

Enterprise Home Improvement

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Popularity Higher, Costs Lower for Home Pools

Increasing interest in water sports activity and new emphasis on physical fitness, together with lower costs for speedier installations, are swelling the rising tide of private-home ownership of swimming pools. Since the home owner who installs a backyard pool does so with a view to lifetime enjoyment for himself and his family, it well behooves him to become thoroughly familiar with every aspect of pool ownership before making his final decision. Although costs have become substantially lower in late years, a swimming pool still is a sizeable as well as a permanent investment.

Size and shape of pool and kind of pool construction are vital factors. Very often, these will depend on the size and shape of the property where the pool is to be installed. Another consideration is the principal purpose for which the pool will be used — or, in action or relaxing the chief reason for having a pool?

Easy Paint Plans With These Tips

When a can of paint is being stirred by an electric drill with a paint mixing attachment, pre-erect spatter by making a temporary lid of heavy cardboard. Push mixing rod through hole

punched in cardboard. Spinning the handle of a paint brush between the hands after cleaning will remove excess solvent or thinner effectively.

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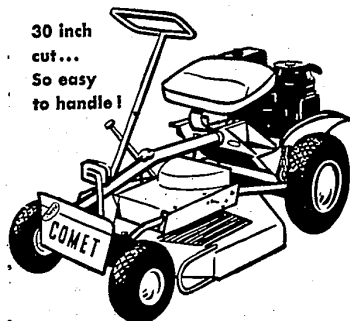


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Tips on Gardening

By Betty Frankel

GOLDEN CHAIN

The golden chain, or laburnum, is the most elegant plant now flowering in the Farmington area. It is a rather ordinary-looking small tree that is transformed at this season into a gorgeous spectacle. It is as though a fairy godmother waved a magic wand that changed the plain little tree into a dazzling show stopper.

The branches are hung with long pendulous clusters of deep golden-yellow flowers, similar to those of wisteria. It is one of the most beautiful and graceful of trees when it is in bloom and makes an unforgettable picture when combined with yellow iris, lemon lilies, yellow pansies or other yellow flowers.

THE GOLDEN CHAIN is a member of the pea family and the flowers have the intricate form typical of members of that family, with wings and keel. The leaves are like large three-leaf clovers. At this season they are thin and tender and a soft shade of green. Later they become dark green and leathery-looking. The bark is smooth and bright green, providing a note of interest when the tree is not in bloom. Laburnums are native to Europe and have long been cultivated there as ornamental trees. They were brought to this country by the early colonists and the "beane trefoyle," as it was then known, was a prized plant in colonial gardens.

SEVERAL VARIETIES are cultivated. The common laburnum is L. vulgare. The Scotch or alpine laburnum is L. alpinum and is somewhat more vigorous than the former. Hybrids of these two have been created that flower very tree-

ly and have long racemes of bloom. L. Vossii is a common-ly available hybrid with flower clusters over a foot in length.

There is also a weeping form with trailing branches, a form with short upright flower clusters, one with curled leaves and one with oak-like leaves. A curious variety has flowers of three hues on the same plant. Some clusters are yellow, some purple, and some brickred.

Although widely grown, the plants are poisonous. The roots, which taste like licorice, have been known to be fatal to cattle, although rabbits are able to eat the bark without suffering harmful effects. The seeds and shoots are highly poisonous and small children should be guarded against eating them.

THE HEART-WOOD of golden chain is a dark reddish-brown that is hard and durable and takes a good polish. It is prized in Europe by cabinet makers especially for inlay work. Laburnum is a sturdy tree that is relatively free from damage by insects and other pests. It is said to live one hundred years or more. Although it will grow in full sun, it thrives on the north side of buildings and in the semi-shade beneath taller trees. Ordinary garden soil is satisfactory, and the addition of bone-meal or lime is beneficial.

REMEMBERS: Spray roses regularly with an all-purpose preparation that

will control aphids and other insects, and fungus diseases such as black spot, rust, and mildew. Feed roses for bigger bloom and healthier plants.

Plant tender flower and vegetable seeds and plants. Plant bulbs of gladioli, calladium, canna, dahlias, and tuberous begonias. House plants will benefit from spending the summer on a porch or in a protected part of the garden. To protect delphinium from stem rot and other diseases apply bordeaux mixture. To control leaf spot on rhododendron spray with ferbam.

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Take Steps To Insure Safe Pool

Here are some safety tips for the pool owner. Post them in the area and see that family and guests follow them.

Make sure that an adult is always present whenever children get "in the swim." Let it be known that neighborhood youngsters will not be permitted use of pool unless accompanied by an adult.

Keep swimmers out of the pool for at least an hour after eating.

Erect a high fence around the pool and keep the gate

locked whenever the pool is not in use. (This is required by law in some communities.) Have a life preserver handy at all times.

If you plan night swimming, provide electric lights in the pool area.

When swim season ends, cover your pool with a plastic or canvas top strong enough to support anyone who might fall or step onto it. If you remove the cover for ice skating, see that it's replaced when the weather turns warmer.

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