

Figley from page 4D

(Abrams, \$39.95), contains 82 exquisite pencil and watercolor drawings of plants that may soon disappear from our Earth, including some in our own country.

Each drawing is accompanied by information about the plant; where it grows, what is being done to destroy the habitat (development, people, etc.) and if it is protected by the government and/or is listed as endangered or threatened.

The appendix lists more than 100 organizations working to protect these species. The introduction explains what needs to be done to preserve these treasures that if, when destroyed, won't return.

"Container Gardening Through the Year," Malcolm Hillier (Dorling Kindersley, \$24.95), is another successful book from this author. Each season is highlighted with many ideas for beautiful plantings in all kinds of containers. Have you thought of putting Kalanchoe in a wire basket or growing climbing Pycnanthus in a container? It's all here — the color harmonies, growing advice and care, soils, light conditions, etc. Beautifully photographed. You'll find lots of ideas.

Lawn care

"Smart Yard: 60-minute Lawn Care," Jeff and Liz Ball (Fulcrum, \$16.95, soft), should be in the hands of all who care for their own lawns, as well as professionals.

The Balls write that initially more time may be needed to switch to their approach to lawn care, but "down the road the grass will be better able to thrive with a minimum of effort on our part."

They explain how to achieve a good-looking lawn by using fewer chemicals, mowing properly and by following simple steps. They cover all the basics: soil, fertilizers, sites, choosing the correct grass, insects good and bad, and diseases. In short, excellent advice.

Fall is the perfect time to begin a new regimen of lawn care and this small book explains just how to go about it.

"Garden Smarts," Shelley Goldbloom (Globe Pequot, \$14.95, soft), gives good advice about gardening practices.

When one cup of Round Up is stirred into two pounds of Crisco shortening then applied to the cut end of a vine, it will adhere to the cut area and is easily controlled. If you put organic material directly into the soil in its uncomposted state, add nitrogen to feed the soil while the bacteria is feasting. Make a funnel from a plastic bottle after cutting the bottom out, place this over a plant and direct the spray into the bottle neck — it keeps the solution directed as needed. Information about all kinds of plants.

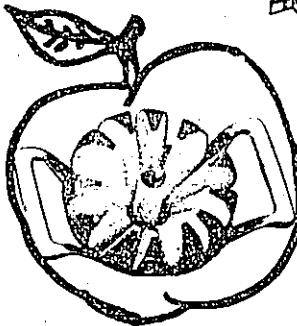
Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859.

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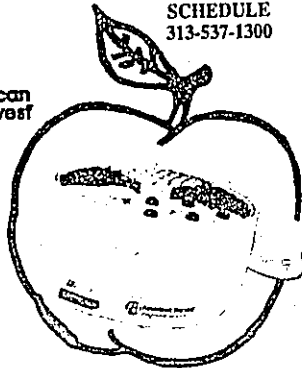


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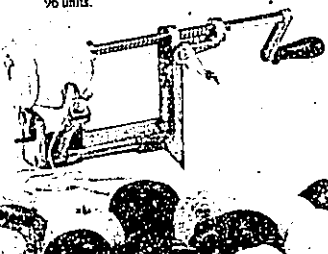
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