

10 Tips On Choosing Colors For The Home

"Color should be the focal point of your room," says interior decorator Elroy Edson. "Whether color is bold or pale or black-and-white, be sure of your preference and stick to it. Don't let a novelty pillow or bright accessory come into your life later just because you like it. It can throw the whole room off. After all, you wouldn't wear a blue dress, blue hat, jewelry, blue handbag."



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Experts Tell How To Prune

EAST LANSING
Your fruit trees need training and pruning to develop and maintain a strong framework for support and fruiting, according to Michigan State University horticulturists.

They advise that the best time for pruning is in late February or March, before the new growth begins.

Remove all dead, broken or diseased branches; drooping branches; and those growing vertically up through the interior of the tree. Make a parallel cut as close to the parent branch as possible. Be careful not to bruise or tear the bark. Where two or more branches are crossed, leave the best one.

Prune your trees lightly, especially young trees. Remove branches with sharp angle of attachment to the trunk and thin out others, spacing them about one foot apart along and around the trunk.

To prune your fruit trees properly, you will need a pair of strong hand shears and a fine-toothed pruning saw. Keep your tools clean and sharp.

For more information, write to the MSU Bulletin Office, P.O. Box 251, East Lansing; or visit your county extension office. Ask for extension folder F-122, "Pruning Young Fruit Trees."

and then add bright yellow shoes just because you happened to like them. Let your wardrobe be your guide."

Edson offers 10 tips for choosing colors for the home. First, analyze the colors that please you and the colors that displease you. Note them on a steno pad or legal notebook, whatever will supply a convenient reference source when you go to shop.

Second, gather every color you can find, from all available sources: fabric swatches, paint charts, magazine pages, etc.

Third, write down exactly what is to be done in the room.

Do you have the entire room to re-coordinate, or are you merely looking for a new wall color, a new rug, upholstery fabric, or drapery? Decide what you

already have that you like and snip swatches (from the underside of the favorite chair, from the hem of the drapery) and attach them to your color notebook.

Fourth, get a color wheel from your local painter dealer and go through it starting with yellows, then greens, blues, purples, reds, oranges, blacks and whites. Make two columns titled "color" and "value."

"You might be amazed," adds Edson, "to discover that you hate pea green, but love olive green; hate baby blue, but love navy blue; hate pink, but love red."

Fifth, narrow the "likes" down to the "values," thinking in terms of colors you could live with on a large scale.

Sixth, remember that dark colors tend to reduce the

visual size of a room (dark at the end of a long narrow room will make it look square; dark on a light ceiling will lower it). Light colors tend to make a room look larger (light walls widen a room; light on a ceiling will heighten it).

Seventh, remember that you can go the one-color route of monochrome, selecting several values from the same color family to create a memorable color scheme.

Eighth, you can mix patterns and prints and colors, harmonizing them to suit the main color. For instance, if you choose an olive green as the dominant, or major room color, consider all other accent colors in relationship to it. They could include crimson and citron, gold and burnt orange, even white and metallic. But...they must relate.

Ninth, don't be swayed by a stuck at the last minute when you may be enticed into buying a chair simply because it is available, only to discover that it doesn't go with your other furnishings.

Finally, decide on ALL room colors, from floor to ceiling, from wall to window, before making any purchase. In this way, you won't be in your home."

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