

Timely Tips on GARDENING

By Betty Frankel

Willows are the brightest spot in the landscape, now with their gleaming golden branches veiled in fresh, tender green. They are among the first trees to leaf out and their clear, bright leaves are a Spring overture.

There are many kinds of willows ranging from the stately weeping willows and huge white willows to dwarf forms that creep and crawl along the ground. In between can be found all sizes of shrubs and trees, a multitude of forms, and a wide range of bark and twig colors. All have long, narrow leaves and in all species the cut branches have the ability to root readily.

The willow seen most commonly along streams is the weeping willow which grows up to 25 feet tall and develops an enormous trunk. The golden osier, as this tree is often called, is a native of Europe and Asia which has made itself quite at home here.

The weeping willow (*Salix babylonica*) is a Chinese tree that has found much favor in the Western world because of its graceful shape and long, trailing branches with their fine-textured, narrow leaves. There is a variety noted for the bright golden color of the young shoots. The Wisconsin willow and the Thurlow willow are hardier varieties that have elegant graceful forms.

A curious and interesting tree is the cork-screw willow (*Salix Matsudana*). This unusual, small tree has branches and twigs which are twisted and coiled into a loose spiral. It makes a decorative specimen plant. The Japanese Fan-tail willow is another form with twisted branches. The branches of this tree make unusually fine material for Japanese-style or contemporary flower arrangements.

The native pussy willow (*S. discolor*), and the gray willow (*S. cinerea*) are admired for their silky gray "pusties" which creep along the branches before the leaves come out. These "pusties," or catkins, are the male flowers. As they develop they become fuzzy and covered with yellow pollen. The female flowers, born on separate plants, are smaller, less furry and less attractive. The pussy willows can be grown either as large shrubs or, as small trees 10 to 20 feet tall.

The dwarf blue-leaf arctic willow reaches about three feet in height. It is a good fine-textured plant and can be left natural or clipped for a more formal effect.

In all there are over 300 species of willows and many hybrids. Only a few of these are decorative enough for ornamental planting. They can be very effective and attractive in the right spot but they should be used with discretion. The large trees are not suitable for small yards, but can be beautiful on large properties, especially when located near a stream or pond. They can be planted along banks of streams to prevent erosion. They do well in damp places and many will grow in marshy ground.

In addition to their use in ornamental plantings, willows are of considerable economic importance. Because of the toughness and flexibility of the willow twigs they are suitable for making into baskets and there are places where willows are raised for this purpose.

The wood, which is soft and very light weight, becomes tough when seasoned and is used for many things including furniture, wooden shoes, bats, and a type of charcoal used in making gunpowder. The bark yields salicylic acid used in medicine, tannin and some unfading dyes.

REMEMBERS

Plant trees and shrubs . . . Sow seeds of hardy vegetables . . . Feed lawns, trees shrubs . . . Use dormant sprays on fruit trees before they bud out . . . Have elms sprayed to prevent Dutch Elm disease . . . Use pre-emergent crab grass controls.



A NEW DIABETIC. Larry Beno (at right) learns the art of giving a hypodermic injection from Mrs. Dorine Kramp, registered nurse at Botsford General Hospital. Mrs. Kramp, with Mrs. Florence Meiers, a dietician, will conduct a series of five classes for diabetics and their families beginning at 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 18. A student at Dunckel Junior High, Larry is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence G. Beno, of 26189 Hidden Valley Drive.

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U-M Honors Local Students

Seventeen Farmington students at the University of Michigan were recently cited for academic achievement.

Marcella E. Neal and John W. Burch were named Angell Scholars for maintaining straight A grades for two or more consecutive terms.

The other honor students include Lawrence N. August, James R. Dulio, David W. Cornwell, Daria T. Chajes and Ellen L. Berger.

More are Dorothy L. Bean, Norman C. Otto, Gregory W. Rourke, Judith M. Scott, Cheryl B. August, June E. Bagdade, Karen D. Zaleski, Linda S. Macounovich and Thomas L. Larry.

Miss Turley On 'Adelines' Board

Miss Jill Turley, of 32555 Grand River, has been elected to a two-year term on the board of directors of the S.O.C. Suburbanette Chapter of Sweet Adelines, Inc.

Miss Turley sings baritone with the S.O.C. chorus, which won first place in a regional barbershop singing competition a week ago in Lansing.

Medical Research Labs Put Heart Into Work

Development of an artificial heart, a vaccine to prevent rheumatic fever, heart transplants working on the same principle as the eye banks. . . . These are a few of the potential milestones in the country's rapidly progressing heart research effort.

In laboratories across the country, experiments with animals are yielding results which support a conclusion that we may be at the threshold of eradicating many forms of heart disease, the cause of an estimated 34 percent of U.S. deaths each year. Here are some recent examples of laboratory animal research which have scientists hopeful:

At the University of Chicago, scientists have come up with a vaccine found to be safe and effective in extensive tests with mice, rabbits and guinea pigs against the common type of streptococcal infection (strep throat). Streptococci are the common cause of rheumatic fever in children. The researchers, Dr. Eugene N. Fox, Mrs. M. K. Wintner and Dr. Albert Dorfman, have successfully tested their vaccine on nearly 50 adults, and further testing, particularly on infants, will be carried out to conclusively.

Kendallarks Sing For Fete

Farmington's women's singing group, the Kendallarks, performed at a dinner party given by the Livonia Fawns, on April 5 at McGuire's. The many popular numbers, including "Dolly" and "Climb Every Mountain" were well received by the audience. Several individual small acts were also presented. The chorus will be performing at Presbyterian Village on May 4.

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Miracle Plants--'Racket'

LANSING—"Don't be a victim of the miracle plant racket" is the Springtime warning sounded by Attorney General Frank J. Kelley, Director B. Dale Ball of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and the Michigan Association of Nurserymen.

Home gardeners are 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 vine peaches, giant climbing strawberries, 1,000 giant red roses on a single bush (unknown to horticulturists), flowering shade trees that grow root high in a single year, including the "Flowering Maple" that turns out to be the common silver maple with most inconspicuous blooms, etc., they advise.

"All consumer complaints, including verbal misrepresentations are reviewed by the Consumer Protection Division of the Attorney General's office and appropriate action is taken," said Assistant Attorney General Stanley D. Steinborn. "It is our experience that purchases made with cash in an area, and their advice can be helpful," he said.

"There are some reliable mail order houses but there is no substitute for the expert service on selection, planning and care of the plant that your local nurseryman can give you," said M.A.N. Executive Secretary 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."

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Books Sought For Women's Press Fund

Donations of books, paper back and hard cover, are being sought in Farmington by members of Theta Sigma Phi, national professional society for women in communications.

The books will be sold at the society's annual Book Fair to be held May 16 at the Detroit Press Club, First and Howard.

Books may be left at the home of Mrs. J. D. Silson of 2889 Beconville.

Proceeds of the fair are earmarked for the Lucy Corbett scholarship fund to assist deserving young women journalists to complete their educations.

OES 239 To Host Fry Here

The public is invited to attend a Hassberger Fish Fry sponsored by the Order of Eastern Star Chapter No. 239 on April 15, at the Farmington Masonic Temple.

Harry Hassberger has been well known throughout this area for years for the delicious fish dinners he prepares for fraternal organizations such as the Order of Eastern Star, Masonic Lodges, Job's Daughters and Rainbow for Girls.

Worthy Matron Lucile Hargrave announced that dinner will be served at 5 p.m. and everyone may enjoy "all they can eat."

Library Friends Present Talks

The Farmington Friends of the Library in conjunction with the Library Board are presenting short talks to area organizations explaining the plans for library expansion which will be voted on in May.

George DuGan, president of the Friends of the Library, hopes to present this information to all Farmington Township voters. To make arrangements for a speaker contact Librarian, Mrs. Mildred Droegge.

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