

Make tree from summer's geraniums

Just because we are entering a colder season doesn't mean you should also be dormant. If you live near a vacant lot, maybe the neighbors will welcome the suggestion of piling their vacant leaves there in order to create good compost in the spring to enrich your lawn and plant beds.

Of course you must first contact the owner to use a vacant lot for such purposes. Fertilizer sprinkled on the pile of dried leaves is important as well as shovels of soil. Both will provide bacteria for good decomposing action. Somebody would have to be the guardian of the site to see that large branches and rubbish won't spoil the goal of converting leaves to good soil for 1981 and that the privilege of the lot use is not cancelled.

Some of our local gardeners planted dwarf fruit trees in tubs for accents around their terraces. For assured results you could place the tub in an unheated garage. Water the planted tub sparingly about every two weeks. You don't want the tree to dry out.

Karpaches wed for 25 years

Mr. and Mrs. John Karpache of Farmington Hills recently celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. The couple celebrated with a party for friends and relatives, then a trip to the Caribbean.



down to earth
Alice Burlingame

GREG PATCHAN, our county horticultural agent, tells us that wood chips from an elm tree which has died from Dutch Elm Disease can safely be used. The chipping of the branches destroys the fungus.

Many of you have brought in your choicest geraniums because you "just couldn't let them die from the cold." You might like to look over your collection, and if you have a geranium which has an upright center stalk, you can prune it to become a future tree geranium for next year.

Carefully snip off the secondary branches, allowing only three or four leaves at the top. You might find yourself with a fine specimen to put on show next spring.

Remember, geraniums do not want too much water. Keep them on the dry side. You do not want to force growth until at least early April. You just keep your cache of brought-in geraniums alive this winter for future use. They like a sunny location.

When you take any plant material, especially for ornamental use, indoors

or outdoors, you describe it as being "standard" when you trim it to become a tree. Often you have to install a stake to give the plant support.

Fig trees are an example of this treatment, azaleas, ivy, etc.

So you see, cold weather gardening can be fun. After all, garden catalogs start coming after Christmas. Plant fanciers are always looking for unusual plant containers, those which can be made and those you see in the market place. Wicker construction seems to be the current fad.

Many of our readers are herb gourmets. Caroline Jamison shared this trick recently: In butter or oil, mix your finely chopped herbs and freeze in small containers for specific concoctions.

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'Safe Energy' lists 2 events

The Detroit Safe Energy Coalition will sponsor two events this weekend on the subject of nuclear power.

At 8 p.m. Friday, two movies will be shown in Wayne State University's DeRoy Auditorium, "Harrisburg" and "Lovejoy's Nuclear Joy." A \$1 donation

will be asked at the door.

At 8 p.m. Saturday, in the same location, Sidney Lens, author of "Day Before Doomsday," will speak on the connection between nuclear power and nuclear weapons proliferation. There is no charge for the lecture.

Mini yoga class set

Kathleen Lund, Farmington Community Center yoga instructor, will present a mini-session of yoga beginning Wednesday, Dec. 3.

Miss Lund will introduce the novice to yoga in five sessions, 7:30-9 p.m. in the center, 24705 Farmington Road. She has been teaching yoga since

1960 and is the first president of the Yoga Association of Greater Detroit.

The mini-series will acquaint students with the benefits of proper posture, breathing and mental attitude.

Class fee is \$18. Students are asked to bring a rug or mat to class. Registration is taken in the center.

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