

Wick helps thirsty house plants

The Congregationalists have done it again.

For several years the church, at Cranbrook and Woodward in Bloomfield Hills, has shared with members and friends a "Celebrate Life" event featuring the church flower gardens, fine art and unusual table settings by church members who sometimes use their choice family heirlooms. The most recent such event, held last month, was built around lilies.

Everybody was invited to enjoy a cool drink on the beautiful patio and stroll the grounds to admire the enclosed rose garden and walk to the day lily gardens to see the hundreds of varieties of this flower.

The display of lilies is a gift of Harris Olson who is a specialist in this exotic flower. Next year our local day lily growers will be host to the International Day Lily conference. In another area of the gardens Olson has cultivated his second plant interest, peonies.

The popular time to buy and grow day lilies is when they are in flower so that you can select the variety which will supplement your garden decor.

When I bring day lilies in the house, I add branches of mint for the green with modest, purple flowers on the tips of the branches. This trick provides a good green companion for the day lily arrangement.

PULLING THE branches of mint is a good way to control this plant which has a tendency to expand more than is desirable.

Here is a trick which you might enjoy trying in your herb garden in the house. Place a large sponge in a container of water so the total sponge is wet. Then sprinkle lentil seeds, which taste good in salads, in the wet sponge. It is even suggested that you put bird seed in the wet sponge.

This project would be interesting for



down to earth Alice Burlingame

the homebound, young or old. The green effect won't last too long so when it becomes shabby, just consider it an interesting experiment for a salad garnishment.

If you have house plants which will miss "your company" when you are on a quick trip, consider making a wick of 1 1/2 inches of old sheeting or a torn-up shirt and place one end of the wick in the flower pot by poking an end down into the soil and the other end into a container of water.

I like having the water at a higher elevation than the plants. This detail is easily arranged by blocks of wood or some handy containers from your kitchen. The purpose of this is to keep water on the plants in your absence.

Perhaps in your collection of furniture you have a bookcase which has housed books for some time. Did you ever consider how easy it would be to

convert one or more of the shelves into a fluorescent light case when you could display choice plants of limited height to brighten a room. It wouldn't be too difficult to convert a bookcase for this purpose.

It would be wise to plan on a shallow surface with fine gravel which would assure a moist setting for violets, etc.

HOW WOULD you like to make your own bath salts? Buy some inexpensive epsom salts at the drug store. Take

three or four fruit jars and add a few drops of food coloring into each jar. Add some cologne or toilet water to the water.

Fill the jars half full of epsom salts. The empty space allows for a good shaking. Shake the jars hard to distribute the color and toilet water among the crystals. Cap the jars tightly and let set for about 10 days. Every few days give them another good shake. The epsom salts will absorb the food coloring and perfume aroma.

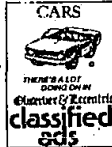
Two or three colors may be mixed AFTER the salts are scented and beautiful. Please use delicate colors that is what makes them so pretty. If your food coloring is too strong, add a little water to it before putting in the salts. This allows more even distribution of the color.

The bath salts may then be put into pretty little bottles for gifts.



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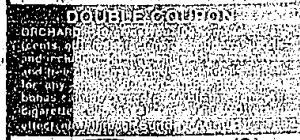
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