



COUNTRY-LOOK LIVING room has board and batten fireplace, a rough sawn door and wainscot updated with today's bright colors. The butler's tray cocktail table, the gateleg table and dropleaf table have finishes that resist heat, liquid and alcohol. Furniture is from Pennsylvania House maple collection.

200-Pound Pumpkin In Your Back Yard?

There's something about a pumpkin that makes people happy, and the bigger the pumpkins the happier they seem to make people feel — especially children.

Very few garden accomplishments can match the enjoyment and sense of achievement experienced in growing your very own pumpkin from seed.

Giant pumpkin growing contests are probably more popular today than beauty contests, and the world record stands at 301½ lbs.

The most important consideration in growing a giant pumpkin is to choose the right variety.

The Jack O'Lantern is fine for Halloween displays, and Sugar or New England pumpkins are the best for making pies.

But to grow a really BIG specimen that will be the envy of your neighborhood, the best variety of all is called Big Max. It's available from most color packet displays and seed catalogs this time of year.

Big Max will grow to 200 pounds weight — and more — if you know a few simple pumpkin-growing secrets.

First, a good fertile soil is essential, especially if it is enriched with compost. Second, it must have a sunny location.

Third, it must be kept watered — particularly during dry spells — since it is moisture absorption which increases the pumpkin's weight. Fourth, never allow more than one or two pumpkins to grow on each vine.

As soon as you see a fruit forming, pinch off all other flowers and fruit. This way all the plant's energy is concentrated into making one extra-large fruit.

It's interesting to see a pumpkin grow. The large, easy-to-handle seeds are best planted directly into the garden after danger of frost, and within 10 days two large first-leaves will thrust through the soil.

Daily you will be able to see the young plant make fast growth, creating a lush vine with two kinds of colorful yellow flowers — males and females.

You can tell the female flowers because they have miniature pumpkins ready to be fertilized by pollen from the males.

Pumpkins originated in America, and pumpkin pie was first served to the Pilgrim Fathers at their first Thanksgiving dinner of roast wild turkey and cranberry sauce.

It's a wonderful vegetable. What else has the gift of being good to eat, decorative to look at, fun to grow and the power to make people happy?



PUMPKINS ARE FUN for all ages. This young lady finds much delight in a patch of Big Max pumpkins, the variety to grow when you want the biggest.

Lecture Series Is Free

The Michigan Horticultural Society and Michigan State University Cooperative Extension Service announce the spring "How Does Your Garden Grow?" lecture series.

These free, public service lectures will be on Monday, starting April 23, from noon to 1 p.m. in the Michigan Consolidated Gas Co.'s second floor auditorium, 1 Woodward, Detroit.

Programs will be:

- April 23 - "The Modern Daylily" by Mrs. Margaret Dickson, president of the Southeast Michigan Iris and Hemerocallis Society.
- April 30 - "Drying Flowers for Permanent Bouquets" by Marshall Engle, Greenfield Village.
- May 7 - "Everyone Can Enjoy Colorful Planters (hanging baskets and plant boxes)," by Dr. Lee Taylor, professor of horticulture at MSU.
- May 14 - "Flowers are for You" (annuals), by Gerald Draheim, Wayne County horticultural agent.
- May 21 - "Roses, Queen of the Garden" by Richard Schmidt, vice president of the Detroit Rose Society.
- June 4 - "Pick a Bouquet of Color" (flower arranging) by Mrs. Charles Ellinwood, Florist.
- June 11 - "Easy Does It Gardening" by Mrs. Alice Burlingame, garden writer and educator.

Booklet Tells How To Build Wood Decks

They used to be called "verandas" or "porches." But on today's houses cantilevered on the side of a hill, they are "decks," and they expand outdoor space which may be at a premium on a hillside lot.

There is another type of deck, too. Built at ground level, it is cooler and more resilient than a cement or brick patio.

For the homeowner interested in adding a hillside or low-level deck to his house, the U.S. Agriculture Department has published a 78-page booklet entitled "Construction Guides to Exposed Wood Decks."

Copies are available for 75 cents from Consumer Product Information, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

The book presents information on materials and how to protect them, recommendations to help in designing decks, rules for construction and a step-by-step procedure for building the deck.

The majority of the book contains specific information to help you during actual construction. Diagrams and text points out ways to make a safe, long-lasting deck which will give pleasure with a minimum of upkeep.

Before you make any firm plans for your deck, check the local building codes. They may have an effect on the design you choose.

The weather can also have a bearing on the type of wood you use. If the area is wet, a wood such as western red cedar, cypress or redwood, which has a high resistance to decay, is recommended. In dryer areas, you are probably safe in using a

wood which is cheaper or easier to work. And a variety of woods should be considered for different uses — posts, joists, floors and railings.

The booklet gives examples of good and bad techniques for all operations in building the deck. Safety is stressed. For instance, considerable information is given on building steps to insure strength and ease of use.

"Construction Guide for Exposed Wood Decks" is one of about 200 federal publications of consumer interest listed in the "Consumer Product Information Index." Produced by the General Services Administration's Consumer Product Information Center, the index is available free from Consumer Product Information, Pueblo, Colo. 81009.

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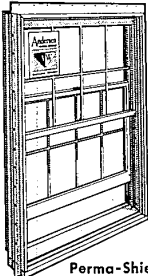
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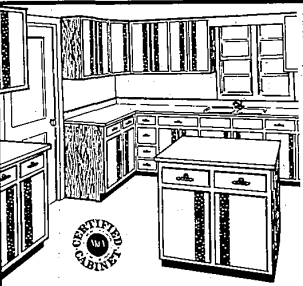
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