

Window Fashions Gallery opens

Windows, Walls & More Inc. in West Bloomfield introduces the Hunter Douglas Window Fashions Gallery.

Luminette Privacy Sheers®, Silhouette® window shades and Lightlines® mini blinds are just some of the fashion-forward, innovative products available in the new, special retail boutique, recently installed at Windows, Walls & More, 5528 Drake.

"We are proud to offer customers the best solutions for their window covering needs," said Susie Lezell, president/owner of Windows, Walls & More.

For more information, call (248) 661-3840, e-mail windowwalls@aol.com or visit www.windowwalls.com.

This double-height display environment is the largest of its kind. Customers are able to view and operate the range of products available and easily select the treatments that will best complement their home environments.

In addition to the retail boutique environment, the Window Fashions Gallery is an exclusive dealer network of select high-end window

covering dealers in the business who are committed to providing consumers with a thoroughly satisfying shopping experience.

Other elements of the program include targeted public relations and advertising support; training programs in products, customer service and installation; customized local advertising, marketing material and signage, as well as Web page and Yellow Pages layouts; and customized computer software.

"We are pleased to have Windows, Walls & More in the fold," said Jeff Janko, director of the Hunter Douglas Window Fashions Gallery program.

"Their commitment to excellence in product and to exceeding customer expectations makes them the ideal candidate for this program dedicated to the best independent window covering professionals in the business."

Hunter Douglas Inc. is a leading manufacturer and marketer of custom window coverings. For more information about Hunter Douglas products, call (800) 937-STYLE or visit www.hunterdouglas.com.

Roses provide the ultimate in indoor blooms

By LEE REICH
FOR AP SPECIAL FEATURES

For growing indoor blooms in winter, why not roses for the ultimate roses?

Miniature roses are a good choice for windowsills, a variety such as Lyn Gold, for example, which grows only 6 inches tall and sports lemon yellow blossoms each the size of a nickel.

Miniature roses trace their lineage back to a plant found about a century ago by a Col. Roulet in Switzerland, a miniature variety of China rose. This dainty find was crossed with hybrid tea and other roses, and the rest, as they say, is history.

The color range of miniature roses now embraces shades and combinations of whites, yellows, and reds. On some varieties, the petals are knit into a tight bud like those of

hybrid tea; blossoms shape might be like a miniature hybrid tea, or loose and floppy like wild roses. Original miniature roses were scentless, but newer hybrids such as Sachet and Singles Better fill the air with their delicate scents.

Plans for indoor rose blooms should begin in autumn. If you have miniature roses planted in the ground, dig up a plant and pot it up. A 6-inch pot is adequate for a rose as small as Lyn Gold, along with any standard potting mix. A purchased plant will already be in a pot, but may need to be shifted to a slightly larger one.

After giving the potted plant a thorough watering, keep it cool to hold back top growth while roots take hold in the potting soil. A sunny window in a cool room or a garage could provide temperatures close to the ideal 50 degrees Fahrenheit for this stage of

growth.

After a few weeks of cool temperatures, the plant is ready for some warmth to stimulate growth of new shoots and leaves. Put the plant in the sunniest window you have, and in no time you should see shoots capped by fat flower buds, which soon open.

Keep on the lookout for pests. Indoor roses are particularly attractive to aphids, red spider mites, and powdery mildew. Hand crushing, sprays of water or insecticidal soap, and equable temperatures should avert any of these problems before they turn into disasters.

Even if roses are not the easiest of plants to grow indoors, consider giving a try to "the queen of flowers." Your miniature rose might be more appropriately called "a princess of flowers."

Red from page C1

that once belonged to his great-grandparents — his love for the chest helped him choose the color. On top of the chest, he added a vase with bright yellow flowers and gold picture frame (with a photo of his business partner's dog).

Throughout the house he adds little bits of red; from the Oriental red rugs to the linen. Keeping the house freshly updated, he changes color and patterns with the seasons. During winter, linens are Ralph Lauren paisley with red, blue, green and brown.

In spring it's gold, cream and ivory with red. Strong red-browns are current and if any shade seems so overbearing, Lovell gives some expert advice: Use colors on the opposite end of the spectrum to tone down. Add

■ 'I just really like red. Especially red and yellow — it can warm up the feeling of a cold winter day.'

Tim Robinson
—of West Bloomfield

green to neutralize a red.

Red, red everywhere

The warmth of red is found in the trendy boutiques and stores. UpCountry, of Toronto and Birmingham, is a new furniture store that features comfortable, but

stylish furnishings for comfortable city living. The red sectional UpCountry couch has that new hint of orange.

Sparkling deep red crystal with clear inlay patterns are works of art in wine and martini glasses by Waterford Crystal. The new shade of red is an updated style in crystal. Tiffany & Co., has embraced red too with a red bold crystal paperweight to brighten any office. Salvati, found at Jacobson's, incorporated orange-red into a heavy red heart vase; mixing Valentine's Day with the most updated shade of crimson.

From accents to entire walls, red is here for the bold and daring.

"I just really like red," Robinson said. "Especially red and yellow — it can warm up the feeling of a cold winter day."

Mohagany from page C1

straight boards for woodworking on this tree.

Other trees

Other trees that have a hard and protective outer shell are the buckeyes and horse chestnut. They are species of the *Aesculus* family.

The horse chestnut, *A. hippocastanum*, is one of the best known and the 1- to 2-inch fruits are held in a shell covered with very sharp spines. When the shell splits open, the appealing chestnut brown, shiny nuts are revealed. This tree is a native of Greece and adjacent mountainous areas.

The buckeye tree, the official tree of Ohio, produces smooth, dark brown seedpods.

As with the horse chestnut, there are many species of buckeyes that grow very large, or are low shrubby plants. *A. parviflora*, or bottlebrush buckeye, is a popular shrub here. Buckeyes are often

found in woods from Georgia through the Carolinas and into Ohio.

Many *Aesculus* are hardy in our zone. A knowledgeable nurseryman can advise which species to plant, as there are many from which to choose.

Lists

Mother Nature sure has a lot of surprises in store when we take the time to look. Just thinking of some of the trees and all the beauty and usefulness they provide boggles the mind. Perhaps you and your family can have a conversation at the dinner table and make a list of trees that "hide the goodies inside."

You might begin the list with nut trees. A hard outer layer protects their seeds and we know how difficult it is to extract the yummy kernels of the pecan.

Trees that give us fruit can be another list. Often the soft fruit that we eat encases the seed. Some trees such as cherry or peach have a single seed inside, while others such as the apple contain multiple seeds.

We must remember that some seeds are meant for the birds and animals and are inedible for humans; again, a tip of the hat to Mother Nature.

I really wanted to share our experience with mahogany seeds and wonder if you have an interesting plant story to tell. Just contact me by phone or fax (the numbers are at the end of the column); I'd love to hear from you.

Special notice: There is still limited space on my trip cruising the waterways of Holland and Belgium and a visit to the Florida (plus many other exciting spots). The dates are April 8-18, 2002.

This is an excellent trip at the unbelievable price of just \$2,599. Call Jean at The World of Travel, (248) 203-0022, for a brochure or further details.

GOOD GARDEN TIP

■ When you visit the Michigan Home & Garden Show Thursday-Sunday, Feb. 21-24, at the Pontiac Silverdome, don't miss the Standard Flower Show. You Gotta Have ART! This show is presented by District I of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc.

Come visit me on Sunday, Feb. 24 when I will present Art in the Garden at 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. in the Silverdome lecture area.

Mary 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. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

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