

# Tips for selecting holiday plants

Living plants make nice gifts for the holidays and now is the time to make your gift list and decide who will be the lucky recipients.

Some indoor foliage plants adapt well to festive holiday trimmings and will be a welcome addition to homes and offices. Fresh flowers can be inserted into tubes made especially for this purpose and arranged with any of these plants. Attach a bow, and presto, you've created a gift that will keep giving pleasure for years.

When you buy a house plant as a gift, take into account the light level of its future home, the upkeep involved, even the color of the decor. This tells the friend that you took time and thought in choosing the perfect plant for him or her.

Foliage plants that can be trained to grow into topiary forms are popular for gift giving. One fashioned into a wreath is especially fun.

English ivy (*Hedera helix*) is the most famous of ivys and comes in countless varieties. Merlon beauty has the traditional leaf shape, and itsy bitsy the same, only smaller. Some, such as curl-

down  
to earth  
Marty  
Figley

locks have curled, waved, or crinkled foliage, while others have variegated leaves. California gold is one.

These ivys should be placed in a cool, bright location with indirect light. They rest during fall and winter, but should be fertilized every two weeks during the growing season. All but a north window is fine. The plants should be almost dry before watering, they don't like to stand in water.

Here is a list of plants that grow upright and could be festooned with decorations for Christmas. They could even be a substitute for a tree.

False aralia (*Dryopteris elegans*) likes to remain in the same location and is a slow grower. Plectranthus (*Dracaena reflexa*, formerly *Plectranthus reflexa*) is tolerant of many indoor environments. The leaves are usually variegated, with white or cream edges. Weeping fig (*Ficus benjamina*) also doesn't like to be moved.

These three plants need about the same care. All do well in east, south, or west windows in filtered light and should approach dryness before being watered.

The coffee plant (*Coffea arabica*) needs at least four hours of bright sunlight from any but a north window, draft-free, please. When three to four years old, fragrant white flowers and bright red berries will be a reward. Keep the soil very moist.

And finally, Norfolk Island pine (*Argyrodia heterophylla*) prefers moderate, but not direct sunlight, it doesn't like drafts. Keep the soil evenly moist. With this plant as well as the coffee plant, water thoroughly, discarding drainage.



## Brass quintet to perform

The Asbury Brass Quintet will perform on the Cranbrook Music Guild series at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Cranbrook House library, 380 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills. For this rousing Christmas program, the quintet will play works ranging from classical pieces for brass through 20th century works. The award winning young group has toured extensively through the Midwest and Pacific Northwest, performing with many leading symphony orchestras. Afterglow with the artists in the Oak Room. For ticket information, call 751-2435.



### OPEN SUNDAY 1-6

4975 Brookdale, N. off Big Beaver, E. of Woodward

Magnificent new home with a unique blend of traditional and contemporary architectural features in final stages of construction

4 bedrooms, 4 1/2 baths. Approximately 4800 sq. ft., on beautiful 2 1/2 acres overlooking picturesque pond. Landscaping and patios by Eaton Nursery.

TRULY A ONE OF A KIND LUXURY HOME \$1,100,000

ROBERT R. BRAND • 540-1009

REALTORS WELCOME

Go for it!

Be an Observer & Eccentric Newspaper carrier. Call 591-0500 for details

## All this...



## and a \$5000 allowance!

A few selected models are being offered with a \$5000 allowance for a limited time. These are the award winning condominiums you have seen at The Heathers, in Bloomfield Hills. Some are ready for occupancy with a \$7000 allowance. So act now. This offer ends December 15, 1989.

Take Woodward north to Opdyke Rd., Opdyke to Square Lake Rd., east on Square Lake, 1/2 mile to entrance.

THE HEATHERS  
in Bloomfield Hills  
Call 553-0300 noon to six everyday

ROBERTSON BROTHERS CO. COMMUNITY DEVELOPERS

## On the Park...in Farmington

"BUILDER'S OWN HOME"  
Beautiful 4 bedroom two-level 2300 sq. ft. home with "dramatic" open floor plans

- 12 1/2' high Living Room ceiling
- Many large windows facing park
- Large walk-in closets
- "Summit Stone" foyer
- 6 panel doors
- Superior insulation
- Luminous kitchen
- Overlaid garage
- Central air
- Glass doored natural fireplace
- 10 x 135 landscape

\$174,900 Next to 31 acre private park

Call for appt. 476-1180 (3 1/2% co-op)

SAGGING CANE chairs can be made look like new again. Simply wet them thoroughly, then let dry naturally. The cane will shrink and tighten. Apply a coat of varnish for lasting life. Expecting results when you sell something with an Observer & Eccentric Classified Ad.

## BAILO

Real Estate

601 S. Lafayette

(313) 437-2064

Member MLS

Representing

NICHWAGH LAKE ESTATES

We Specialize In

Existing Homes

and New

Construction Sales



PIONEERS & NATIONAL LEADERS  
of the  
NO-COMMISSION PROFESSIONAL  
HOME MARKETING SYSTEM

Copyright 1989 by J.R. Paine

### Did you know that:

1.) In England and many other European countries, most homes are bought and sold the **No-Commission** way. The broker finds a buyer and the seller walks the buyer through the home. The broker sells the home and loses it.

2.) In Japan, the **buyers** pay the selling broker's commission. Japanese homeowners do not pay 6% commissions.

3.) In the U.S.A., homeowners are getting complete professional and legal **No-Commission** marketing and closing services through **HMS INTERNATIONAL** for a flat fee that is thousands of dollars less than a 6% commission. No one has to pay heavy real estate commissions.

4.) **HMS INTERNATIONAL** finds the qualified buyer and assists the homeowners through every step of the home selling and closing process including appraisal, advertising local, national and international advertising as warranted by the sale price of the home, negotiations, offers and counteroffers, purchase contracts, mortgages, title work, and closing. The only thing you do is walk the buyers through your home. **HMS INTERNATIONAL**, master home sellers, do the rest.

HMS

### DEDICATED TO SELLING HOMES

In Every Price Range Up To Two Million Dollars

Many Homes Sold In Less Than 30 Days

TO SAVE \$5000 TO \$50,000 in  
REAL ESTATE COMMISSIONS

CALL HMS INTERNATIONAL

SPECIALISTS IN SELLING MILLION  
DOLLAR HOMES IN THE  
BIRMINGHAM, BLOOMFIELD AREA!

S. OAKLAND COUNTY SOUTHFIELD N. OAKLAND COUNTY ROCHESTER MACOMB COUNTY CLINTON TWP. WAYNE COUNTY REDFORD

569-0070 656-3030 228-2090 592-0929

Half-Commission with Multi List Also Available

HMS Offices Are Open 7-Days-A-Week  
HMS Offer Hotline Open 24-Hours Every Day

**FARMINGTON HILLS** - Ideal family home on a beautiful treed cul-de-sac. Very private deck and patio overlooking main commons with tennis courts and walking/jogging trails, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, library, family room, finished lower level. \$214,900. 553-8700

**FARMINGTON HILLS** - SUPER FLOOR PLAN in this lovely 4 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath home. Over 3,300 sq. ft. with family room, library, spacious foyer, first floor laundry, full basement. Very private dock, beautiful treed yard. \$224,900. 553-8700

**LIVONIA** - Four bedroom, 2 1/2 bath colonial. Neutral decor, fieldstone fireplace in family room, rec. room, sauna. Fenced yard, maintenance free exterior, attached garage. \$154,900. 642-0703

**WEST BLOOMFIELD** - New construction with lake privileges. Contemporary 2 story. Kitchen has European style cabinets. Ceramic foyer. High efficiency furnace. Large wood deck overlooking extra deep lot. Side entrance garage. \$188,900. 642-0703

**FARMINGTON HILLS** - Four bedroom colonial nestled on a large treed lot with in-ground swimming pool. Backing to a private 10 acre park. Hardwood floors, Florida Room, 2 1/2 baths are just a few of the features. Great Farmington Hills address. \$188,000. 553-8700

**FARMINGTON HILLS RANCH** - A bit of country, custom area. Spacious, like new condition with 3 (or 4) bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room, basement, 2 1/2 car garage, possible 1st floor laundry. \$129,900. 553-8700

**THOMPSON-BROWN**

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