



DAISIES STAY FRESH longer when soda pop and chlorine bleach are added to their drinking water.

Cut Flowers Like Soft Drinks, Too

EAST LANSING There are several things a person can do to extend the vase life of cut flowers, says Dr. William Carpenter, Michigan State University horticulturist.

He offers these tips: The most unusual - but effective - flower preservatives are Sprite and 7-Up. The citric acid and carbonation in the soft drinks control the development of microorganisms that can block water-conducting vessels of rose stems and reduce firmness. Sugar in the soft drinks sustains life.

Carpenter recommends mixing one part water with each part soft drink and adding a half teaspoon of chlorine bleach to each quart of solution. The bleach cuts bacterial growth.

Floral foams, used by retail

florists for improving floral designs and ease of handling, can extend rose vase life as much as two days more than just water. Foams have been developed for various uses, including holding flowers and supplying water, but they also contain chemicals that extend rose life. MSU research is investigating new chemicals that will further extend flower vase life.

Immersing the stems of carnations and roses in a solution containing an experimental chemical (TH 6041) and a floral preservative for 12 to 14 hours can increase vase life 30 to 40 per cent. After that the flowers are put into the floral preservative alone.

The chemical will soon be released for commercial use and the procedure is expected to be widely adopted by commercial flower producers.

Miracle Plant 'Con Men' Sign Of Spring

LANSING Spring time brings the annual warning to home gardeners against the miracle plant con men and the miracle plant racket by Attorney General Frank J. Kelley, Director B. Dale Ball of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Association of Nurserymen.

This warning is emphasized by the increased desire of the public to improve environment and fight air pollution because trees, shrubs and even grass give off needed oxygen and absorb carbon dioxide.

The public is warned against high pressure salesmen and mail order advertisers using fancy names for ordinary shrubs and plants and making exaggerated claims for their plant material.

Beware of glowing word descriptions and faded photographs of climbing vines, peaches, giant climbing strawberries, 1,000 giant roses on a single bush, flowering shade trees that grow roof high in a single year, etc.

"All consumer complaints, including verbal misrepresentations are received by the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office and appropriate action is taken," said Assistant Attorney General Edwin M. Bladen. "It is our experience that purchasers who deal with established local merchants can see what they are buying and are not misled by photographs or lurid verbal pictures."

"One cannot expect to get high quality stock at ridiculously low prices," said Dean F. Lovitt, chief of the plant industry division of the Dept. of Agriculture.

"Purchasers should always demand a certificate of inspection with the stock as their assurance that it has passed inspection for insects and diseases. Local nurserymen usually are familiar with local conditions and the varieties likely to do well in an area, and their advice can be helpful," he said.

There are reliable mail order houses but there is no substitute for the expert service on selection, planting and care of the plant that your local nurseryman can give you," said M.A.N. Exec. Sec. Victor C. Beresford. "He wants to protect your interests so he can continue to serve you. That's why we advise - Ask Your Nurseryman First."

How To Multiply Your Dahlia Crop

EAST LANSING Care to multiply your dahlia crop this summer without any extra cost? According to horticulturists at Michigan State University, several plants can be propagated from a single dormant clump. Just follow these steps:

1. Plant the dormant clump in a box or pail of moist soil. Place the container in a warm location near light with the roots covered but the crown exposed.
2. When the young shoots produce three to four sets of

leaves, cut them off and stick them in a propagating media (sand and soil).

3. Water lightly every day to keep the sand moist.

4. When roots develop, in 10 to 20 days, plant in a protected area in the garden or in pots.

To propagate even more plants, grow an extra crop of cuttings from the cut stumps or divide the roots with one or two buds on each root. Dahlias grow best in hot weather with full sunshine and rich soil.

Lawn Clinic Runs 2 Days

The J. L. Hudson Co. is sponsoring a lawn care clinic on Friday, April 7, and Saturday, April 8 in all its metropolitan Detroit stores. Technical experts from Scotts will be available to answer questions and offer suggestions for a wide variety of lawn care problems.

The schedule for the clinic,

which will be held in the lawn and garden center department, is as follows: April 7, 7 to 9 p.m. in all branch stores and April 8, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., downtown plus all branch stores.

Interested homeowners are invited to bring soil and turf samples for an on-the-spot analysis and recommendations.



To keep birds away from newly planted grass seed, staple narrow, double-folded strips of aluminum foil to a cord or wire and string it around the seeded area. The flashing foil works like a charm in keeping the birds away.

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