

## Talking on perennials

Gary Doerr of Peppergrove Nursery will give free workshops at two Ealon Nursery locations. He will speak at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday at 5899 West Maple, West Bloomfield, and at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sunday at 1655 West Auburn Road, Rochester Hills.

His presentations on perennial gardening will cover design practices, planting schemes, preparation, installation and maintenance.

While perennials are harder than annuals, for greatest success, it is important to know where they will be planted, whether conditions are generally dry or wet, sun or shade. Some ornamental grasses actually flourish during the winter months.

Doerr has bachelor's and master's degrees in ornamental horticulture. He is a writer as well as a speaker in his field.

## Shrubs planted in fall do well

Potential fruitcosa — even the name has a nice ring to it. This flowering shrub isn't used nearly often enough in the landscape. A prolific bloomer, it isn't fussy about soil conditions and needs pruning only occasionally, if at all. Its ultimate height is three feet. If planted about two feet apart, the bushes make a pretty hedge with little work.

The flowers on this variety are golden-yellow, somewhat like yellow strawberry blossoms. They begin to appear in June and last about four

months. A bonus with the blossoms is that they can be pressed and used on stationary, bookmarks etc. There are many varieties of this shrub, some with white or pink blossoms.

Pteris Japonica is an evergreen shrub that is used in foundation plantings with excellent results, providing an acid soil is available. In spring the drooping white flower panicles are quite eye-catching. In ideal conditions this shrub can grow to six feet.

Mockorange (Philadelphus virginial) produces double, very fragrant blooms early in June. It can grow to eight feet and become tall and leggy. To keep in a pleasing shape it is best to prune it very soon after the blooming period. This is true of most flowering shrubs. There are many varieties of mockorange.

Another group of shrubs are the dogwood (Cornus). The red-twigged (C. alba) and the variety (C. sibirica), not quite as vigorous, are both lovely in the landscape, especially in the winter when their colored branches take center stage.

There are many varieties of dogwood, some with yellow, some purple and other shades of branches. Flowers and fruits are different colors also. Those with variegated leaves benefit by a bit of shade.

You may ask why are we interested in shrubs at this time of year. Fall is an ideal time to plant shrubs, trees and perennials because the soil is warm and easily worked, moisture is available in the soil, but it isn't as soggy as it may be in the spring. All of the shrubs mentioned can be successfully planted in early fall.

When choosing shrubs, be aware of their ultimate size, growth habit and seasonal color. Also,



down to earth

**Marty Figley**

the growing requirements such as soil pH, sun or shade should be considered. Look for the botanical name on the tag to be sure you have the particular variety you need.

It may be necessary to visit several nurseries to find the one you have selected. There are good books at the library. A competent nurseryman can be a big help.

When planting, follow instructions on the tag attached to the plant.

## Correction

The telephone number listed for the Oakland County Cultural Council in last week's story about the reganting program was wrong. The correct number is 658-0415. The one listed last week is for Probate Court.

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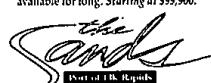
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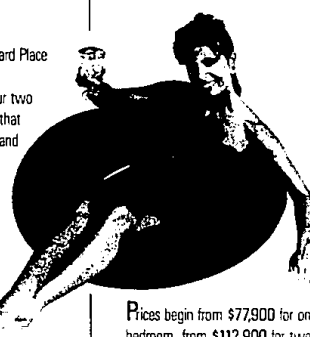
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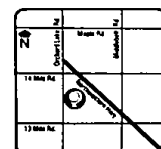


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