

MSU Study Forecasts Floriculture Growth

Michigan consumers are spending more for flowers and landscaping than ever before and will continue to do so.

That's one of the predictions from Project 80 & 5, a study undertaken at Michigan State University to shed some light on what Michigan will be like in 1985 and beyond. The forecast will be used by rural and suburban leaders as a guide in long-range planning.

The value of Michigan's floriculture industry is about \$20 million, up more than \$2 million from 1964, and is continuing to grow, says William H. Carlson, MSU

horticulturist and Project 80 & 5 participant.

Citizens are generally concerned about the environment, and they are buying more foliage plants and flowers for their homes, Carlson explains. Higher incomes make it possible to buy more cut flowers for everyday use.

The study forecasts that funeral flowers will represent a smaller portion of retail sales in 1985. But other areas will be greatly expanded.

ALREADY, many retail stores operate flower stands

at shopping malls or in conjunction with chain stores. The present average of one retail florist per 10,000 people should remain about the same.

In the future we may have assembly-line flower arrangements, made up by the producer or wholesaler and sold to chain outlets or retailers.

The study also predicts larger, more mechanized operations. Automatic watering, soil filling and material handling systems will require florists to be skilled in electronics and plumbing.

Sales of Michigan-grown cut roses will remain stable, but the market for cut chrysanthemums will decline. Michigan growers of cut flowers may have to act as wholesalers as well as growers, because of competition from other states and Canada.



COTTONS IN UNISON -- Coordinated home furnishings take the guesswork out of decorating. Readymade draperies in easy care cotton create an airy look in a softened geometric fretwork design which is repeated in decorative pillows and wallpaper. Colors are keyed for easy coordination with furniture and accessories.

Fire Hazards Up In Cold Weather

"Fire Prevention Week is a special time for all of us to take extra measures to guard against fires and their hazards," says Don Costa, safety director. "Last year, more than 12,000 people died in fires across the nation. Many victims would be alive today if it weren't for carelessness."

The best way to keep from getting burned is to keep the fire from ever starting. The safety director offers these

few precautions to help a family guard against the hazards of a fire.

1. Have furnace or home heating unit or stove checked periodically by a qualified tradesman. Faulty heating and cooking equipment are responsible for nearly 25 percent of all fires.



2. For a fireplace, use a protective screen to keep sparks from flying onto rugs and furniture. The chimney should be checked for cracks and loose bricks.

3. Careless smoking accounts for nearly 20 percent of all fires. Never, under any circumstances, smoke in bed. Be sure there are plenty of ash trays around that are large enough to keep smoking materials from falling out. Never empty an ash tray into a waste basket and never leave a room where smoking materials are still burning.

4. Faulty electrical wiring and the overloading of wall plugs and extension cords are also fire hazards. Wiring in many homes today is inadequate for modern living. New appliances such as air conditioners can overload a circuit. Have an electrician check the electrical system before installing items that use a lot of power. Always replace worn or frayed electrical cords immediately, as well as broken plugs. Never string extension cords over nails or under rugs.

5. Keep basements, attics and closets free of oily rags, rubbish and flammable liquids. Empty trash daily...in metal cans stored away from the house. Get rid of unnecessary items that burn easily such as old clothes and newspapers.

6. Keep matches and flammable liquids away from children.

Tree, Shrub Planting Is Series Topic

The Michigan Horticultural Society will present another in its fall series of "How Does Your Garden Grow?" lectures at 12 noon to 1 p.m. Monday, Oct. 16, at J.L. Hudson Company's downtown store.

The topic will be "Planting Trees, Shrubs and Evergreens," by Gordon Dennis, district extension horticultural agent for southeastern Michigan from Michigan State University. The lecture will be held in the third floor sewing room.

Planting procedures will be discussed in detail, with some discussion on proper selection and care, along with the best time to plant different trees, shrubs and evergreens. There is no charge for the lecture.

Garden Machinery Needs Winterizing

Take a few steps to winterize your lawn mower, garden tiller and other small engine machines before putting them into storage, advises Michigan State University agricultural engineer Howard Doss.

Drain the fuel tank outdoors in a well-ventilated area. Avoid smoking and other fire hazards. To drain fuel, either disconnect the hose from the fuel tank or open the drain plug in the carburetor, depending on the type of engine. Pour the fuel into a gas can and move the machine to another area.

To clear fuel from the carburetor and fuel line, start the engine. When the machine begins to sputter, operate the choke. This helps drain the carburetor.

If you have adequate tools and are familiar with the engine, remove the carburetor

bow, wipe it thoroughly clean with a clean cloth and replace oil. This prevents gum deposits and residues from evaporating gas that could clog parts.

REMOVE the spark plug and insert one teaspoon of SAE 10W lubricating oil into the cylinder. Hand rotate the engine several times to distribute the oil and prevent rust on the cylinder wall.

Stop the piston at the outermost point of its stroke. This covers the inside volume of the cylinder with the piston, allowing no space for moisture to collect and cause rust.

Before replacing the spark plug, clean and check the spark plug gap. Find information about what the gap should be on the nameplate of the motor. Also check the nameplate for the type of oil required. Drain and replace engine oil if it is a four-cycle engine.

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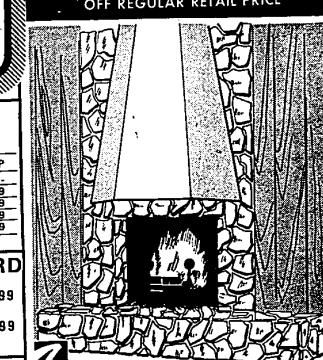
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