

down to earth

Alice Burlingame

## Take a lesson from the Indians

This week I was at the Cleveland Garden Center and saw the most beautiful flowering tree ever. It was a snow-white saucer magnolia and the bark was so light colored it reminded me of a birch tree. We know that 50 percent of the birches in this area will have the bore, so nurserymen won't plant them except under duress and without guarantee.

In the stunning snow white magnolia, you have an ornamental tree as beautiful as a piece of sculpture. Placed in a sheltered location it would not be exposed to the whims of the wind. It would be beautiful placed near an enclosed glass room at night. A light focused on it during its flowering cycle generates raves from guests.

Springtime is the best time to plant a magnolia, most nurserymen consider it a must. The soil should be slightly acid. If you wish immediate data on the tree, contact the Cleveland Garden Center (adjacent to the art museum).

When you plant your tomatoes (around May 23) you might like to take a lesson from the Indians. Dig a hole around 18 inches deep and place a three-inch layer of corn cobs. You can buy corn on the cob in supermarkets, so, enjoy the corn first. Then on top of it place two inches of fresh manure, cover with four inches of soil. Water well.

**THE NEXT DAY**, pinch out the top of your tall tomato seedling and plant in the hole, filling in with good earth. The Indians put a finishing nail near the plant to keep away cutworms. The manure and cobs worm the soil to produce rapid growth and an earlier crop is enjoyed. This idea can be used for other vegetables. Garden catalogs are becoming very

sophisticated regarding the busy road to being a specialist in the field of tomatoes. As an illustration in the Burpee catalog after the order number you can see the initials VF which means that particular seed is resistant to major wilt diseases; verticillium and fusarium.

If your chosen package has also an N, it means the particular seed is resistant to nematodes. The term determinate means the tomato plant will grow no more than three inches high. This particular variety will have fruit ripening at once which is OK for home canning.

**IF A TOMATO** is indeterminate this means the plant is tall and needs support. There will be a long season of fruiting and the plant will be a heavy producer of fruit. Early season means fruit 52 days after setting out the plants.

Late season fruit will be later producing fruit but they will be larger, like beefsteak tomatoes. It is estimated that 92 percent of home gardeners grow tomatoes, so if you have stood by while having this tomato lesson and you have cataloged the facts you are now ready to act like an authority among your garden peers.

The Dutch elms are still being cut. The question brought to the attention of our Oakland County horticulturist, Greg Patchan, is whether it is safe to use wood chips for mulch from an elm tree that died from the Dutch elm disease. The answer is that once a tree or branches have been chipped the fungus has been destroyed and can't be transmitted. You can use the chips freely and not worry about spreading the disease.

**Hebrew music to be featured**  
The 26th Annual Hebrew Music Festival of Temple Beth El will be held at 8:30 p.m. Friday.  
Featured on the program will be the Oakland University Singers, John D'varas, conductor; Southfield High School Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers, Southfield Lathrup Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers, David Jor-

lett and Jack Cole, conductors; Temple Beth El Choir and Chorale, Mrs. Jason H. Tickle, director; Kim Rosen-Doelker, flutist. Dr. Richard C. Hertz will serve as narrator.  
Jason H. Tickle, music director of the temple is music coordinator and organist.

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## PLANTS - READY NOW

### VEGETABLE PLANTS

Cabbage	Parsley	Chinese Cabbage	Yellow Squash	69¢
Red Cabbage	Onions	Cucumbers	Acorn Squash	TRAY
Head Lettuce	• Red	• New Polluck (bush type)	Zucchini Squash	\$6.95
Bib Lettuce	• Yellow	• Pickles	Spaghetti	FLAT
Leaf Lettuce	• White	Celery	Squash	OF 12
Broccoli	• Sweet Spanish	Sweet Corn	Butternut	TRAYS
Cauliflower	Molons	Peppers - All Kinds	Squash	
Brussel Sprouts	Watermelons	Parsley	Tomatoes	

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## NURSERY STOCK

### VINES

Large Wisteria Vines  
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### SHRUBS

Burning Bush  
Red Barberry  
Green Barberry  
Golden Vicary

### FRUIT TREES

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### FLOWERING SHRUBS

- Rhododendrons
- Exbury Azaleas
- Evergreen Azaleas
- Heather
- Spiraea - Pink, White
- Forsythia
- Purple Leaf Plum
- Hydrangeas - Pink, White
- Althea - Rose of Sharon
- Flowering Almond
- Potentilla
- Weigela
- Japanese Quince
- Pussy Willow
- Lilac - all colors/French
- Hydris Persian, Common
- Mock Orange

### EVERGREENS

- Yews - Pyramid
- Globe
- Spreading
- Hix
- Spreading - all kinds
- Arborvitae - globe
- pyramid
- Mugho Pine
- Nest Spruce
- Blue Star Juniper
- Alberta Spruce
- Blue Spruce
- Austrian Pine
- Leyland Cypress

### SHADE TREES

- Silver Maple
- Red Maple
- Crimson King
- Maple
- Norway Maple
- Sugar Maple
- Sycamore
- Pin Oak
- Sweet Gum
- Honey Locust
- Gold Honey Locust
- Clump Birch
- Weeping Birch
- Weeping Willow
- Corkscrew Willow
- Russian Olive

### ORNAMENTAL TREES

- Japanese Red Maple
- Flowering Crabs
- Kwanzan Cherry
- Paul's Scarlet Hawthorn
- Washington Hawthorn
- Golden Chain Tree
- Weeping Cherry
- Mountain Ash
- Tulip Tree
- Magnolia
- Dogwood
- Redbud

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