

Mulch bulbs over first winter

It's still not too late to plant bulbs for spring flowering beauty. Consider daffodils. They will give your garden a bonus if planted in many ways. They are "a good-natured bulb."

In all situations daffodils thrive in sun or partial shade, in rough grass or in a formal setting. They are most effective when planted in clusters. One should try to place no less than five bulbs in a group, all of one variety.

Since varieties flower at different times, with the blooming season of the family extending for six to eight weeks in any one area, many colorful combinations with other garden flowers can be planned.

Our Michigan fans will be delighted to try using golden-colored daf-

fordils with grape hyacinths clustered in the foreground. Plant some daffodils close to your perennial plants to provide an early accent in the garden.

ENGLISH BLUEBELLS (Sellas) in clear wedged blue are fine companions for daffodils in the garden or naturalized under trees. When you are planting the small category of bulbs you will need at least one or two dozen bulbs to create a visual effect.

If you have a wooded area on your property you will use daffodils in an informal manner, with perhaps three close to each other or an informal ribbon of color created by their placement. If later the site is cut

down, the foliage of daffodils will already have had time to give nourishment to the planted bulb.

If you have a composition of ornamental rocks on your property be sure to consider planting groups of daffodils and the combination of rocks and daffodils will make an interesting natural tableau.

Be sure to be aware of dense roots from trees under the surface of the soil or lawn which will compete with the bulbs for nourishment. Even where conditions are not the best, poor soil can be replaced with a few basketsfuls of good loam to accommodate clumps of bulbs.

Where a cluster of a dozen bulbs is to be planted in a flower border, first dig out the top six inches of soil.

Turn the bottom soil deeply several times, then smooth the surface. Now put the bulbs in position, with the pointed tip up, allowing 4-6 inches between bulbs. Cover the bulbs with the loose soil and press down with the fingers.

It is wise to mulch the bulbs at least for the first winter. Apply the mulch late in fall after the leaves have fallen from deciduous trees. Use dry leaves, or even bought from discarded Christmas trees. Be sure to remove mulches in early spring when bulb shoots appear above ground.

In late winter, in the naturalized areas, scatter fertilizer on the ground and rains will wash it down to the roots. Here is a quick tip.



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

Moles don't touch any of the narcissus (daffodil) family. It seems that these particular bulbs are ob-

noxious to these varmints. So you can plant them without worrying about that.

Focusing on ancient worlds

Cranbrook P.M. will present Dr. Stephen Bertman, University of Windsor classics professor, in a three-part lecture series, "Kingdoms in the Sun," beginning at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 16 in Cranbrook House library. Designed to coincide with the Detroit Institute of Arts' new Poplack

Gallery exhibition on pre-Columbian art, the series will include An Exploration of the Mayas: Pyramid in the Jungle; the Aztecs: The Empire of Montezuma; and the Incas: Golden Cities in the Clouds.

For information and registration, call 645-3635.



Cliff and Nancy Johnson of Franklin Village have joined the staff of Chamberlain Realtors in our West Bloomfield office.

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Cliff and Nancy can be reached at the new Chamberlain West Bloomfield office.

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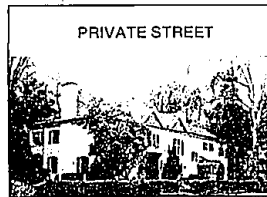
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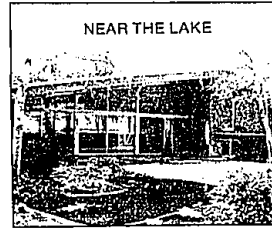
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BLOOMFIELD HILLS SCHOOLS - Elegant French multi-level built in 1968. Over 1/4 acre. 6 bedrooms, 31' x 25' family room, marble foyer, slate and hardwood floors, rosewood and walnut paneling. Living room with circular wet bar. \$399,000. CALL STEVE MITCHELL. 647-0500 or 557-8171.



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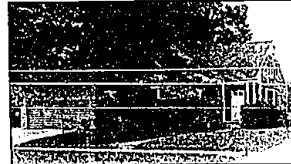
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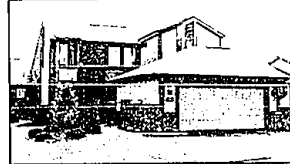
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