

Cloche cultivation comes from England

In our Down To Earth family we have many mighty fine gardeners and I want to toss another idea to them for early spring gardening.

English gardeners do it, why can't you? It is known as cloche culture and they used wire frames with sheets of glass to give the effect of a wee greenhouse over choice plants which have a hard time going through the winter as well as the early beginning of seedlings.

Can't you see how the Christmas rose which flowers during the cold weather would really appreciate such thoughtfulness?

So here we are in Oakland County—a metal coat hanger can be converted into a wicket by cutting off the hook and straightening the sides. Fashion a covering by using four or five gage playthene.

Your vegetables started this way will yield two to three weeks earlier and what fun to rummage at the flower seed stand and try new ones.

When you have planted the seeds in a sunny location, firm the plastic down by pouring soil around the edges of the plastic to avoid wind damage. Allow one end to be open for air circulation.

THE NEXT TIME YOU HAVE



By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME

FRIENDS going to England have them pick up a book on cloche cultivation for you.

This practice will open an entirely new world of gardening for you. There isn't any reason why a person with an

apartment balcony couldn't join the cloche hobbyists. What an ideal hobby to begin for a homebound person. Your love of gardening can extend beyond you. Get busy, share.

Well, now that I have you moving and realizing that spring and a glorious summer in Michigan are on their way, let's gabble about garden updating.

Look your place over with an objective eye. Just because you bit off more than you can handle doesn't mean you have to go on forever with the stone around your neck. If you are dependent upon labor, prices of chip aren't shrinking.

Number One: have as your goal quality in each plant selection. If you have three which are really weeds (I am thinking of the cottonwood especially), have them cut down.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO LIVE with mistakes. Each plant on your property has to "pay rent." If it can't meet its obligation to help you create beauty with lovely shadows on your lawn, make a decision. You can always rent a power saw and have firewood for next winter.

Shrubs, if they have been neglected, can take over too much space and look like a person needing a haircut.

Classes set for children at institute of science

Imagine a can that rolls back when it's pushed away, or a pendulum that makes designs on paper.

"Science Toys" is just one of several new children's classes that begin in April at Cranbrook Institute of Science. Eleven after-school classes for preschoolers through sixth-graders begin the week of April 17 and continue for four to six weeks. Fees range from \$10 to \$15. For complete information, call 645-3210.

Classes for fifth and sixth-graders include "Miniature Worlds," a close look at nature through microscopes and an exploration of field and forest on all fours; "Scientific Illustration," lessons on how to capture wild plants and animals on paper; and "Chemistry Experiments," beginning and

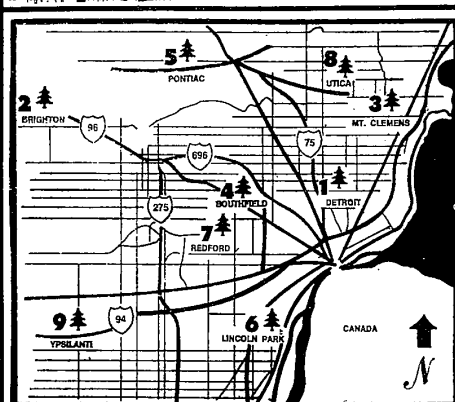
advanced sessions designed to provide an understanding of basic concepts and analytical experiments.

Third and fourth graders can enroll in "Junior Geologist," an investigation of the shape and composition of planet Earth; "Make Your Own Museum," with emphasis on starting natural history collections; and "Stories in the Stars," an introduction to astronomy and the planetarium.

In addition to "Science Toys," first and second graders can choose "Animals With Feathers," an introduction to ornithology; or "Life in Ancient Michigan," focusing on archeology and Indians. "Exploring the Mineral Hall" is open to kindergartners. "Adventure in Science" includes simple experiments

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