Listen—your pH is talking to you

and you'still can't grow a rhododen-dron.

Evergreens shoot up like weeds all over the lot, but your clematis won't climb, your delphiniums won't bloom, and you'can't grow carrost to save your gestight.

In your garden, pH does not mean the presence or absence of pimples. The letters refer to "potential Hydro-gen." Unlike acne, it's a condition that's easy to treat with a few simple steps.

Simply put, a pH number can tell you whether your soil is acidic or alkaline. Plants will grow under one condition or the other, but not in both; some plants must have an acid soil and some must have an alkaline soil or they won't grow at all. and some must have an alkaline soil or they won't grow at all.

or they won't grow at all.

THE ACID-ALKALINTY scale ranges from 0-14. The low end of the scale indicates acid and the high al-kaline. Seven is neutral. Soils usually run from 4.5 to 8.5. Soils testing 4.5 are very acid or sour and relatively few plants can tolerate them.

A large number of commonly grown plants prefer a soil pH in the 6-7.25 bracket (from slightly acid to slightly alkaline). Some can grow over a large range of soils - certain weeds for example — while others do help the still a fairly limited range.

A good deal of the soil is this country is acid, although there are exceptions — namely Detroit and its envi-

<u>Sexuality</u>

workshop topic for teachers

gardening

Rod Brown

rons which are mostly alkaline. Cultivated soils are usually acidic since lime, the commonest alkaline, is easily leached from cultivated soils. Soils in mulch can keep their alkalinity for a longer time — probably the best argument in favor of mulching if you plan on growing plants that prefer an alkaline soil.

ALL PLANTS need three basic ingredients to survive: Nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash. A pH reading also will give you a reliable indication of your plants' ability to use these minerals.

When the pH is high, above 7.3, phosphorus locks up with calcium to form an insoluble calcium phosphate. When the pH drops below this point, phosphorus is again released in a soluble form. Let the pH drop as low as 5, however, and the phosphorus locks up a gain, this time with soil iron.

If you are growing alkaline-loving plants and your soil tests acid, don't give up — the pH can be corrected.

A two-weekend workshop on human sexuality will be offered by Wayne State University's College of Education through the College of Lifelong Learn-ing Oct. 19-21 and 26-28 at the WSU

Agling Center, 27800 Franklin Road, Southfield.

Guest experts will cover such topics as sex education in the schools, VD and contraception, sex and culture, developmental sexuality, social pressure and sexual behavior, and female sexual response.

response.
Desined by Dr. John Pietrofesa of

Compost, maple leaves, wood ashes and lime will sweeten a soll; oak leaves, pine needles, peat moss and aluminum sulphate will sour it.

Because the pH can be corrected and because it can vary from location to location even within a city lot, a pH reading can be as valuable tool in the gardener's hands as a spade or hoc.

TEST YOUR soil yourself.
You need neither a chemistry degree nor Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory. You can get a pretty good idea just be setting litmus paper from the drugstore into a moist garden soil.
Litmus will turn blue if the soil.
Litmus will turn blue if the soil. Alkaline, red or pink if acid. No color change means the soil is neutral.
If you want to be more exacting, you can get a soil testing kit. Don't be adraid of the test tubes — everything is neatly spelled out in the kit's instructions. Those kits are available from most seed catalogues and garden supply louses. For the information they give, the kits are cheap,

easy to use, and portable. Be sure to take samplings from several points in your garden area.

Once you have a reading, the following short list may help a little in planning for near year at farra. Your local nurseryman and your stock of Pebruary seed catalogues will be invalicable sources of information.

The property of the prope

following categories:

• Very acid (4-5): Azalea, blueber-ry, holly, hydrangea, rhododendron.

• Moderately acid (5-5.75): Blackberry, fern, grape, laurel, lily of the valley, oak, pine, plum, potato, pump-

berry, fern, grape, laurel, illy of the vailey, oak, pine, plum, potato, pumpkin, spruce, yew.

Slightly seid (5.75-6.5): Bean, begonia, currant, fir, gloxinia, goose-berry, illy, lupine, pepper, squash, strawberry, tomato.

Near neutral (6.5-7): Apple, aster, beet, brocoli, canna, carnation, chrysanthemum, chives, columbine, corn, cosmos, crocus, cucumber, dahlia, endive, tuschia, glaidolus, hickory, hollyhock, hyacinth, iris, larkspur, lilma bean, marigold, muskmelon, narcisus, onion, pansy, pea, peach, phlox, poppy, primula, rangafragon, epinach, wisteria, woodhine, yucca, ainnia

Alkaline (7-5): Arborvitae, asaragus, cababage, carrot, cauli-flower, celery, clematis, delphinium, geranium, hellotrope, English ivy, lettuce, morning glory, nasturium, parsley, petunia, sweet pea.

WARM UP WITH SHEEPSKIN THIS WINTER



kin Coats, Jackets, Vests, Hats, Gloves, Mittens and

Our garments are made from feather weight, chrome tanned sheepskin pelts from England's most distinguished tanners of the past 200 years. Each garment is "hand crafted." The pelts are individually selected, handcut, sewn by experienced craftsmen. Designed in North American styling for today & tomorrow.

English Sheepskin Shop

139 W. Maple Rd. Birmingham, MI 48011

Phone 644-1740 If busy 645-5549

SFA's Girls' Outerwear Sale!

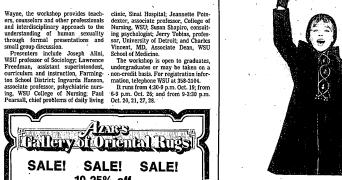


20% off original prices on the Fischer "Heidi" coat, with hood and red lining. Just meant for luxurious warmth...and that counts at this time of year!
Detailed with the most delicate stitching, in a navy wool blend. Sizes 2 to 4, regularly '80; now 59.90. 4 to 6x, regularly '90; now 71.90. 7 to 14, regularly '100; now 79.90. In Children's Collections - where we are all the things you are.



Saks Filth Avenue, Detroit, Second at Lothrop, open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM Thoy Somerse thail, Big Beaver at Coolidee, open Monday, Thursdays and Friddys, 10 AM to 9 FM, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 6 FM, Sundays, Moon to 5 PM.

Regularly \$80 to \$100; Now 59.90 to 79.90





Speakers from the Detroit Institute of Art and the Detroit Historical Society All events are open to the public at no charge

SOMERSET MALL

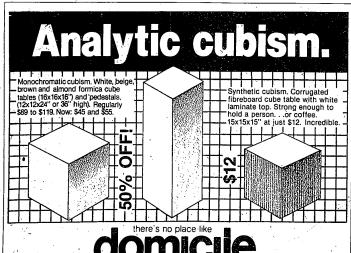
OPEN SUNDAY NOON - 5 Plan a Sunday Rendezvous

Monday, Thursday, Friday 10-9/Other days 10-6. Big Beaver Road at Coolidge, Troy.





₹randalls invites you...



In Birmingham, 808 S. Woodward, 6 blocks south of Maple. (313) 642-4260.

Better and Designer Sportswear Contemporary, Updated and Sport Dresses Fashion Accessories Women's Shoes Maternity Apparel Sleepwear and Robes Junior Apparel Children's Wear

Saks-Fifth Avenue's

Storewide Clearance

Starts Tomorrow...

With terrific savings

on special selections from: Better and Designer Ready-To-Wear 'SFAntastic Contemporary and 'SFAbulous Updated Sportswear

'SFAntastic and 'SFAbulous Quilted and Zip-Out Stormcoats Sportcoat and Stormcoat Collections

Boys' and Young Men's Wear Men's and Young Men's Wear Men's Dress and Sport Furnishings Men's Apparel

There may have been intermediate price reductions items prior to this sale. Not every style in every color and size Total Units Available, Detroit and Troy: 16,000



Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at tops Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at topen Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 AM Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 6 PM; Sundays, Noon