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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Shrubs for the home: New's a good time to do some arm-chair gardening and since a reader wrote to tell us we have been "weak" on home landscaping, we'll mention some good shrubs to plant next spring.

Study these over in your catalog:

Golden syringa (Philadelphus aureus), has golden-yellow foliage, flowers white. Grows four to five feet high, and needs full sun for best color.

Hills of snow hydrangea, has snow-ball shaped flowers which show up even in shade. Easy to grow, likes moisture, makes a good hedge.

Lilacs are always a favorite, and you can get almost any color you want.

Burning Bush (Euonymus alatus) has green leaves which turn brilliant in fall. Thrives in part shade or full sun. Has corky branches which show up after foliage drops in winter.

RED LEAF barberry has bronzed foliage, grows three feet high and makes a fine hedge. For a low-growing plant, grow the Crimson Pygmy barberry 12 to five inches high and dark red.

Hydrangea Pee Gee has giant-cone shaped blooms over a foot long, white, then pink in fall, ideal for indoor arrangements. Grows six to eight feet and prefers sun.

Double amick orange has long slender branches loaded with pure-white, sweet-scented, two-inch double flowers in May and June. Height: six to 10 feet.

Forsythias are an appealing shrub, some upright, some weeping or spreading. And don't forget the sweet Pink Snowball (Viburnum carlesii), with its delicate, spicy fragrance.

There are dozens of other good shrubs such as althea, Deutzia gracilis rosea, a low growing shrub (two to three feet high) and hard to beat for show and color.

I think I've mentioned enough what your appetite for landscaping your place. Study your seed and nursery catalogs for more information on trees and shrubs.

Meanwhile, I'd like to offer again our free booklet on Home Landscaping, a beautiful color guide prepared by nurseryman who have a story to tell. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed, envelope (No. 10) for your free copy.



CABLE CAR BUNK BED accommodates a standard 39 by 75-inch mattress and needs no springs. It can be placed almost anywhere in a room. One side is open for easy access to lower bunk and the upper bunk is reached by a sturdy ladder. Large doors on the skirt of the trolley conceal a handy storage area. For the plans sent 50 cents to the American Plywood Assn., 1119 A St., Tacoma, Washington. Ask for form 71-645.

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1 1/4" - 4x8' \$7.29	1 1/4" - 4x8' \$7.95
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PI **N** **E** **L** **U** **M** **B** **E** **R** **C** **A** **S** **H** **W** **A** **Y**

Remove Wall Adds Drama To Stairway

Removing a stairway wall and replacing it with a banister of 2x4-inch western wood can visually expand the adjacent room while adding a dramatic accent.

The rear stairway wall, painted a lively color or washed with lighting, becomes a gallery for art works as photographs.

If the stairs lead to an upper level, the area opened under the stairs can be used for storage or a desk. If stairs lead down, an open divider wall can be built in with bookshelves and display areas.

Sun Colors Avoid Subterranean Look

Adding living space in a basement calls for a light color scheme and rich-looking materials to avoid creating a subterranean atmosphere.

Many decorators recommend sun colors, even for daylight basements, to make them look warmly hospitable. One approach is to panel the walls with solid lumber, choosing a light-toned wood like western pine or hemlock.

Installed vertically, the boards will give the effect of pushing the ceiling higher and light-colored ceiling and floor will add to this feeling.

Storage and other built-ins can be clad with the matching paneling for a custom touch.

Unightly furnaces and other appliances can be hidden with an enclosure of the same material, and using a solid panel door helps baffle noise, lends richness to the area at little extra cost.

A long window area with slanted skylights over planter space brightens a basement room. High ground level framing and sheathing. The 2x4s can be rough sawn or surfaced.

Another unusual ceiling treatment is 1x12 western red cedar bevel siding, adding an interesting shadow pattern. The siding can be stained or left natural.

No Paint Needed On Ceiling

For an unusual ceiling that never has to be painted, western wood 2x4s nail - rimmed on edge directly over beams provide natural color, texture and design interest.

This ceiling of 2x4s also forms the roof, serving as framing and sheathing. The 2x4s can be rough sawn or surfaced.

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Poinsettia Can Bloom Again Next Christmas

EAST LANSING

You love that beautiful poinsettia you got for the holiday season. You want to keep it to flower next year, but how? Michigan State University horticulturist Dr. William H. Carlson offers this timetable for poinsettia care.

Place your poinsettia near a sunny window or other well-lit area. Do not let any part of the plant come in contact with cold window panes. Poinsettias keep longer at temperatures between 60 and 70 degrees. Too high temperatures will shorten the life of the bracts.

Keep poinsettias away from radiators, air registers, open windows and doors. To keep your plant in bloom the maximum length of time, place it in a cooler room at night (55-60 degrees is ideal).

Examine soil daily and water only when the soil is dry to the touch. Always water enough to soak the soil to the bottom of the pot and discard excess water. If you don't water enough, the plant will wilt, and the lower leaves will drop.

If you water excessively, the lower leaves will yellow and then drop. Apply a soluble fertilizer, such as used on house plants, once a month according to the recommendations of the manufacturer.

After the danger of spring frost and when night temperatures exceed 50 degrees, sink the poinsettia pot in the ground to the rim in a well-drained, slightly shaded position.

Cut off the terminal portion of all shoots between July 15 and Aug. 1. These terminal portions can be rooted in a mixture of half peat moss and half sand. They will flower for Christmas, using the same procedure described earlier.

TAKE YOUR poinsettia inside before the first frost. Place the poinsettia in a sunny window as before.

To flower your poinsettia, keep the plant in complete darkness between 5 p.m. and 8 a.m. daily from the end of September until color shows in the bracts (usually mid-December). The temperatures again should remain between 60 or 70 degrees.

So take care now and you'll see your lovely poinsettia again next year!

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