

Plan herb garden now

Sugar plums dance in the heads of gardeners after the holiday season. This is the time of year when we are using lots of herbs in our cooking and this is the time to plan your herb garden for 1979.

Somewhat it seems as though a specific bed for this purpose is so "much in character."

You could take a square area, the dimensions to suit your taste and the site, place bricks around the perimeter so there is a collar at least 18 inches wide. In the center you could have a piece of sculpture. If it is small, place it on an upturned railroad tie, painted black. Have the tall herbs at the immediate base and low growing herbs around the edge. Within the herb bed place a stepping stone or bricks to assist in when harvesting a wee bit of fresh herbs for cooking.

Before you know it, you will be not only interested in herb cookery but making herb hangings for your friends to use in their cooking. One of the ultimate herb gardens to visit is the Western Reserve Herb Garden on the grounds of the Cleveland Garden Center. The total setting there is also a joy. It is adjacent to the small lake in front of the Cleveland Art Museum. There you will see dye plants, old roses, fragrant herbs and medicinal plants, all well labeled.

The handbook, "Herbs And Their Or-

namental Uses," is \$1.75 from the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, 1000 Washington, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11225. Its 85 pages are generously filled with pictures. It's a prime source book and worthy of every garden's basic library. All facets of herb design, construction of herb gardens, use and plant selection are discussed.

Our Oakland County Horticultural Extension agent, Greg Patchan, is having a free clinic for those gardeners who need a plant doctor. The clinic will be Feb. 19 from 10 a.m. to noon or 7-9 p.m. at the Oakland Schools Building, 1100 Pontiac Lake Rd., just west of Telegraph. Inquiries can be made by phoning 858-0995.

Here is an interesting bit for your dinner conversation tonight. In Ft. Collins, Colo., there is an International Seed Storage Bank. The purpose is to keep, under optimum conditions, representative seeds of specific annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, plus grains and vegetables. These seeds can then be used for future breeding if their particular characteristics are needed. A great deal of our research for the seed industry is being done by Claude Hope in Costa Rica.

There are seed farms in California. When seeds are harvested, they are spread on a muslin sheet for the sun to dry the seed heads. Because of evening

moisture, at night they are rolled up and brought out again the next day.

There is some complaint about the health of some indoor plants. Remember if you have a water softener, you

should draw off the water in a bucket and allow it to stand for 24 hours before applying it to your plants. Many people kill their plants by too much care. Remember that adage.

by
ALICE
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Benefits changed

Payment procedures for GI Bill benefits were changed June 1. Contact the Veterans Administration for full information.

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Orchestra Hall seats ready to be adopted

Concertmaster of the Detroit Symphony, Gordon Staples, and Mrs. Margaret Winkelman, community leader, have accepted the chairmanship of the Adopt-A-Seat fund-raising program at Orchestra Hall.

The Adopt-A-Seat program offers individuals the opportunity to have seats renovated in their name or the name of anyone they may wish to designate for a \$100 contribution. A restored seat from the auditorium is on display in the lobby.

"Since Orchestra Hall began holding concerts," Mrs. Renee Vandewater, president of the Friends for Orchestra Hall, said, "the friends group saw an urgent need to refurbish the seating. We have the concerts, and we have the audience. Now, we need the seats."

"Music lovers throughout the Great-Detroit metro area have a personal stake in the restoration of the hall," Staples said.

"There are very few concert halls in the country and even in the world that can approach the superb acoustical properties of Orchestra Hall. It is a thrill for the musician to perform and

the audience to listen to a concert in Orchestra Hall," he added. "There are artists who are anxious to perform at Orchestra Hall but whose following is such that the utilization of the entire hall would be necessary to accommodate the audience they would draw," he observed.

Orchestra Hall currently has 1,000 usable though not restored seats on the main floor and another 1,200 in the balcony in complete disrepair.

"Jean Pierre Rampal is scheduled for April and Isaac Stern for May," Mrs. Winkelman said. "Both choose to perform in Orchestra Hall because they feel that only this hall can do justice to their artistry. How sad for all the music lovers who will be denied the pleasure of hearing them if the rest of the house isn't restored. A thousand seats get filled so fast, as recent experiences have shown," she added.

"While \$100 is a considerable sum," Staples said, "it isn't out of the reach of most music lovers who wish to do something for the community. Of course these contributions are tax-deductible," he added.

Art Association sponsors workshop

South Oakland Art Association is sponsoring an art workshop with illustrator and teacher Mildred Freedman on Feb. 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the Emmanuel Bethel Church of Christ, 4000 W. Normandy, Royal Oak.

Mrs. Freedman will assist in any art medium preferred. The cost of the

workshop will be \$10. Bring your own lunch (coffee will be available), easel, paper, canvas and paints—whatever is needed for the medium.

This workshop is open to non-members, but reservations are limited. If interested, call Dorothy Zatlott at 559-0242.

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