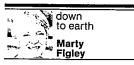
Look at flowers before buying

One of the traditional Valentine's Day gifts is cut flowers — nowadays for both sexes.

When you go to the florist, look around before you make your choice. If the flowers are sitting out in tightly packed containers, they may be harding a fungal disease known as botrytis. Look for brown spots on the flower petals and leaves that are touching each other. A gray mold would indicate an advanced case of botrytis. Look for firm leaves and bright, clear flower blooms. Also, look at the water, it should be clear and fresh and the stems which are in the water should be sams. If the stems with the stem was the stems which are in the water should be sams. If you have a supplied to the stems with the stem with each of the stems with very the stems with coses are popular at this time and the wise shopper will choose buds that are about a quarter to a third open. The stems with very tight buds may have been cut too soon and will probably never open. What a disappointment that would be.

When the bouquet is delivered to the loved one.

When the bouquet is delivered to the loved one, an inch should be cut off the bottom of each stem an inch should be cut off the bottom of each stem before placing in water. Do this while holding the stem under water. All cut flowers, as well as roses, benefit from this underwater treatment. If the flowers are cut dry a little air bubble forms at the base, then when the stems are placed



in water the air bubble is pushed right up the stem by the water and when it reaches the neck no wa-ter can reach the bloom. Therefore, the flowers will last longer and roses won't develop bent necks. This doesn't happen if the stems are cut under water.

neeks. Into access rappen it une stems are cut under water. Usually florists will include a packet of commercial flower preservative which provides sugar action and something to retard bacteria. But, if they don't, a home-brew can be used to help keep bacteria down and provide food. A solution of by citrus beverage, (carbonated) and by warm water with 1½ tsp. of chlorine (household) bleach added, will do the trick. This solution may have to be changed every few days.

I guess it bears repeating: Keep flowers away from drafts, warm temperatures and direct sun-

iy. A daylong Perennial Garden Symposium at 8:30 m. Saturdav, March 3, complete with slides, will A daylong Perennial Garden Symposium at 8:30 am. Saturday, March 3, complete with slides, will be held at O'Dowd Hall, Oakland University, Rochester. Speakers include Ken Miller and Mike Miller, herbaceous plant experts and garden designers; and June Hutson of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, It sounds like an exciting day. Will I see you there?

The symposium is a second of the Missouri Botanical Gardens, the sound the second of the Missouri Botanical Gardens. It sounds like an exciting day. Will I see you there?

see you there?
The symposium is sponsored by Eaton Nursery, 5899 W. Maple Road, West Bloomfield. Visit or call 851-5440 for a brochure and additional \$5 dis-

count coupon.
Cost is \$45 if postmarked or phoned in by Friday, Feb. 23, or \$50 at the door. Send check to Hortleultural Seminars, 111-A N Virkwood Rd., St. Louis, MO. 63112, 1-800-347-656b.



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Plagiarism topic for WSU program

The program will cover potting soil — the various properties of soils such as texture, absorbitivity, lifetime and chemical reactions. For information, call 681-4791.

Thomas Mallon, in Room 226 of Manoonoled expert on literary plagfarfsim, will speak on "Ethics and Plaglarism the Literature" at 3 pm. Monday, Feb. 12, pm.

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Lou Kilbert, president of the Mich-lgan Cactus & Succulent Society, will give a program at 2 p.m. Sunday at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 814 N. Campbell, Royal Oak.

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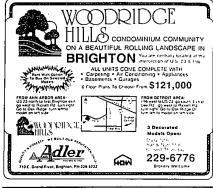
DIA director to speak on Winslow Homer

Samuel Sachs, director of the Detroit Institute of Arts, will speak about the genius of American painter Winstow Homer, 1236-1910, 7-9 pm. Thursday, Feb. 15 at Meadow Brook Hall on the Oakland University campus, Rochester.
Sachs is the fifth of six guest tecturers in the new cultural program, Enigma of a Genius, launched by the

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