



## The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

**YOUR POINSETTIA PLANT:** Many home owners like to grow their poinsettias over for another year. If yours is outdoors, make sure it gets in before frost hits. Don't be surprised if the leaves turn yellow or start to drop when you

bring it indoors.

One reason for leaf drop is that the roots were disturbed when the pot was pulled up. Also, high temperatures indoors will cause yellowing, but after the plant becomes established it will develop green

leaves.

It's almost impossible to get your poinsettia to flower for Christmas unless you give it the same special treatment that florists do to get them to color up. This means covering the plant with a black plastic sheet or placing it in a dark hall at night, where absolutely no light will reach the plant. It's an odd fact that even in greenhouses, many plants which receive a small amount of light from a distant street light will flower too late for Christmas.

Indoors, try to maintain a temperature of around 65 degrees, if possible.

**FREE:** Want to know how to shorten a tall poinsettia? Or make it flower exactly for Christmas? Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a copy of my bulletin, How To Grow Poinsettias, Gardening and Christmas.

My guide is full of good tips on raising these prized yet stubborn house plants.

**SLUG THE SNAILS:** This is good snail weather. They like cool, damp nights and are responsible for eating holes in tomatoes, pumpkins, melons and other crops. While metaldehyde baits are satisfactory for them, sometimes it's impossible to eradicate them even with baits.

One of my readers tells us she uses common table salt to banish this pest. At night (snails and slugs are night workers) she takes a flashlight and goes out with a salt shaker. Whenever she sees a slug or snail, she sprinkles a little salt on them and it kills the pest instantly. She says this is the cheapest and easiest way to kill the snails.

**GREEN THUMB CLINIC:** A reader writes: "My Arborvitae evergreen has brown needles which are starting to fall off. Does it mean the tree is dying?"

No, it's natural for evergreens to have some of their needles turn brown or yellow now, these will shed, while the green ones remain on the tree. Keep your evergreens well watered in the fall and they will come through the winter in better shape.

**Keep Yard In Shape With Structures**  
Autumn chores should include an hour or two work on yard structures to keep them at their best.

Fence rails and post tops should be swept off to remove moisture... retaining dirt and leaves and, if debris has collected on sunshade roofs, they, too, should be swept before winter rains set in.

Clogged spacings between the planks of a wood deck also need cleaning to allow free drainage of rain water. To do it, just run a putty knife or a thin piece of stiff cardboard down the spacings.

If there's a pre-schooler in the household, assign him to the deck clean-up. Youngsters don't mind hands-and-knees jobs, especially when the chore ends with a large slice of chocolate cake and special praise from Daddy.



**JOSEPH C. BURDA**, manager of the Manufacturers Bank's Unichuck Loan Division, has been elected secretary of his class at the School of Consumer Banking, University of Virginia. He was one of 273 bank officers and department heads, representing 35 states, District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, who attended the first of three sessions at the school. Burda has been with Manufacturers Bank since 1961 in the Unichuck Loan Division, Banking Department. He resides at 4801 Joy, in Plymouth, with his wife Janet Lee and three children.

### Realtors Pick Booth To Head State Assoc.

William E. Booth, prominent realtor, banker and attorney in the Western-Wayne County, Detroit area, was elected president of the Michigan Real Estate Association at its 54th annual business meeting in Flint.

Booth has been in the real estate business for over 22 years in the Metropolitan area of Detroit.

Joining William S. Morgan, realtor, in 1946, he opened his own real estate and construction business in 1948.

A past president of the Western-Wayne Oakland Board of Realtors in 1961, he also served as president of the United Northwestern Realty Association, one of the largest and oldest multiple listing services in the United States.

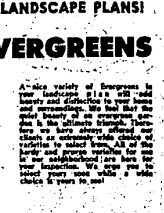


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**Now Is the Time To Plant a Full Grown Tree**  
Folia, I have specialized in Shade Trees and have supplied thousands for street plantings, industrial schools, churches and residential. I feel that the right selection of a shade tree is perhaps the most important decision that a home owner is faced with in landscape planning.

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A wide variety of Evergreens in your landscape plan will add beauty and distinction to your property. The beauty of an evergreen landscape is that it is always there. We have always offered our plans free to help you decide what to plant. All of the trees and shrubs available are in the neighborhood are here for your inspection. We are here to help you choose your shade trees, a wide variety of evergreens.



**Harold Thomas**  
GA 1-2888

## Check All Heating Units

Now, during the Indian summer days you have probably completely forgotten that important household equipment which kept your home warm last winter. Even if you're comfortably cool right now, the farthest thing from your mind, and no doubt the most difficult, is your heating equipment.

But, before long, that same equipment is going to be a rather important and necessary element in your indoor life. The chill winds will begin to blow and the proper operation of your heating and air conditioning system will have a pronounced effect on your indoor comfort this winter.

Donald A. Keeth of Keeth Heating & Air Conditioning in Plymouth suggests that now is the time to make some preliminary inspections and perform some of the simpler services that a home handyman can easily do.

ONE OF THE first things to check is the furnace filters. If a heavy accumulation of dirt exists, probably they should be replaced. Possibly a light surface accumulation can be removed with the small brush fitting of the household vacuum cleaner and the same filters re-used. Usually, though, they should be replaced.

Other parts of your heating system should also be checked, such as the furnace controls and the thermostat. All moving parts should be lubricated and a check of the electrical circuits is in order. By all means, the humidifier should have a thorough check to assure proper operation during the winter heating season.

If you have recently purchased an electronic air cleaner, it would also be a good idea to have this important piece of equipment checked and possibly serviced.

A TRAINED serviceman from your local heating dealer can do any of these tasks and the cost is much lower than that of a later breakdown when you need your indoor comfort most.

## Lid Protects Window

Window wells provide necessary light and ventilation for a below-grade basement. But they collect debris and can be dangerous near a walk, driveway or patio.

Both problems can be solved attractively with a covering grille built of cedar or fir 2x2-inch pieces of lumber. Construction is simple as pie because the grille is merely a lid that fits over the raised lip of the window well.

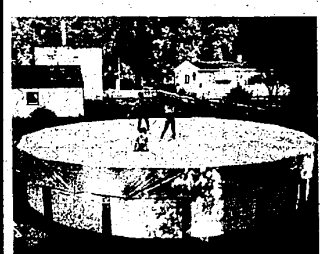
For each cover, cut two pieces of 2x2 to match the width of the well, measuring from house wall to the outer edge of the lip. Then cut six pieces of 2x2 for the length of the win-

dow well, measuring between its outside edges and adding four inches.

Now nail the ends of the long pieces over the shorter 2x2s. The grille will fit like a cover over the window well, with the long 2x2s lying directly on top of the concrete lip, and the end pieces embracing the lip on either side. With this "hugger" design, the grille can't be knocked off.

Staple window screening to the underside of the grille. That will catch leaves and other debris. When an amount accumulates, just lift off the grille and dump it. No more clogged window well drains.

## KEEP YOUR POOL CLEAN



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