

Informality of this semi-enclosed breezeway is highlighted by slatted and beamed ceiling and bump-dyeing textured walls of reverse batten siding. The same siding was applied to the exterior surface of the house because of its attractiveness and resistance to wear and weather.

# 3 Senators Back Tax Freeze Bill

LANSING — Three of four Observer area state senators voted for a measure this week that gives state authority to freeze local municipal and school taxes at their current level.

All four are seeking reelection this fall.

Sen. Sander Levin (D-15th District) of Berkley took the unpopular opposition stance despite having the toughest campaign at stake, the governorship.

Sens. N. Lorraine Beebe (R-12th District) of Dearborn Heights, George W. Kulin (R-14th District) of West Bloomfield, and William Paus (D-13th District) of Westland, all seeking reelection in the Senate, voted the more politically popular "yes." It passed 24-8.

SEN. LEVIN told Observer Newspapers he voted against it because he feels it's a political gimmick. If it had been in effect this past year, it would have cost local government and schools more than \$10 million.

"We need property tax reform, all right, but the way is not through freezing local government and school revenues," said Levin.

The Senate approved the bill and passed it to the house but local political pressures may kill it there.

AS WRITTEN, the bill would provide that local taxes would have to be reduced in each of the next two years a proportionate amount to assessment increases caused by state equalized valuation.

It would, in effect, freeze tax payments for property unimproved during the period at the same dollar cost as for this current year.

The measure would have the effect of negating the intent of the 1964 constitutional clause calling for uniform assessment of all property at 50% of current market value.

State equalization is used to bring a local jurisdiction's

overall assessment level to 50% if the local assessor's valuations of each property do not average that level.

The constitution and the state equalization process are intended to force assessments to reflect changes in the general economy.

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# How To Grow Citrus Indoors In The North

You can grow your own oranges, lemons, tangerines and kumquats indoors.

But there's a trick to it. The secret is really pretty obvious if you study the natural growing conditions of the citrus family. The roots must be kept on the dry side and the air around the leaves moist.

While the roots must not dry out to the point where the plant wilts, they must never be in water-logged soil. They are extremely sensitive to wet locations, a problem exaggerated by pot culture.

Throughout the winter, water only when the soil surface becomes dry to the touch, then water until it runs out the drainage hole.

During the late spring and summer you can water much more frequently, for the plants grow faster and the pots dry out more quickly.

TO CREATE a micro-climate about the leaves themselves, spread small pebbles one to two inches deep on a deep serving tray, saucer, plastic tray or galvanized steel tray made by a local metal workshop.

Always keep water in the tray, adding to it daily so it will evaporate up past the plants, but never so high that the pot bottoms stand in water. Planting mixtures are not too important so long as they do two seemingly paradoxical things: drain well and yet hold moisture.

A soil high in humus that also contains some sharp sand will hold moisture between the tiny soil particles, yet let excess water run through and out the bottom.

One recommended mixture consists of two parts sharp sand, two parts loam, two parts leaf mold and one-half part dried cow manure.

But you can also use artificial growing soils. They are easy to make, store and use; they are cleaner to keep indoors and to handle. They are always the same.

Only healthy plants can use fertilizer and usually only during the peak growing season. Then water once a month with a teaspoon of soluble grade 20-20-20 fertilizer that also contains trace elements dissolved in one quart of water.

THE BEST CITRUS plants to grow indoors are rooted cuttings or grafted plants. You can buy bushy florist-grown plants already bearing fruit or newly rooted cuttings.

These will likely be either Citrus mitis, known as the Calamondin or Panama orange, or Citrus latifolia, also called the Otaheite or Tahiti orange. On the former, the fruit is bright orange, slightly flattened at the end and fifth to six inches in diameter. The pulp is very acid and excellent for making drinks.

The Otaheite, a shrub by nature, is suitable for pot culture. Its lemon-shaped fruit is very attractive but of insipid flavor. The white flowers are pink-edged.

Lemon plants are available, but not as common as oranges. They, too, will bear fruit indoors, some of it large enough so you can make a lemon pie from one lemon. The Ponderosa lemon is a lemon-citron hybrid. The Meyer lemon is a lemon orange hybrid.

Other single or multiple hybrids occasionally available include the limequat, tangello, orange and orangequat.

TO GROW from seed, simply clean the seeds from the pulp, place them in a plastic bag with moist vermiculite and observe often; seeds will germinate unevenly in from three weeks to three months, then they should be potted.

It is a patient gardener who gets flowers and fruit from seedlings. It may take up to 10 years, so this automatically disqualifies grapefruit (C. paradisi), which would be a fair-sized tree by then.

BEST BETS for plants grown from seed, Tangerine (C. nobilis var. delavaya) which is a tangerine when grown in

the U. S. and mandarin orange when grown in Japan), and a close citrus relative, the kumquat (Fortunella), which has a small, oval, orange-like, bittersweet fruit, edible skin and all.

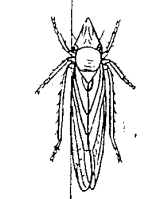
Other possibilities include the sour or Seville orange (C. aurantium) which has the most fragrant of the citrus flowers, and cuttings of the sweet orange (C. sinensis).

The hardy orange is also known as the trifoliate orange (Poncirus trifoliata). It is a compound-leaved, deciduous shrub with many thorns, fragrant white flowers in May before the leaves open, and fuzzy, small orange-like fruit which unfortunately is too dry and too acid to be edible.

In southern areas it is used as a shrub, and as a relatively hardy rootstock on which more desirable kinds of citrus are grafted.

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# Pest Of The Week



Leafhopper Plant Bug

Selections of Honey Locust (Moraine, Shademaster, Sunburst, etc.) have leafhoppers and plant bugs appearing again this year.

Trees are showing feeding and can be severely damaged by these insects. Severe cases resemble mistle damage, with mottled and speckled leaves. On many trees new growth is severely damaged and heavy leaf fall can be anticipated.

Shaking of branches on small trees will detect the presence of these sucking insects. Both are green colored, with some which have black wing covers.

CONTROL: Spray with two tablespoons per gallon of water of 50% Sevin W.P. Malathion can also be used. Thorough coverage of leaves and twigs is essential for good control. Don't spray when temperature will be likely to rise above 80 degrees for two hours after application.

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