

Plant now to enjoy next spring Art classes scheduled

Many perennial plants can be put into the ground now, and, as a consequence, get a good start for the spring growing season. If trees and shrubs which have interesting formations and stem and leaf color are chosen — birches, maples, sweet and sour gums, viburnums, golden coral, red-stemmed dogwood — they will add interest to the landscape during the first year of growth.

Those with berries, such as hawthornes, hollies, and cotoneasters will not only add color, but many will provide a treat for the birds. There are trees with interesting bark colorations, also. Included are lace pine and Chinese dogwood.

I have mentioned some of the plants that provide fall color, the list of spring-flowering ones is very long. Talk to your nurseryman for ideas or pick up a book for reference. The decision making is part of the fun when choices are made and the whole family can become involved and learn.

The American Association of Nurserymen has advice for autumn

planting. Stick to balled and burlapped or container-grown plants, mulch the new plantings, especially ground covers (some of these change color with the seasons, too) and watch moisture levels, but avoid overwatering.

Fall is a good time to plant flowering perennials — some to enjoy now and others for the following season. One particular perennial that fits this category is the chrysanthemum. Choose those that have large ready-to-open buds rather than in full bloom, so that the bloom can be enjoyed for a longer period of time. Also, the plant will have time to grow new roots and become established before winter sets in.

Mums come in many forms, so check the label for flower color, shape and for the variety name. A new pink decorative mum has just been introduced by Yoder Brothers. Look for the Proprietary Label. The name is Debonair.

Since this column has been about fall color, some other late-bloomers that can be planted now include the



down to earth

Marty Figley

lovely fall-blooming anemones (the hardest is A. vitifolia), asters, monkshood (Aconitum napellus), globe thistle (Echinops rilo and spaecephalus); and the sedum "Autumn Joy" (Sedum spectabile), with its changing colors. Others to put in now are the daylilies (Hemerocallis) such as "Stella De Oro," (mine is blooming now), "Autumn Minaret" and "Frans Hals."

There are several varieties of

most of the above, and many more plants could be added to the list. A good book dealing with perennials will help with the selections.

Our local Woman's National Farm and Garden Association chapters have been busy with projects to enhance public gardens, such as schools. The Pontiac Branch has won a national award for their 1988-1989 year book. Congratulations.

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts, Rochester, offers a two-session Jewelry Making Workshop, 2-5:30 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 7-21. Participants will create original earrings, pins, buckles, bangles or beads through a variety of techniques. Teens are welcome in this adult workshop. Registration deadline is Saturday, Sept. 30.

A two-session workshop, Fragments & Structure: Design through Collage, will be held — 9 p.m. Mondays, Oct. 23-30.

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