


Award winners

Sheryl Krause of Oak Park (center) and her brother Alan of Birmingham walked away from the Furay Festival of Theatres with awards for best supporting actress and actor in community theatre. The two won the honors with a scene from the West Bloomfield Family Players production of "Cinders" acted out in competition with Bob McSweeney from Farmington Hills. Award for best production was given to Southgate Community Players for a scene from "The Diary of Anne Frank."

down to earth
Alice Wessels Burlingame

Update series set to start

The "Update" series gets under way in the Northwest Branch YWCA in April with both daytime and evening packages offering the opportunity to enroll for one session, or the entire series at a reduced rate.

The daytime programs are on Wednesdays, beginning April 3, and the evening series will be on Tuesdays, beginning April 1.

The daytime seminars include physical fitness, Indian fingerweaving, a session called "Women: Start Your Own Business" and one on positive parenting.

Registration is open now by stopping in the Y at 25340 Grand River, or calling the Y at 537-8500.

Some trees, shrubs like wet feet

At this date, if you are a dedicated gardener you should have folder and paper available "on the ready" to make a record of those tasks and plant programs you want to execute for 1980.

If you have incurable wet spots on your property there are some trees which can tolerate wet feet — red maple (acer rubrum), sweet gum (Liquidambar styraciflua), tamarack (Taxus racinata), and the London plane (Platanus acerifolia).

Ore., #9730. You can select lily bulbs which will give you raves from fellow gardeners with varieties which will give their harvest of color from June to September. Each selection shows its glory like instruments in a symphony. You will need a sunny location, they are perennial, and only need a light winter cover.

There is a book written by the Men's Garden Club of America, "Hints For

The Vegetable Gardener," Garden Way Publishing, Charlotte, Vt., 05445, \$3.95, 120 pages.

Within this book are limitless hints for successful gardening by men throughout the country. Did you know that human hair provides an excellent source of nitrogen for the compost? Six to seven pounds of hair provides a pound of nitrogen equivalent to 200 pounds of manure.

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Perhaps you need help with shrub selection for damp spots — arrowwood viburnum (vitum dentatum), cranberry viburnum (V. trilobum), buttonbush (Cephaenanthus occidentalis), and spicebush (Lindera benzoin). The reason I have given the common name as well as the scientific one is that all plant selections from a given family do not have the ability to take wet land.

At the University of Illinois, research has been done relative to the planting of a tree or shrub and the use of gravel at the bottom of the hole before inserting the plant.

GRAVEL WILL GIVE drainage, but during a dry spell it will halt the movement of the capillary action from below as it tries to aid the roots. Another warning, be careful about the use of plastic sheeting around some plants to inhibit weed growth. This can limit the oxygen in the soil. So if you already have plastic around choice plants and they are not growing properly, remember the plastic sheet warning. A good nurseryman hesitates to use plastic for weed control.

At this time of the year, gardeners often think they should start their seedlings for outdoors. Hold back, this is planning time except if you are working with vegetable and flower seeds which are specifically adaptable to early spring planting and possible frost. Our take out date is around May 23, then back up six weeks for starting tender flowers and vegetables.

Fluorescent light can be helpful for beginning seedlings. Select warm white tubes and have them illuminated 16 hours per day, about six inches from the plants. Try to keep the temperature around 65 degrees. If you plant everbearing strawberries you can expect to have a small harvest in June. Ozark Beauty is touted to be among the best everbearing strawberries.

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