

# Use seed for indoor gardening

If you are having trouble waiting for spring, here are some ideas in indoor gardening to keep your "go-go" under control.

Indoor gardening using seeds can be fun. There is a Pixie hybrid tomato, small Nugget marigolds and Carefree Coleus which will grow indoors from seeds in a sunny window. You may wish to secure the Jiffy peat pellets for starting your plants. If I use seed, I always put about three in a pellet for good measure.

Marigold seeds will do very nicely. Carefree Coleus seeds are very tiny, sprinkle them over the surface

and barely cover them.

I have found in order to have success with indoor planting of seeds you have to be aware of the importance of moisture in the soil. Be careful to not be too generous with the water or you will end up with a seed swimming pool.

These suggestions are OK if you plan to be home to oversee your production.

**THE SOONER** you start seeds, the faster the plants will begin to flower, especially as the hours of sunlight



down to earth  
**Alice Burlingame**

lengthen toward spring. What a cheery splash of color the marigolds make, along with multishaded coleus.

Pixie tomatoes, now a stocky foot or so tall, attract attention, too, with their blossom clusters. Tap these with a pencil or your finger to help them pollinate. Soon little green fruits appear, they swell in a few weeks to bright red juicy tomatoes the size of ping-pong balls.

The developing load of fruits is heavy, so Pixie plants need support. Insert a sturdy stake alongside each stem and tie up the branches with soft twine. You may prefer three stakes evenly spaced around the pot edge.

Our county agent, Greg Patchen, warns that saving your own seeds is more risky than profitable. Even as-

suming you gather and store the seeds correctly, there is a very good reason why saving your own seeds is risky. Most of our better vegetable varieties are hybrids and if you have seed, the subsequent generations can revert back to their parents. These parent selections may be very undesirable.

Another tip from Patchen concerns African violets. If they look good, but will not bloom in the winter probably, low light and/or low humidity are preventing flowering.

Try a location with brighter light and also increase the humidity around the plants. This can be done by placing the pots on a tray full of pebbles and water. The water should not touch the pots. Temperatures below 60 degrees F. will also cause problems.

## Showing flower posters

The Detroit Institute of Arts 1987 Art and Flowers traveling poster exhibition will be at Jacobson's Home Furnishings store of Birmingham for a week starting Tuesday.

Poster contest winner Noreen Jordan of Spring Lake will be in the store 2-5 p.m. Saturday to sign posters of her winning entry, "Trillium Grandiflora."

Included in the exhibition will be works of artists from the metropolitan area and outside who were finalists in the competition.

The poster exhibition is in anticipation of the "1987 Art and Flowers: A Festival of Spring," April 29 to May 2 at Detroit Institute of Arts.



## Celebration of song

Opus 3 will star in a candlelight cabaret concert at 7:30 p.m. Sunday at Birmingham Temple, 28811 W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. The three local artists, Barbara Woolf, piano, Anna Speck, soprano, and Frank Hull, baritone, have a repertoire that ranges from art songs to Broadway, folk and selections from well known and loved operettas. The program, "Celebration of Song: a spring concert," is part of the Vivace series. They do solo as well as ensemble works. Tickets are \$7 for members, \$8 for non-members and \$6 for seniors and students. For tickets and information, call Joan Rose, 543-5912, or Nina Schneyer, 354-1080.

## Pianists featured Saturday

The third concert in Marygrove College's "Saturdays at Four" series will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday in Donk Chapman Hall of the Madame Cadillac Building, 8425 West McNichols at Wyoming, Detroit.

The recital will feature pianists Alice Ellison, Doris Eubank, Muriel Hopman, Fontaine Laing, Lawrence LaGore and Sue Ann Vanderbeck performing works of Brahms, Arensky and Poulenc.

Tickets are \$6 and \$3 for students and seniors. Reception follows the concert. For information, call the Msar-ygrove College Music Department, 862-8000, Arts.

**Merrill Lynch Realty**

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**IDEAL HOME** for the active family. This spacious four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath Colonial is just minutes from Birmingham. Lots of potential with formal dining room, family room, breakfast nook, patio, porch, fireplace and 2 car garage. \$94,500 851-8100

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