



by
ALICE
WESSELLS
BURLINGAME

Down to earth

All plants sprout when rightly fed

This tends to be the restless cycle for those gardeners who take their hobby seriously. It is appropriate to warn them to go easy on the pruning after the middle of July on forsythia, lilacs, and many other ornamentals which begin to form their 1980 buds in the early fall.

This is a good time to control your evergreens by judicious pruning. Then

don't touch them again until around the holiday time when you need some evergreen boughs for decorating.

After you hang up your clippers begin to concentrate on feeding your plants. A favorite method is foliar feeding. A fine mist of high quality liquid plant food, applied every week or 10 days, will give the plants a good summer boost. It has been proven that cer-

tain tissues come right to the leaf surface, so that when a spray is applied to the leaves they will accept the fertilizer just like a blotter.

With radioactive isotopes to trace the movement of the foliar feeding it has been shown that other parts of the plant are fed along with the leaves. It has also been found that all plants, both indoor and outdoor, respond to foliar feeding, regardless of size. Many is the time I have mixed Ra-Pid-Gro in a sprinkling can and just watered the plant sprinkling the whole plant from the top, relying on the mix affecting the total plant as it falls.

Many of you are cutting your flowers these days to share and to decorate your homes. I have some tips from Cicely Wylie of Christ Church, New Zealand. Cut your flowers in the cool of the evening so they can benefit from an overnight soaking. As you gather the individual flowers insert them in a container of water. Burn the end of poppy stems and then place in deep water.

That goes for plants with a similar stem, such as poinsettias, maidenhair fern, and others.

An inch or two of hot water is very good for peonies, stocks, dahlias, forget-me-nots and azaleas. Mums will also benefit from the hot water treatment, but hammer the stem end in order to let up more water by osmosis. They only need two or three minutes in the hot water to benefit. After this treatment place them in a deep container of cold water.

This flower specialist says four teaspoons of sugar to a quart of water will aid most flowers, especially petunias, delphiniums, roses, and others. After seeing those flowers in New Zealand (their quality is tops), I listened to their tried and true advice.

In the spring when you might be cutting violets, don't give them sugar but a ¼ teaspoon of salt to a small vase. Hydrangeas will benefit by soaking in a few inches of boiling vinegar.



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m.m.memos

I've just finished helping a truly remarkable lady through one of life's truly traumatic experiences. I hope I never again have to do anything like it, and I wouldn't have missed it for the world.

The lady is my aunt, and the experience was selling the house that has been her home for 30 years. If ever I make a similar move, I only hope I can do it with just some of the sensibility and grace that she exhibited.

My Aunt Helen will be 90 years old before the summer is over. She was born in Detroit, the only girl in a family of five left motherless when the youngest son was born. Her parents came to this country from England, and two aunts followed later.

I know no one in whom the sense of family is stronger. For her, loving her father and elderly aunts meant caring for them, and that she did, until my grandfather died at the age of 95 and his sisters came to ends of lives only a few years shorter.

It was only after the old people no longer needed her that Aunt Helen married — to a widower she had known all her life. That marriage was cut short by his death, and it was his home that she recently sold because she could no longer stay there alone.

To Aunt Helen, most material possessions seem meant for giving away, but all her life she has cherished



By MARGARET
MILLER

mementos of family — items brought from England and valued by her parents and aunts and grandmother and brothers.

These things she hasn't been able to see very well in recent years. The blindness that made her father's keeper for the last years of his life now has overtaken her. She also has suffered for years from arthritis (which never kept her from using all three floors of her home) and early this year suffered a slight stroke that settled the question of her living alone.

She who had taken care of her elders so faithfully had to go a different route in these different times, and her niece's best service was to help her settle in a nursing home and work her way through the sale of the home.

But it's one thing to recognize the reasonableness of a move, and quite another to go through with the ending of an era, piece by piece, move by move, memento by memento.

Wyatt enters internship

Dennis F. Wyatt received his doctor of osteopathy degree from the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and enters his internship at Doctors Hospital of Stark County, in Ohio.

After graduating from North Farmington High School, he attended the

University of Dayton where he earned his bachelor of science and masters degree in biology.

Dr. Wyatt and his wife, Ginny, now reside in Massillon, O. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James C. Wyatt, of Farmington Hills.

Spectre will speak

Rabbi Efry Spectre, rabbi of Adat Shalom Synagogue in Farmington Hills, returns as a guest speaker on "If Now Not," on Thursday, July 19.

The radio program is heard weekly

on WDET-FM, at 12:40 p.m. and is a production of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Detroit.

Rabbi Spectre will talk about the plight of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

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