific Highway, Albany, Oregon, 97321, for a list.

Organic gardener will give program

"Cold Frames and Hot Beds," their construction and operation, will be the subject when Leonard Duncan of Lum speaks at the February meeting of the Towne and Country Organic Garden Club.

The meeting will start at 7:45 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, at the Unitarian Church of Birmingham, 631 N. Woodward at Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

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Youth symphony presents concert

The Southfield Youth Symphony will present its second concert of the 19th season at 3 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Southfield-Lathrup High School Auditorium. The school is located at 18001 Twelve Mile in Lathrup Village.

The Contemporary Civic Ballet Company, under the direction of Rose Marie Floyd, will appear in the symphony. The group will perform Thunder and Lightning Polka by Strauss, Suite from Gayne Ballet by Khatchaturian, Transilvania from Soirees Musicales by Britten, selections from My Fair Lady and the Andante from the Mozart Piano Concerto No. 21.

The Contemporary Civic Ballet Company was organized in 1965 and has played more than 100 concerts with area orchestras.

The symphony, under the direction of Richard L. Brown, will play Rossini's Overture to the Barber of Seville, Music for the Royal Fireworks by Handel and Johnson, and Symphony No. 2 by Gounod.

The Southfield Youth Symphony provides added opportunities for music students. It draws from many communities, offering select students the chance to participate in a full symphony orchestra.

Membership is open by audition to junior and senior high school students. The orchestra rehearses Monday evenings at Southfield High School.

Tickets for the concert may be obtained by calling 533-0491 or 534-8086, or may be obtained at the door the afternoon of the concert.

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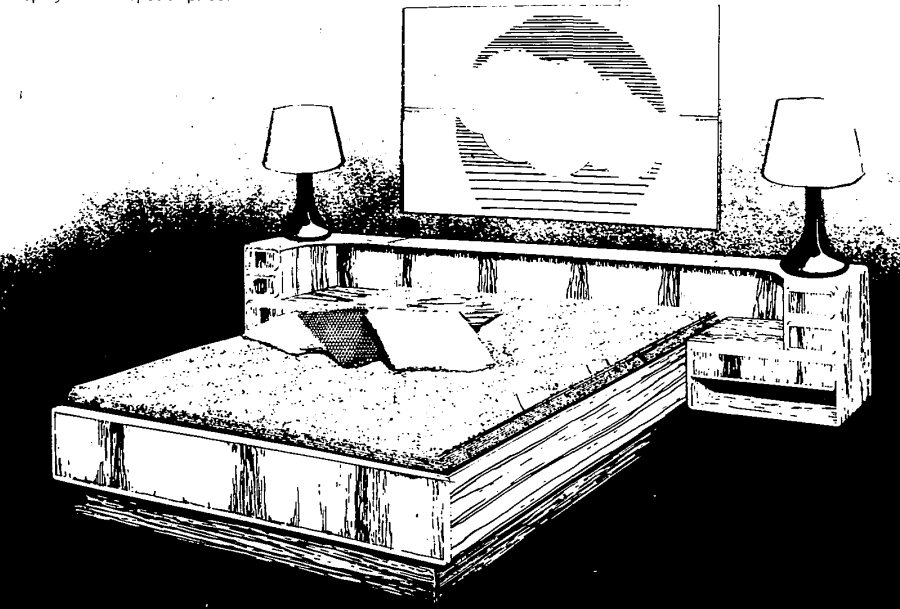
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