

## Down to earth

by  
ALICE  
WESSELS  
BURLINGAME



# Sun, mulch aid sprouts

Seeds are going underground once again, and it should be long before home grown vegetables appear on the dinner table.

Unfortunately, not all of the hopeful gardeners that toil the earth will be successful. Only a select few are blessed with green thumbs, but there are some helpful hints that may be useful to first time gardeners.

Sun is advisable for growing most vegetables. Morning sun is needed to dry the leaves, so the wet dew will not attract disease. However, there are

some leafy vegetable such as lettuce, spinach, endive and chard that will do all right in the shade. Vegetables grown for their roots, like beets, carrots or radishes can also flourish in the shade.

For other natural goodies, such as tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, beans, corn and squash, sun is an essential.

MANY GARDENERS use plastic sheeting as a mulch. While clear plastic will not control weeds in the way black plastic does, it will promote a faster growth. In either case slits should be made

through the plastic where the seeds are planted.

If the plastic is wider than three feet it's best to make holes so that water can penetrate.

Army worms are a vegetable garden's worst enemy. In England, gardeners alleviate this problem by placing sunflowers between the rows of corn.

Organic gardeners battle the army worm by planting a strong scented herb such as garlic or onions among their corn crops.

For growing larger perennials, shrubs, or trees a mixture of perlite

and peat moss provides a lighter soil. Since these ingredients don't have nourishment, fertilizer should be used as a supplement, every two weeks.

REMEMBER to wind a protector around the trunk to avoid sun scald, mower damage or children at play.

To get new seeds off to a good start, a mix containing horticulture perlite and peat moss can be applied to the garden. Af-

ter scattering the seeds gently cover the surface with this mix. Water it thoroughly, but gently, then cover the seed with a polyethylene bag. Do not remove the bag until the seedlings have surfaced.

Growing your own vegetables is almost as pleasurable as eating them. There are a variety of techniques used to ensure a healthy garden, but patience and care are always the main ingredients.

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## Work, economy in series at OCC

"Women, Work, and the Economy," a spring lecture and discussion series, will address the effects of an inflated economy and a shrinking job market on the everyday lives of women and their families.

Experts on the subject will identify problems which women face today and recommend countermeasures they can take.

The series, sponsored by the college's Womencenter, is offered free to all area women and students at Orchard Ridge Campus and Oakland Community College.

Each session begins at noon, starting on Wednesday, May 9, and will run for six consecutive Wednesdays in the campus building, Room 308.

Participants should bring their own lunch. Coffee, juice and childcare will be provided.

Staff of Womencenter staff the individual lectures build upon each other, but each can stand by itself. Participants may attend one or all of the lectures.

\*AN OVERVIEW of Women, Work

and the Economy" leads off the series May 9 with Sadie M. Davis, associate professor of sociology at Oakland Community College.

On May 16 the subject is "One Community's Struggle Against Poverty," with Rose Bell, director of United Neighbors, Jeffries Housing Project, Detroit.

On May 23, Valerie Snock and Ivy Thomas-Riley lead the session called "Can Black and White Women Work Together for Change?"

Ms. Snock is on the Focus Hope staff in Redford High School, Detroit, and Ms. Thomas-Riley is an attorney with Glotta, Adelman, Dinges, Davis and Riley, in Detroit.

The topic for May 30 is "Women and Jobs: Facing Reality." Mary White, Womencenter director, leads this session.

"Equal Rights for Women and

Minorities: Target of the New Right" is handled by E. Paye Williams, assistant director of the Michigan Education Association, on June 6.

Pre-registration is not required.

## Club Circuit

**WOMEN'S AGLOW FELLOWSHIP**, Northwest Farmington Chapter of the international organization, will meet for its spring seminar Friday and Saturday, May 4-5, in Mercy Center, 29600 11 Mile Rd.

Inquiries regarding membership or the seminar are taken by Donna Dace, 353-0057.

**PIONEER WOMEN**, Dimona and Isidore Chapters, join for a fund-raising dinner beginning at 6:30 p.m. Sunday, May 6, in Labor-Zionist Institute, 28555 Middlebelt Rd.

The entertainment will be furnished by Dino Valle and the Italian Opera Company presenting "Pasta and Pagliacci."

Valle heads the company, is a recording artist, and also is in charge of Italian Radio Hope on WILD.

All money raised is earmarked to support children's homes in Israel.

Renee Shuster and Lee Wagman, both residents of Oak Park, are coordinating the event. Their committee is made up of Lillian Winkler, Margie Blakie, Elaine Kohner, Ruth Miller and Mollie Diamond.

Reservations, at \$10 each, are taken by calling Pioneer Women, Greater Detroit Council, 651-3750.

**FARMINGTON GARDEN CLUB** meets at 8:00 p.m. Monday, May 7, in Farmington Community Center. Members will hear Jean McFadden in a program telling how to use herbs.

**WISER** (Widowed in Service) meet at 8 p.m. Tuesday, May 8, in Newman House, 17330 Haggerty Rd., Livonia. Speaker for the evening is William Weise, counselor at Schoolcraft College, whose topic is "Life Work Planning: Mid Life Transition."

The event is open to all widows and widowers in all surrounding areas.

**FARMINGTON ARTISTS' CLUB** meets at 7 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in Farmington Hills Community Library at 12 Mile Road.

A small donation for admittance is asked of non-members at the door.

**FARMINGTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB** meets at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 9, in Room 101-G, Farmington High School, 32000 Shawwassee.

All members of the club are open to call people interested in amateur radio.

**HILL AND DALE GARDEN CLUB** meets at 8 p.m. Thursday, May 10, in First Presbyterian Church of Farmington, on Farmington at 11 Mile roads.

Guest speaker for the evening is Mrs. Robert J. Mallow, whose topic is "Fence and Patio Art Paintings."

This meeting is open to guests, and is the only open meeting the club schedules every year.

Chairwoman for the meeting is Mrs. Kenneth Howell.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE** will meet for its annual convention May 10-11 in Dearborn Inn, with 32 states expected to be represented.

On May 11, the local organization will host a luncheon for the national board and all out-of-towners. Among the guests will be Gov. William Milliken, Detroit Mayor Coleman Young, British Consul General Alan Linton, and Canadian Consul and Senior Trade Commissioner Frank Harris.

The organization supports homes for the aged in the U.S. and a number of local charities.

**FOCUS ON LIVING WITH CANCER**, a self-help group for cancer patients and their families, meet at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 10, in Orchard United Methodist Church, 30450 Farmington Rd.

New members are welcomed at all meetings with no charge.

**DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION** (DAR), Quakertown Chapter, will install its new regent, Mrs. Harold Dolph of Detroit, at a tea on Tuesday, May 15, in the Farmington home of Mrs. Edward LaVarway.

New vice regent of the group is Mrs. William Rutten of Birmingham.

Mrs. Erwin Darling, a state librarian of the DAR and a member of Piety Hill Chapter in Birmingham, is the speaker for the day. Her topic is "Our DAR Library."

The chapter will host regents from other chapters during the afternoon event, in celebration of its eighth birthday.

Other members who will take offices for the coming term are Mrs. Charles Long, Mrs. Herbert Neak and Mrs. Ervin Love, all of Farmington Hills; Dorothy Hopkins of Livonia; and Marguerite Henke of Northville.

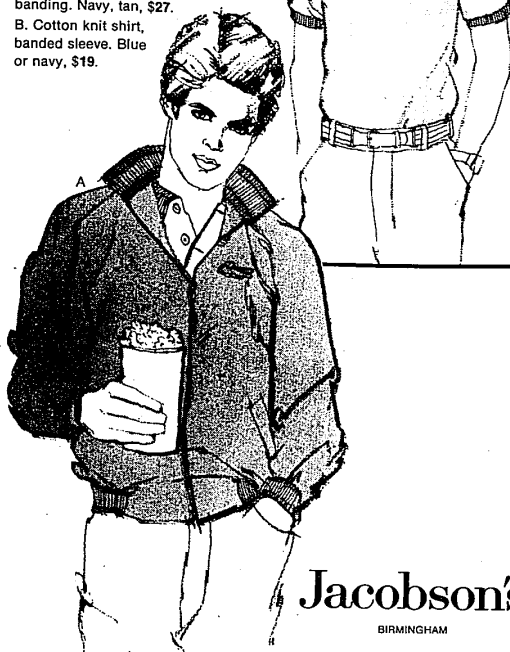
All club news and announcements for this column are to be addressed to: Club Circuit, 23352 Farmington Rd., Farmington 48034, and must arrive on the Monday before Thursday publication.

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