

# Bulbs will brighten winter days

Forcing, or if you prefer, persuading, bulbs is an interesting project for this time of year, providing you saved a few from the fall purchase and kept them in a cool place. The blooms will perhaps "hurry" spring a bit indoors.

Most bulbs that are hardy outdoors are suitable for forcing. They can be forced either in a good potting medium, vermiculite, or in water and pebbles. Marbles can also be used in the water to hold the bulbs. Equal parts peat moss, loamy soil and sand is a good medium mixture. Clay pots, plastic, metal or ceramic containers can be used as long as they are three to five inches deep

and have holes in the bottom for drainage. Special strawberry pots are attractive for forcing crocus, and there is even a special egg-cup shaped glass for forcing hyacinths.

When using a potting medium, put it in the container at a level so that about one-third of the top of each bulb will be above the top of the pot. Set the bulbs about one to two inches apart, filling in around the bulbs with the medium and gently firming it around them. Four or five large bulbs in a six-inch pot make a fine display. The strawberry pot should have a bulb planted in each side pocket and several placed in the top. After the bulbs are potted, water

thoroughly from the bottom by standing the container in a pan of water. After the soil has settled, it should be covering the lower one-third of each bulb. The soil should be kept moist at all times, but not soggy.

Now the container should be placed in a cold dark area (not freezing) for about two weeks so the roots can develop. I have placed crocus in a plastic bag in the refrigerator with good results.

THIS STEP can be omitted for paper-white narcissus, although they do like a cool 50-60 degree F° in the beginning. In fact, all bulbs do best in these temperatures.

When the roots are well established — test the development by gently trying to turn the bulb — and growth is showing an inch or two at the tip, move the container to a location with strong daylight, but little or no direct sun.

The water culture procedure is an alternative method of forcing narcissus. A low, wide container three to five inches deep is ideal. For obvious reasons there should be no holes in the bottom. Clay, glass or ceramic bowls work equally well. Small clean pebbles, gravel or marbles can be used to hold the bulbs.

Fill the container about half to three-fourths full of pebbles. Place the bulbs gently on this layer so that they are almost touching. Heap more pebbles around the bulbs to help anchor them. The lower half should be under the pebbles. Three bulbs in a four-inch container, or five in a six-inch one makes an attractive showing.

The next step is to gently pour water in at the side of the container, being especially careful to keep the water level at the base of the bulbs. Water should be watched so that the level is always maintained.



## down to earth Marty Fligley

When growing a hyacinth, the water should just touch the base of the bulb and be kept at that level. A piece of charcoal in the water helps keep the water sweet.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the container be kept in a cool, dark place for two weeks prior to placing it in a warm sunny location, but this step isn't positively essential. The roots are delicate and should not be disturbed — their growth can be tested as described earlier.

Generally, the cooler the room, the longer it will take for the flowers to bloom and the longer the bulbs will remain in flower. If the room is warm, it's good practice to place them in a cooler room at night.

Turn the pots every day so that all sides of the plant receive equal sunlight. Remove the flower stalks after the flowers fade. The grass-like foliage can be enjoyed for several weeks.

I have found that daffodils and paper-whites dry very well and make a nice addition to the inventory of dried flowers for decorating purposes.

The plant should be discarded when the leaves begin turning yellow, as the bulbs can't be used again for this purpose. If you choose to save the bulbs, allow them to ripen naturally and plant outdoors, although it may be several years before they bloom.

# Violinist to play Scottish program

Pontiac Tuesday Musicals will meet at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 12 at Central United Methodist Church, Highland Road, Pontiac.

The program, "The Many Moods of Scotland Through Songs, Stories and Fiddle Music," features Scotland born violinist Arlene Leitch, who has played in symphony orchestras, country and folk groups in Scotland the Far East, Australia and the United States.

One of her interests is Shetland fiddle music which she will demonstrate.

Leitch resides in Ann Arbor where she is pursuing a graduate degree in music at University of Michigan.

## GRAND OPENING

### Phase II

#### Farmington Glen

Visit our 1988 Models

## Chestnut Ridge

The Most Attractive Alternative to Conventional Home Ownership in the Metro Detroit Area

PRE-CONSTRUCTION PRICES

First there was Pine Knolls, you loved it! Now there is Chestnut Ridge. If you missed out on Pine Knolls don't miss out on Chestnut Ridge at pre-construction prices.

Chestnut Ridge, located on Halstead 1/2 mile North of 12 Mile is designed to provide the

11:30-5 weekdays, 12-5 Sunday, closed Thursday

14 Mile Rd.	Halstead
Farmington Glen	
13 Mile Rd.	Halstead

For more information visit our Pine Knolls model. Enter off Middlebelt on Venture Court just North of 12 Mile Rd.

Built and developed by:

MODEL PHONE 737-0444 **mv building company** Custom Builders

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- Appliances including built-in cook top, w/d, heating oven, microwave and dishwasher
- First floor laundry with bunk tops
- Wood burning fireplace
- Ceramic tile in baths and half bath
- Painted or stained interior trim
- Central air conditioning
- Carpeting allowance
- Light fixture allowance
- Cedar siding and brick exterior
- Much More

Priced from... **\$159,800**

## Buy Now!

...at affordable prices

Farmington Glen is a new home community of quality built homes situated in the city of Farmington Hills, in an area of rolling terrain and natural beauty. Each home is given special attention to detail and luxury with custom features such as master suites on first floor, island kitchens and much more.

- Contemporaries, Ranches, Colonials
- Park and Pond Commons Area
- Various Floor Plans
- Your Lot or Ours

Open Daily 1-6 P.M.  
Located off 13 Mile West of Halstead

Presented by:

Singh-Shapiro Constr. • Benivenga Bldg. Co. and Roux & Assoc. • Coventry Bldg. Co.

661-9210 661-5801 661-9799

## Here's the key ...

### Creative Living

## to finding your new home...

THE  
**Observer & Eccentric**  
NEWSPAPERS

**WEST BLOOMFIELD - LUXURY LOWER RANCH CONDO IN HILLTOP SITE** - Three bedrooms, two baths, plus lower level tiled office and two car garage. All rooms - with - a - view. Owner retired. \$119,900. 553-8700

**FARMINGTON HILLS - PLENTY OF ROOM AND LOTS OF CHARM** in this gracious four bedroom colonial. Library, family room, large formal dining room, beautiful yard. Super family area with walking paths and tennis courts. \$179,900. 553-8700

**CANTON - BEDFORD VILLA CONDO** - Quick access to I-275, well maintained complex, two bedroom carriage house, first floor laundry, private entry, attached garage, Club House with pool. \$59,950. 553-8700

**FARMINGTON HILLS - JUST LIKE NEW!** Completely redecorated in neutral tones. Master bedroom with bath and walk-in closet. Great room with fireplace. Large kitchen, plus formal dining room. Central air. Full basement. \$149,900 553-8700

**NICE FOUR BEDROOM COLONIAL** with huge beautiful kitchen, natural fireplace and doorwall to deck in family room. Located in a newer centrally located Farmington Hills Subdivision. \$199,000. 553-8700

**GORGEOUS VIEW FROM TOP OF HILL**, over an acre of privacy. Beautiful in-ground pool with cabana. Contemporary ranch with Great Room, Florida Room, oversized garage. Franklin Village with Birmingham Schools. \$154,900. 642-0703

**THOMPSON-BROWN**

FARMINGTON HILLS 553-8700 BIRMINGHAM/BLOOMFIELD 642-0703 LIVONIA 261-5080