

vacancy screens since they fill in quickly. Many also offer a bonus of profuse flowers in spring or summer. Since, however, they lose their leaves each fall, their privacy potential is less during cold months and they require some clean-up.

Evergreens may be broadleaf like azalea, holly, firethorn and such or narrowleaf junipers, yews, pines and so on. Broadleaf evergreens make showy specimens but generally are not hardy in colder regions. Check with your local nurseryman.

Plants that require winter protection or a sheltered location may not suit your needs. Narrow evergreens may be as low and trailing as a ground cover or grow taller than a two-story home. Consider your use and location carefully and consult your nurseryman before choosing plants. You can plant bushes even in late autumn. Just be sure they are well-watered and protected from drying winds and sun. Mulching the bases of new bushes also helps to protect delicate root systems and retain water.

Trees also offer a wide variety of size and shape, flowers and fruit, even the density of their shade and resistance to weather and disease. Some like redbud and flowering crab make handsome accents in front of your home. Others like dogwood or birch are ideal to plant in clumps and create your own personal grove. Or, you may prefer an old, shady favorite like maple. Whatever your preference, get the advice of your local nursery to ensure success.

But by all means, use trees in your landscaping plan. They are, in fact, the center around which your other shrubs and plantings must fit and therefore basic to any good garden plan. Like bushes, you can safely plant trees in autumn but they must be staked, mulched and deeply watered to assure a healthy start.

Use the same protection pointers for established shrubs and trees. Mulch the bases with leaves or straw. Stake deciduous trees with cord — never wire — to protect them from wind and wrap tender trunks to prevent bark damage from sun or insects. Water all shrubs and trees deeply and often until the ground freezes. This allows them to store up moisture for the months ahead. Where weather is extreme or plants are especially tender, sew up a canvas screen for added protection. You can do this easily by stapling fabric to stakes around your plant. Never wrap the shrub itself since that inhibits air circulation and can smother your plant.

AUTUMN IS ALSO the time to plan ahead for next spring's first blooms. Nothing is as exciting for even the occasional gardener as the first crocus or jonquil, followed triumphantly by hyacinths, tulips and lilies. Since these hardy bulbs must be planted in the fall, you must take time now to clear a planting area and plan for that first show of color. For best effect, plant bulbs in clusters of at least six to eight plants or more and stick to one variety and color in each cluster.

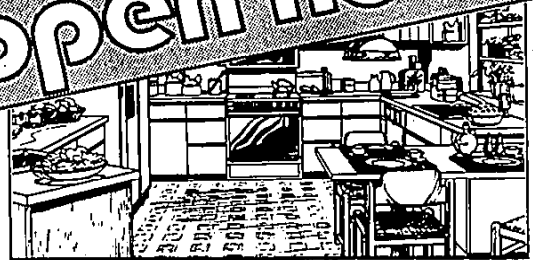
For the longest show of color, choose several varieties of crocus hyacinth, jonquil and tulip and enjoy successive burst of blooms next spring. Many bulbs will multiply on their own and you can look forward to more and more flowers each year. Hardy lilies bloom after most jonquils and tulips but should be planted earliest, in September. Plant the other hardy bulbs in late fall after Indian Summer but before the ground freezes. This avoids premature sprouting in the fall and saves all of the bulb's energy for its spring spectacular.

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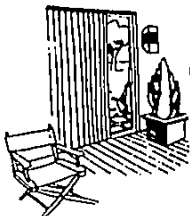
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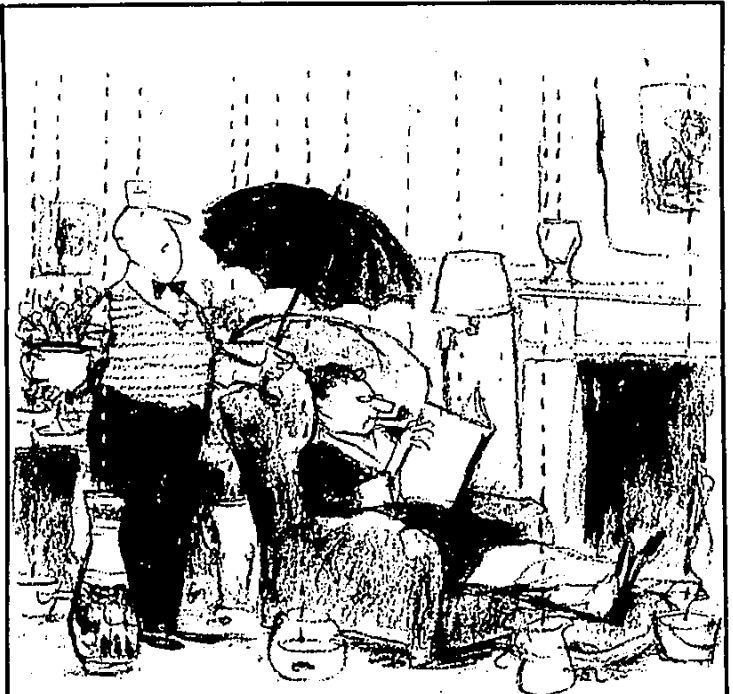


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