

GARDENING

Consider these books for considerable information

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Here's a variety of books for your consideration. In *Time Tested Plants: 30 Years in a Four-Season Garden* (Timber Press, \$39.95), author Pamela Harper takes us on a walk through her Virginia garden that she has been developing for 30 years. Quite a variety of plants are the stars of each season of the year and she discusses each in detail — their good and undesirable qualities, including many cultivars. Harper shares her successes and failures; what grows where and why, sometimes defying nature. She isn't afraid to try the

new and different and the garden contains plants from around the world. Photos of the garden enhance the experience.

The award-winning *The Undaunted Garden: Planting for Weather-Resilient Beauty*, Lauren Springer (Fulcrum, \$27.95), is now in paperback.

"A garden becomes beautiful when the plants in it adapt to their surroundings and thrive," Springer writes.

She shares her experiences in her northern Colorado garden, using word pictures as well as actual photographs. We learn how she feels about many plants and grows them so successfully while dealing with adverse conditions.

Many new ideas and much inspiration here. A list of tough, reliable plants follows each chapter. Detailed descriptions of 64 recommended plants are included.

Making arrangements
The Natural History of Medicinal Plants, Judith Sumner (\$24.95), is also published by Timber Press.

Although we may think plants that are used medicinally are for human benefit, the author explains that they are "defense strategies in a natural world colonized by organisms competing for survival."

In layman's terms, Sumner describes their biological and ecological importance as toxins and deterrents in protecting plants. Not a "stuffy" book, it also reports on the new field of zoopharmacognosy where some animals seem to recognize and use plants as medicine. Fascinating stuff.

Libby Oliver, author of *Flowers Are Almost Forever* (Brandlyne Publishers Inc., P.O. Box 281, White Stone, VA 22678; phone (800) 653-6922, \$12), has spent many years growing and arranging flowers. In 1994 she was honored as the National Flower Arranger of the Year by the American Horticultural Society.

Every aspect of this craft is here, from the moment the flowers are cut to transporting finished arrangements.

Are floral preservatives preferred for freshness, or are homemade solutions OK? Why cut some plants under water? What's best to do when flowers droop? Oliver answers all questions.

The *Flower Checklist* is a quick reference guide for vase life, etc., and personal comments. Perhaps the best \$12 flower arrangers or wannabes will spend this year.

References
Brooklyn Botanic Garden's *Natural Disease Control: A Common Sense Approach to Plant First Aid* (\$9.95), describes and illustrates diseases that occur on all types of plants. It teaches how to identify and control them without using chemicals. Nine ways to prevent disease using the least toxic remedies that can be made in the home or bought are given.

The American Horticultural Society Gardening Manual (Dorling Kindersley, \$39.95) is an up-to-date reference book on all aspects of gardening. It is set in four parts.

Part I, *Planning Your Garden*, has many suggestions and ideas to be considered, from style to choosing plants. Part II, *Making and Looking After Your Garden*, discusses patios and paths, lawns, beds and borders, boundaries, containers, trees, water features and more.

Part III, *What Looks Good When*, is filled with much information about plants' flowering times and when they are most interesting (i.e. fall foliage color, length of bloom), so the garden looks good throughout the seasons.

Part IV, *What To Do When*, deals with maintenance chores to keep the garden, structures and all parts of the garden in top condition. A sidebar contains seasonal reminders with the appropriate pages for each chore listed for quick reference.

GOOD GARDEN TIPS
Let's take the mystery out of soil pH. Think of it as a thermometer with a scale from 1 to 14. The higher the number, the more alkaline the soil; the lower the number, the more acidic. The middle number, 7, is neutral.

Many garden plants like a slightly acid soil, around 6. Herbs and veggies generally like it more neutral, around 7; and woodland plants like it more acidic, around 5.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then 111, then 3446. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

GARDENING CALENDAR

Does your garden club have an upcoming event or meeting you want publicized? Send items for consideration in *Gardening Calendar* to Ken Abramczyk, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.homecomm.net. To send a fax, call (734) 691-7279.

GARDEN SPEAKERS

FARMINGTON
Shelly Buckman, plant ecologist, will show how to use garden herbs and discuss the aesthetic value of herbs with the

Farmington Garden Club at noon Monday, April 2, at the Longacre House on the west side of Farmington Road between 10 Mile and 11 Mile roads. Visitors are welcome. For information, call 476-3017 or 615-3616.

EVENING HERBS
Peter Stark from Renaissance Acres will talk with the evening

herb study group 7-9 p.m. Monday, April 2, at the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens. Stark will discuss what to plant and how to design small herb gardens. Members of the public and new members are welcome. Meetings are held in Room 125 of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro

In Ann Arbor. For information, call (734) 998-7061.

LIVONIA
Jean Moran, a member of the Hill and Dale Garden Club and the Greater Detroit Flower Arrangers Guild, will discuss flower arranging at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 3, with the Livonia Garden Club at the Livonia Senior Center. Moran also has been a flower show judge and a flower show school instructor.

NOVI
Roses-West Rose Society of Novi hosts Mif Claussen of Illinois at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 5, on latest "hot" roses at the Novi Civic Center, 45175 West Ten Mile, Novi, MI 48240. There is a social hour and it is free to the public.

NURSERY SCHOOL

ARRANGEMENTS
Several workshops are scheduled at Keller & Stein Florist and Greenhouse, 42458 Michigan in Canton. Reservations are needed for the workshops. Each workshop costs \$10 per person and is non-refundable. Classes are scheduled at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. The classes include a patio pot workshop on Saturday, May 5. Call (734) 397-0800.

ORCHID SHOW
Plant sales, raffle and growing

tips about orchids will be available at the Palm Sunday Show 2001, presented by the Michigan Orchid Society, April 7 and 8 at Laurel Park Piece Mall at Six Mile and I-75 in Livonia. Admission is free. Call Gail Liff for membership information at (734) 973-4117.

BACK TO SCHOOL

MORE GARDENING

The Michigan School of Gardening, 29429 Six Mile, in Livonia offers a variety of subjects. Register in advance. Classes are limited in size. Weekly classes usually are scheduled for 9:30 a.m., while evening courses begin at 6:30 p.m. Classes listed here will be taught at the Livonia facility. Here is a list of some of the classes, some of which require prerequisite courses or experience:

Water Gardens, meets on two consecutive Thursdays, starting April 5; Choosing Trees and Shrubs, four Thursdays, starting April 5; Choosing and Using Annuals and Perennials, four Wednesdays, starting May 2; Difficult Sites Part I on wet and dry sites, two Thursdays, starting June 7; Difficult Sites Part II, starting Thursday, June 21. Call (248) 4-GARDEN for information winter and spring classes.

WE WROTE THE BOOK ON HIGH-PERFORMANCE TOILETS. TO PICK THE RIGHT ONE, YOU'VE GOT TO READ IT.

To receive our FREE 28-page guide to high-performance TOTO toilets and more information call **ADVANCE PLUMBING** at 248-663-7474, send the coupon below, or visit us at www.totousa.com.

ADVANCE PLUMBING SUPPLY COMPANY
19627 W. Middle Rd. • Walled Lake • 248-663-7474

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone Number _____ E-mail address _____

When are you planning to begin your project?
Within 3 months ☐ Within 6 months ☐
After 6 months ☐

TOTO
Perfection by Design

Top of the Line Painting & Drywall, Inc.
and Sutton Construction
Commercial and Residential

Spring is just around the corner, are you thinking about sprucing up your home?
Think Top of the Line!

We Specialize in:

- Interior & Exterior Painting
- Drywall hanging & finishing
- All types of plaster work
- All types of carpentry
- Basement finishing
- Additions
- Bathroom remodeling
- Kitchen remodeling

We use Cromwell Benjamin Moore Paints

Call NOW for FREE ESTIMATES
248-788-6177
25 Year Experience-Licensed & Insured

SAVE UP TO 85% OFF NEW ON ALL 1ST QUALITY NAME BRAND BUNDS & WALLPAPER

HunterDouglas, Durite, Silhouette, Waverly, Village, Luvolor, Kinch, Graber, Luvordrape, Imperial, Seabrook, Thomas Kinkadee, Ralph Lauren, Carry Lind, Nautica and More!

NEW COMPUTERIZED WALLPAPER SEARCHES
View over 125,000 patterns in our showroom on computers with easy-to-search methods. If you can dream it... our experts can help you find it instantly!

\$2.99 SUPER VALUE IN STOCK WALLPAPER
NO PAYMENT FOR 90 DAYS!

call... **1-800-442-3919**
or visit... www.decoratetoday.com

7 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS
1-800-442-3919

AMERICAN DECORATEDRAPH.COM

Visit our Website and Receive a Discount on All Blinds & Wallpaper!

PLUS NOW TAKE AN EXTRA 10% OFF

Next Home Improvement Show... 2/1-2/4
Macomb Home Improvement Show... 2/16-2/18
Michigan Home & Garden Show... 2/22-2/25

Colorworks Studio, Inc.

Colorworks Uncommon
A Unique Boutique

- Full Service Interior Design
- Fine Furnishings

Where the finished project speaks for itself

Where the details make the difference...

Present this ad and receive 20% OFF your next boutique purchase
248-851-7540

206 Northwestern Highway • Farmington Hills • Between 14 Mile & Middlebelt
or visit us on the web at www.colorworksstudio.com

KITCHEN TOP SHOP

Custom Laminate Cabinets
Custom Wood Cabinets
Custom Laminate Counter Tops
Solid Surface Products
Free In Home Estimates
Design Service Available

21158 W. Eight Mile Road • Farmington Hills

J&J ROOFING
29522 Little Mack, Roseville, MI 48064
Visit our website at www.jjroofing.com

FREE ESTIMATES
We are authorized and certified by both GAF and Certaineed. This enables us to offer the country's strongest warranty! 98 out of 100 contractors cannot offer this warranty!

J&J WINDOWS
State License #2182128340

You've trusted J&J Roofing with your roofing needs for 14 years. Call us now for your free estimate on siding, trim and gutters or to schedule your free demonstration of windows and doors.

1-800-459-6455 or 1-810-445-6455