

Renovation tips offered at Home & Garden Show

The 14th annual Michigan Home & Garden Show returns to the Pontiac Silverdome today thru Sunday, March 6-9, with tips and advice from experts on home renovations, maintenance and landscaping.

"Hundreds of exhibits of home and garden products and services will be under one roof making comparison-shopping a breeze for busy homeowners," said Mike Wilbraham, show producer with ShowSpan.

Spectacular garden and landscape displays feature blooming annuals and perennials, waterfalls, ponds and fountains.

Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, District 1, will present a standard flower show, "Madam and Eve - A Celebration of Women," showcasing flowers artistically arranged and a wide array of horticulture entries.

Ribbons of distinction will be awarded in 13 classes of design and horticulture, several sections of education exhibits and artistic crafts and one for youth entries.

Henderson Glass of Rochester Hills will feature self-cleaning glass, along with mirrored closet doors, mirrored walls, glass designs, glass bathroom products and Euro-style shower doors. Pella Window and Door Co. of West Bloomfield boasts a new electric shade along with its well-known window and door products.

Add more living space outdoors with decks and gazebos by Astro Construction of Clarkston. B.O.D. Development of Orion Township and Cedar Works of Sylvan Lake display cedar and composite decks and B.O.D. also features new deck lights.

Breckenridge Gardens of Clarkston creates a backyard scene with flower, fountains and patio furniture.

English Gardens of West Bloomfield offers landscaping services and specializes in out-

PONTIAC SILVERDOME

HOME & GARDEN SHOW

When: Thursday-Sunday, March 6-9

Where: Pontiac Silverdome. Hours: 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday, March 6; noon-10 p.m., Friday, March 7; 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Saturday, March 8; and Sunday, March 9, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Admission: Adults, \$7; children (6-14), \$3; children five and under, free. Advance tickets available online at www.SilverdomeHomeShow.com

Weekday adult discount admission coupons are available at Speedway.

For more information, call (800) 328-6550 or www.SilverdomeHomeShow.com

door living features such as outdoor kitchens complete with built-in grills with shelves, drawers and running water.

English Gardens also touts low maintenance plants, ornamental grasses for year-round color and texture and native landscape plants for a softer, more natural look.

Kitchen and baths are becoming increasingly luxurious in homes today.

Granite Transformations of Farmington Hills refines existing countertops or showers with granite. Trevarrow of Auburn Hills showcases upscale kitchen and laundry appliances, refrigerators and wine storage units, sinks and faucets.

Franklin Floor Covering of Bloomfield Hills features unfinished and pre-finished wood flooring, area rugs (custom and machine-made). Franklin will show exotic

woods, rustic cabin grade flooring, herringbone designs and custom medallions.

West Construction Services of Troy specializes in new home builds, additions, major renovations and architectural services.

Suburban Roofing of Rochester Hills highlights roofing and siding products. Blue Dot Service of Livonia features heating, cooling and plumbing products.

At the show celebrities Mad Dog & Merrill, the grilling buddies seen on ESPN, CBS and CNN, will cook up lots of fun on the grill; chefs Angus Campbell and Robert Garlough will teach "Regional American Cooking." Glenn Haage, columnist and America's Master Handyman, will answer "What's New and How To" in home improvement; Jeff Ball, as seen on NBC's "The Today Show" will explain how to get "Beautiful, Green and Easy Lawns;" Nancy Szwed, as seen in "The Detroit News" and on WDIV, will focus on potted plants and "What's New-Tools, Techniques and Fabulous Plants;" the Concrete Home Pavilion will describe insulated concrete forms as an alternative to standard wood framing in building a new home and a 25-foot rock climbing wall will be available for family fun.

Show hours are from 3-9:30 p.m. Thursday; noon-10 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday; and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday.

Admission is \$7; \$3 for children 6-14 and children 5 and under are admitted free. Advance tickets, which includes a free parking pass, are available online at www.SilverdomeHomeShow.com.

Weekday adult admission discount coupons are available at Speedway. On-site parking is available for a fee.

For more information, visit www.SilverdomeHomeShow.com or call (800) 328-6550.

Soon it will be time to start seeds indoors, but don't be in too much of a hurry, because if you are, the plants may grow leggy and spindly. It's best to start warm-

weather vegetables (eggplant, peppers and tomatoes) and herbs six weeks before the last killing frost; cucumbers, melons and squash three to four weeks before the last frost.

In this area, the date is around the middle of May. Check the seed packets to time them right.

The National Garden Bureau suggests the following: "Any shallow receptacle that holds soil is fine. When the seedlings need transplanting, use 2 1/2- to 4-inch diameter, clay or peat pots."

"Use a germinating mix for best results (or mix your own with a 50-50 combination of fine sphagnum peat moss and vermiculite). A transplanting mix is best to use for your seedlings. Use a balanced all-purpose fertilizer, or if you prefer organic, use fish emulsion. Label all flats.

A heating mat or cable is optional. "To begin: Wet the germinating mix thoroughly and let it drain - moist but not soggy. Fill the receptacle with the mix to within about an inch of the top."

"Make shallow row indentations with a ruler or your finger in the flats. Sow in rows, thinly so seed isn't wasted. If using pots, make shallow holes and set three to four seeds in each."

"Click the seed packets to see if the seeds need light to germinate. If so, press them lightly into the surface. If they require darkness, cover with a 1/2-inch of mix or vermiculite and tamp it down. Mist the



White coreopsis is easily started from seed.

surface with water to settle the seeds.

"Cover the flats with a sheet of plastic wrap or set them in plastic bags and close with twist ties. Check occasionally and moisten if necessary by spritzing with water."

"Place the flat in a warm, bright location or under fluorescent lights (about 4 inches above the flats; raise the lights to maintain that 4-inch spread - M.Figley). Check packet for specific temperatures; generally, seeds germinate with soil temperatures of 70-75 degrees."

SEEDLINGS

"When seedlings emerge, remove the plastic covering. Be patient, it may take two to three weeks."

"Keep the mix evenly moist, not soggy. Water from the bottom by setting flats and pots in a sink filled with a couple of inches of water; remove them when you see moisture on the surface of the mix."

"The first leaves you see are not true leaves, but cotyledons, which don't usually look like the plant's familiar leaves. When seedlings grow at least two sets of true leaves, transplant them into

pots.

"Moisten the transplanting mix and let it drain. If you use an all-purpose potting soil, add a handful of vermiculite for each quart of mix to lighten the texture. Fill 2 1/2-inch pots about three-quarters full."

"Use your finger or pencil to pick each seedling out of the flats and gently slide it by the base into the pot. Now

firm the soil around the roots and firm the mix down. Place pots on a sunny, preferably south-facing, windowsill or under lights."

"Water transplants regularly from the bottom until they grow 3 to 4 inches tall; then begin to water from the top. Feed as you water by adding a water-soluble fertilizer to half the strength recommended on the label, or feed at a regular strength every week for 10 days."

"You don't need to move most flowering plants into larger pots before setting them out; some vegetables, such as tomatoes, produce extensive roots and will need to be transplanted into larger pots one more time before setting them in the garden."

"To encourage compact, bushy plants, occasionally pinch off the growing tips of herbs and most flowering plants."

"Turn the pots on windowsills a quarter turn every week so plants grow straight instead of being toward the light. If this is your first time to start seeds indoors, you might want to try easy-to-grow basil, coreopsis, dill, daisy, geranium, marigold, nasturtium, yarrow and zinnia."

"This isn't rocket science - give it a try. You sure will be pleased with the results."

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Farmington Hills. You can reach him at (248) 461-1284, dialing (248) 461-1284 or e-mail mfigley@earthlink.net or (248) 461-1284.

Winter Sale

Free Sink Cut Out for Month of March, Sales Excluded

Marble - Granite - Silkstone®

Why buy countertops at retail when you can buy direct. Since we fabricate at our own locations, we beat the "Big Box" store pricing. We offer quick delivery and personalized service.

Granite 3cm thick!

\$38.95	S/F	Rosa Beta
\$38.95	S/F	Luna Pearl
\$49.95	S/F	Impala Black
\$45.95	S/F	Uba Tuba
\$45.95	S/F	Tan Brown
\$49.95	S/F	Brown Sierra Fo

All prices include installation & measurement, full bullnose or straight polished edge 20 \$1 minimum

JUST ARRIVED...
Large inventory on marble slabs.
Quick turnaround on installation!

In Stock
STONE LOOK FLOORS
13X13 \$1.49 S/F

Silkstone!
\$29.95 S/F
Installed!

Includes materials, labor and 1/2" thick straight polished edge. 20 \$1 minimum

Huge Savings!!
Granite Marble Remnants
\$12.95 S/F

SOUTHERN LOCAL COUNTRY

We stock over 1000s of natural stone, Granite, Marble and Silkstone in over 200 sq. ft. slabs. Visit our website for the largest selection of imported and domestic materials.

Check our prices first!

Ceramic Tile Sales Inc. Marble & Granite Shop

Been in Business Over 46 Years!

Southfield	Farmington Hills	Rochester
23455 Telegraph Rd. 248-356-6430	24301 Indoplex Circle (248) 426-0093	1972 Star Ball Dr. 248-653-4654

Visit one of our Showrooms!

Southfield, Farmington Hills Hours: M-T-Th 8:30-5:00, W-F 8:30-6:00, Sat 9:00-5:00

SHOP HERE LAST, WE WILL BE YOUR BEST DEAL!

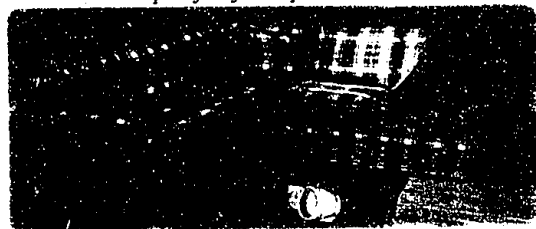
If you liked Grandma's Left, you'll love...

my favorite store
Capture Yesterday Today

Grand Opening!
EXTENDED THROUGH SUNDAY!

Savings on Marlow Furniture!

Marlow will pay your sales tax on upholstery purchases and orders... plus free fabric protection!



30% OFF ANY ONE IN-STORE ITEM. GET 30% OFF SPECIAL ORDERS TOO!

Cannot be used on prior purchases or low, away items. May not be combined with any other offer or discount. Expires 3-14-03

my favorite store
2003 Century Furniture Store

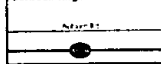
248-852-9515
2865 S. Rochester Rd. • Rochester Hills
Mon-Wed 10-5 • Thu-Sat 10-8 • Sun 12-5

Free Gourmet Coffee, Hot Mulled Cider & special treats!

Stop in for a chance to win a \$1,000 Shopping Spree!

Drawing March 10. Need not be present to win.

Located in the Village Centre between Target and Michaels!



2865 S. Rochester Rd. • Rochester Hills • 248-852-9515
Mon-Wed 10-5 • Thu-Sat 10-8 • Sun 12-5