

Home Improvement Guide For '65

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Covering Home

Aging and weathering of exterior surfaces often occur when a house still remains structurally sound. This soundness can easily be retained by covering the house with a portland cement masonry coating on a metal lath base to create a brand new facade.

A great variety of finishes is available. For instance, marble or granite chips may be troweled on to provide a choice of textures and colors.

Metal lath makes it possible to use this technique over a variety of materials such as wood siding, brick, cinderblock and concrete, resulting in a new exterior with any desired color. Due to the versatility of metal lath, shapes may be changed at the same time.

Timely Tips on

GARDENING

By Betty Frankel

Early-Blooming Shrubs

Sunny yellow bell-shaped blossoms stud the branches of Forsythia heralding the arrival of the gardening season. There is at least one of these shrubs brightening nearly every yard in the community. In addition to the commonly seen deep yellow Forsythia with its upright branches, there is also a weeping form with long sweeping branches that arch into a veritable fountain of bloom. Lynwood Gold is a relatively new variety that is upright in form and has large golden yellow flowers. Spring Glory is another new variety that has masses of lovely pale yellow flowers.

Abeliophyllum Distichum is an interesting shrub from Korea that looks like a white Forsythia. It grows three to four feet tall and has sweet-scented white flowers shaped like the yellow bells of Forsythia. This is a hardy shrub that should grow well in this area.

FLOWERING QUINCE or Cydonia are the most brilliant of the early blooming shrubs. Colors include coral, salmon, vermilion, flame, and crimson red as well as pure white. There are dwarf forms that remain under three feet in height and tall forms that reach eight feet. They are beautiful in the garden and they are easy to force into bloom indoors and are especially lovely in Japanese-type arrangements.

Daphne cneorum, the garden flower, is a lovely little shrub with evergreen foliage and sweet scented pink flowers that open very early in Spring. It forms a low spreading mound and is good as an edging plant.

Maionia is another evergreen with conspicuous Spring flowers. It has clusters of bright yellow blossoms that are followed by blue berries that resemble wild grapes. Because of the fruit and the holly-like leaves this shrub is known as Oregon grape holly.

MANY OF THE EARLY blooming shrubs have delicately tinted flowers that add an airy charm to the Spring garden. Included among these are the pearl bush, arguta spires, flowering almond, flowering cherries, flowering peach, crab apples, viburnum Carlesii, heaths, and pussy willow.

REMINERS Plant trees and shrubs as soon as possible. Spring is the time to plant fruit trees and all broad-leaf evergreens. ... Feed lawns if it has not yet been done. Seed lawns as soon as possible. ... Plant seeds of hardy annuals and vegetables, but wait a few weeks before seeding the tender plants.

Attic Fan Aids Home Comfort At Lower Cost

For a relatively small investment, a modern attic fan will take the summer out of summer for your home.

Although an attic fan will not, of course, provide all the comfort of air conditioning, it can cool your entire home to the same temperature as that outside.

The modern attic fan can be equipped with a reverse acting thermostat that turns the fan on when it's hot and shuts it off when there is a temperature drop, a timer or, in some cases, electrically operated exhaust louvers.

In this kind of installation, the fan "air washes" the attic during the day, pulling out hot, stagnant air, and then pulls fresh, cool outside air through your home at night. The fan's speed can be easily regulated from a centrally mounted control.

Wallpaper Sets Mood

Redecorating a room is something that very often is postponed — perhaps we can't make up our minds. A change would be nice — but a change to what?

The best way to plan a change of a single room or of the whole house is to decide just what effect you want to achieve.

Coming down to cases, consider what you have that you really want to keep, then think about exactly the right background for it. Wallpaper can set the mood and add importance to the effect.

If you have formal traditional furniture, such as Louis XV or XVI, you should consider flocked papers, medallions, panels, chinoiserie, stripes, and beautiful florals.

If your furniture is Chippendale, Hepplewhite or Sheraton — or an adaptation of any of the 18th century English traditional — these types of paper are also suitable, although less ornate patterns go with the simplicity of line usual in this period.

Formal Colonial furniture looks well against florals, lion-on-tone stripes, geometrics and small chintz patterns.

A finely textured paper may be used as a background for all formal (and much casual) furniture. There are excellent simulations of silks in moire and shantung designs, as well as grasscloth effects.

Provincial furniture — American, French and Italian — looks happiest against simple backgrounds, such as toile de jockey type of pictorial design printed in shades of one color; a small calico or geometric pattern; a chintz effect or an all-over trellis.

Sometimes a plaid can be extremely effective with country furniture. If you don't want a pattern, textured papers are attractive. Some look like a fabric tweed, burlap, linen, birdseye — some like wood paneling. Still others are embossed in a wide variety of designs.

With modern furniture, textures and small geometrics or abstracts are safe. However, a bold design can add warmth and life to a room furnished with the rather stark lines of modern. Oriental themes or scenes offer dramatic focal points used on one wall, with plain companion paper on the others.

When you have decided on the color and type, think about what needs to be done to change or emphasize the proportions of your room. Wallpaper can do a lot of things.

If your problem is a ceiling that is too high, consider using a dark color on it, with side walls papered in an all-over design or a horizontal pattern. A contrasting dado at the floor level can also help to adjust the size of a room that seems too tall.

Today there are many decorative wallpaper borders which can be used under the ceiling in the traditional way.

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AN ADDITION ????



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