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Light gardening

continued

plants for gifts, additions to plants throughout the house and room to start seeds for outdoor plantings in the spring.

MANY COMPANIES have marketed special grow tubes over the past few years. After using some of them, most light gardeners agree that the combination of one cool white to one warm white does a satisfactory job and the expense of special tubes is unwarranted.

Most beginners, once bitten by the gardening bug, add more fixtures and more shelves. Before long a complete room or area is set aside for growing under lights.

Currently available on the market are various furniture items with enclosed lights. These items include end tables, room dividers, and book shelf units. They combine together the beauty of furniture and the enchantment of live plants.

Advantages of artificial light gardening are many. No longer does the indoor light gardener need to rely on the weather for good growing. Sunny days can be provided day after day with lights.

GREENHOUSES ARE expensive to build and maintain. Lights do cost, but the cost is minimal (\$3 a month for a four-foot fixture operated 12 hours per day) and if one considers the cost of heating a house built of glass.

Greenhouses

are expensive. .

Lights

cost, too,

but the cost

is minimal.

Today light gardeners are growing all types under lights — cacti, orchids, ferns, foliage plants of all types, even vegetables for household consumption.

To learn more about gardening under lights, attend a meeting of the Indoor Light Gardening Society of Metropolitan Detroit. Meetings are held the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Maccabees Insurance Building cafeteria on Northwestern Highway (I-96 service drive) and Civic Center Drive in Southfield. Admission is free and each month an educational program is provided for beginners as well as experienced growers.

The subject of the May meeting is "Cutting Costs." Ideas on how to use otherwise discardable items to benefit the light gardener will be presented.

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