

Listen—your pH is talking to you

You've tried mountains of fertilizer and you still can't grow a rhododendron. 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 carrots to save your eyesight.

Maybe you have a bad pH. In your garden, pH does not mean the presence or absence of pimples. The letters refer to "potential hydrogen." 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.

THE ACID-ALKALINITY scale ranges from 0-14. The low end of the scale indicates acid and the high alkaline. 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 their best in a fairly limited range.

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



garden

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 again, this time with iron.

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

Compost, maple leaves, wood ashes and lime will sweeten a soil; 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 hoe.

TEST YOUR soil yourself.

You need neither a chemistry degree nor Dr. Frankenstein's laboratory. You can get a pretty good idea just by setting litmus paper from the drugstore into a moist garden soil.

Litmus will turn blue if the soil is 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 afraid 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 houses. 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 next year at Tara. Your local nurseryman and your stock of February seed catalogues will be invaluable sources of information.

Although it's not gospel, plants tend to grow best according to the following categories:

• **Very acid (4-5):** Azalea, blueberry, holly, hydrangea, rhododendron.

• **Moderately acid (5.5-7.5):** Blackberry, fern, grape, laurel, lily of the valley, oak, pine, plum, potato, pumpkin, spruce, yew.

• **Slightly acid (5.75-6.5):** Bean, begonia, carrot, fir, gladiolus, gooseberry, lily, lupine, pepper, squash, strawberry, tomato.

• **Near neutral (6.5-7):** Apple, aster, beet, broccoli, canna, carnation, chrysanthemum, chives, columbine, corn, cosmos, crocus, cucumber, dahlia, endive, fuchsia, gladiolus, hickory, hollyhock, hyacinth, iris, jackspar, lima bean, marigold, muskmelon, narcissus, onion, pansy, pea, peach, philox, poppy, primula, radish, raspberry, rhubarb, rose, snapdragon, spinach, violet, wisteria, yucca, zinnia.

• **Alkaline (7-7.5):** Arborvitae, asparagus, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, celery, clematis, delphinium, geranium, heliotrope, English ivy, lettuce, morning glory, nasturtium, parsley, petunia, sweet pea.

Sexuality workshop topic for teachers

A two-weekend workshop on human sexuality will be offered by Wayne State University's College of Education through the College of Lifelong Learning 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.

Designed by Dr. John Pietrofas of

Wayne, the workshop provides teachers, counselors and other professionals and interdisciplinary approach to the understanding of human sexuality through formal presentations and small group discussion.

Presenters include Joseph Alini, WSU professor of Sociology; Lawrence Freedman, assistant superintendent, curriculum and instruction, Farmington School District; Ingvarda Hanson, associate professor, psychiatric nursing, WSU College of Nursing; Paul Pearsall, chief problems of daily living

clinic, Sinai Hospital; Jeannette Poindecker, associate professor, College of Nursing, WSU; Susan Shapiro, consulting psychologist; Jerry Tobias, professor, University of Detroit; and Charles Vincent, MD, Associate Dean, WSU School of Medicine.

The workshop is open to graduates, undergraduates or may be taken on a non-credit basis. For registration information, telephone WSU at 358-2104.

It runs from 4:30-9 p.m. Oct. 19; from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 26; and from 9-3:30 p.m. Oct. 20, 21, 27, 28.

SOMERSET'S MUSIC & ART SERIES

SUNDAY CONCERTS
Every Sunday — 2 to 4 PM

October 14 Martin Scott Kosins

October 21 Harmonie Park Quartet

Guest soloist,
Moe Weeks Wang, oboe

October 28 Pastiche Wind Quintet

A Halloween Treat

ART LECTURE SERIES

Every Tuesday — 10:00 AM

October 16 "Art of the Ancient World"

October 23 "Stained Glass & Spices"

A tour of Detroit's Historic Churches

"Collector's & Their Collections at the DIA"

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.

**Alex's
Gallery of Oriental Rugs**

SALE! SALE! SALE!
**10-25% off
our usual low prices**

8'x11' Persian Kerman	Reg. \$3200	SALE \$2400
9'x12' Persian Tabriz	Reg. \$6400	SALE \$5440
4'8"x6'11" Pakistani Kashmir	Reg. \$2225	SALE \$1690
4'x6' Pakistani Bokhara (fine wool)	Reg. \$930	SALE \$790
9'x12' Chinese (fine quality)	Reg. \$3999	SALE \$3400
6'x9' Chinese (fine quality)	Reg. \$1998	SALE \$1600

Sale Ends October 31, 1979

- Oriental rugs make a most wonderful gift for all occasions
- We buy, trade and appraise Oriental Rugs
- Expert Washing and Repairing

223 S. Woodward Ave. • Birmingham • 644-7311

Krandall's invites you...
to bring your diamonds and jewelry in today and convert them into

Immediate Cash!
All discussions will be conducted in private offices with consideration for your confidence and respect for your dignity. Evaluations for purchase without obligation.

Sidney Krandall & Sons
755 W. Big Beaver Rd. Troy, Michigan
(16 Mile at 1-75) • Phone: 313-362-4500

WARM UP WITH SHEEPSKIN THIS WINTER



Ladies' and Men's Sheepskin Coats, Jackets, Vests, Hats, Gloves, Mittens and Rugs.

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



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 Fifth Avenue

Saks Fifth Avenue, Detroit, Second at Lothrop, open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 AM to 9 PM; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 6 PM; Sundays, Noon to 5 PM.

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
Better and Designer Sportswear
Contemporary, Updated and Sport Dresses
Fashion Accessories
Women's Shoes
Maternity Apparel
Sleepwear and Robes
Junior Apparel
Children's Wear
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 on some items prior to this sale. Not every style in every color and size.
Total Units Available, Detroit and Troy: 16,000

Saks Fifth Avenue

Saks Fifth Avenue, Detroit, Second at Lothrop, open Monday through Saturday, 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM. Troy, Somerset Mall, Big Beaver at Coolidge, open Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, 10 AM to 9 PM; Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, 10 AM to 6 PM; Sundays, Noon to 5 PM.

Analytic cubism.

Monochromatic cubism. White, beige, brown and almond formica cube tables (16x16x16") and pedestals, (12x12x24" or 36" high). Regularly \$89 to \$119. Now: \$45 and \$55.

Synthetic cubism. Corrugated fibreboard cube table with white laminate top. Strong enough to hold a person...or coffee. 15x15x15" at just \$12. Incredible.

50% OFF!

\$12

there's no place like

domicile

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