Creative Living



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weeder's guide

Earl Aronson

Measuring for melon sweetness

Melon sweetness

OMEDAY, a purse-size sweetness
meter you carry to the market may
help you pick a ripe melon or other
fruit or vegetable.

Noting that melons which look and smell
ripe at the supermarket often have been
picked too soon to be sweet, U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers have developed a device that uses light rays to
measure just how sweet honeydews, watermelons and cantaloupes are.

The gadget, which is currently the size of
a breadbox, monitors melon sweetness by
measuring the amount of near-infrared
light the fruit absorbs. The more light absorbed, the sweeter the fruit. Unripe melons
with only 6 percent sugar can sweetnes to
the ideal 11 percent in just a few days on
the vine.

Agricultural Research Service says
that the meter not only helps farmers plinpoint when a melon is ripe for picking, it
should also make it easier for wholesalers
and retaillers to identify vine-ripened fruits.

The meter also works for onions and papayas; peaches and nectarines will be tested
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SUNFLOWER SEEDS: On a pound-forpound, dry weight basis, sunflower seeds have twice as much iron as raisins, as much each man whole milk, and all the protein of beef but with no cholesterol, according to the AIIS.

Researchers suggest three tasty new ways to eat them: sour cream-and-onlonflavored, honey-roasted, and roasted and added in a blend with raisins. These treats are part of a sampler of three North Dakota crops packaged to celebrate the state's centenials.

The National Sunflower Association and Sigco Sun Products, of Wahpeton, N.D., packaged the sampler with seven different sunflower, soybean and wheat snacks. Detecting Mushy Apples

An apple that fooks crisp might prove to be mushy when you bite into it. So, fruit experts have developed a technique called spectrophotometry, which detects invisible bruises on apples.

The method, say ARS researchers, breaks

experts have oversopes a technique cutter spectrophotometry, which detects invisible bruises on apples. All researchers, breaks down a light beam into its individual colors, or wave lengths. In tests by ARS and Gornell University, apples were bruised and a beam of light directed to different parts of the fruit. Damaged areas reflected less light, indicating the bruised areas absorbed it, while undamaged areas reflected more light, characteristic of a healthy apple.

Packing bouses would use this technique along with equipment they now use for colors sorting.

or sorting.

NEW VIBURNUM: ARS has developed a new dwarf viburnum, named Exkmo, expected to be available to home gardeners near year. Reportedly, it blooms profusely and is resistant to had a the ARS National school of the ARS National S

wers in early May.

LISTENING TO INSECTS: A high-tech microphone in an acoustic system can tell grain operators when insects are most active among stored grain. The microphone can detect feeding sounds — amplified up to 75,000 times of the lesser grain borer, rice weevil and Angoumois grain moth, ARS reports.

This information can cut cost to farmers and grain operators by telling them a with on need for grain samples — when insecticidal fumigants should be used to do the most good.

most good.

NEW, RICH CARROT: Beta III, a carrot reportedly three times richer in beta carrotene than other carrots.— and with good flavor and growth habit has been developed by ARS scientists at Madison, Wis. ARS says it provides hope for improved autition, healthler eyes and disease-resistance receivable.

Earl Aronson is the Associated Press

Warhol Collection at 2 area galleries

Two area art gallieries have been designated local distributors of the official Nouvelles images and Andy Warbol Collection of posters and cards, published by Nouvelles image and Andy Warbol Collection will be available at Orafichai Art Gallery, 218 Merrill, Binningham and Nelson's Custom Framing, 18376 Middlebeit Road, Livonia.

The collection, the largest ever introduced to the U.S. market, is the first collection authorized by the Andy Warbol Fourfallon for the Visual Arts, it includes many of Warbol's most famous paintings, such as the series of Martlyn Monroe, Campbell's Soup, and self-portraits.

Upbringing has effect on neatness factor

Q: Your last column stated there is no genetic difference between the organizational abilities of men and women. How about cultural upbring-ing? Does it have an effect?

A: Yes, there are definitely envi-ronmental and cultural differences. Whether or not a person is naturally adept at neatness and order, the be-ilefs impressed upon people during their formative years do affect life-long habits.

A few years ago a set of two tests was distributed in several European countries. One was a questionnaire, the other a test designed to reveal innate ability. Observing the neatness of the countrysides in the various cultures might convince you that the people who live there are genetically different. The questionnaires seemed to confirm these differences, but some of the innate ability tests seemed contradictory.

The researchers went back and in-terviewed a number of respondents in each country. Explanations re-vealed that questionnaire answers were often motivated by cultural bilas, rather than personal feelings. For instance, on one question, "I have trouble keeping my personal papers up-to-date," some respon-ents admitted that their answers were guided by reluctance to admit to socially unacceptable behavior. In short, the innate abilities seemed equal in all the countries, but the cultural standards caused differences.

I have just returned from a trip to Germany, where neatness and order permeates every aspect of life, and



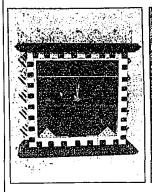
organizing

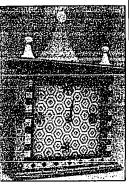
Dorothy Lehmkuhl

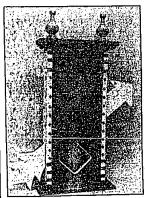
was reminded of my own German cultural upbringing here in the United States. While not perfectionists, both my parents were very neat. My dad, especially, used to be mortified if he was caught with any kind of mess. Any accumulations or unused equipment had to be carefully hidden from view; to be messy was simply beneath their dignity, (in retrospect I marvel at how calm they remained while guiding the four of us children through our teenage years.)

As I have said before (and to quote whoever said it Iirst). It takes pressure to produce There are few people who truly cannot be well organized if they try hard enough or if the need is great enough. It may be much more difficult for those who are not innately neat, however, and actually produce stress which would not develop in a naturally organized person.

You can still enroll in the new "Organizing Your Business Life" seminar series tought by Dorothy Lehmkuh beginning this Thursday evening, Oct. 5, at Troy Adult Education (879-7582). Her day-time "Organizing for Success" reise begins Tuesday at the Birmingham Community House (644-8322) and Wednesday at Schoolcraft College (462-4483).







Timely fashions

Ann Arbor artist Susan Wright has expanded her artistic talents. Noted for painted furniture and weaving, the artist has come up with these colorful, whimsical clocks that can easily double as functional and decorative art. With brightly painted faces, the wood clocks are hand-built and battery operated. The clock at the upper left is black and white with a red accent across the top and measures 10-by-10 inches. At the upper right, aque accents highlight a terra cotta frame outlined in black, measures 15 inches high by 9½ inches wide. Getting right to the point, the blue, green and gold timeplece at the left is 27 inches high and 20 inches wide. Clocks range in price from \$135 to \$275. Ariana Gallery, 386 E. Maple, Birmlingham.

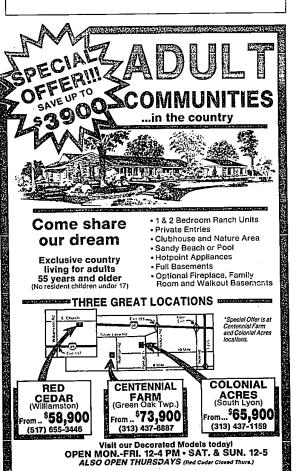








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