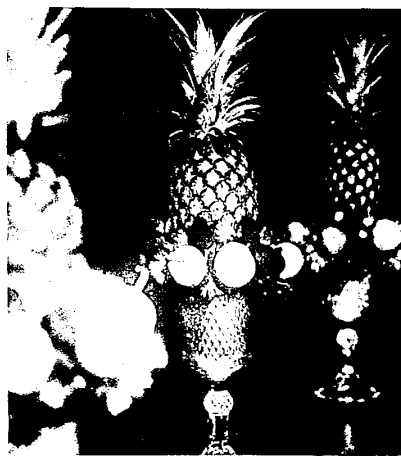


# Home & Garden

## Pineapple expresses hospitality



FRUIT AND FLOWERS combine for an elegant Thanksgiving mantle arrangement. Pom-pom and smaller yellow chrysanthemums complement the pineapple and graceful bunches of pale yellow grapes.



THE PINEAPPLE, symbol of hospitality, makes a striking table decoration when combined with fruit and flowers.

Bejeweled with flowers and set on a pedestal, a pineapple makes an eye-catching centerpiece that says, "Welcome, guests."

Flowers and pineapples, both symbols of hospitality, make a particularly appropriate holiday decoration when combined. With its elegant silhouette and natural materials, this centerpiece will look equally inviting on a modern glass table or an antique buffet.

To assemble the centerpiece you will need: a glass flower vase with a

Begin by filling the vase with florists' foam, then place the pineapple in the vase, anchoring it firmly with toothpicks, or with a kitchen skewer.

Arrange small green apples in a ring around the base of the pineapple, stems out, anchoring firmly with toothpicks.

Fasten two or three small clusters of grapes between the apples, allowing them to hang gracefully over the rim of the vase.

TO COMPLETE the centerpiece, arrange flowers in a circle around the

pineapple, forming a wreath just above the fruit.

Place each flower individually, trimming the stem to 1 1/2 to two inches and secure the flower to the pineapple with a toothpick through the stem.

For a hard-to-place flower, try winding a short length of wire around the toothpick and flower stem before inserting in the centerpiece.

This arrangement is especially dramatic when done in triplicate. It is a festive complement to any holiday buffet setting.

## Evergreens: Mulch or cultivate?


Should evergreens planted in the fall be cultivated or mulched around the base?

It's a good idea to mulch all newly-planted evergreens. Water them good, then apply your mulch of sawdust, wood chips, leaf mold or compost, or whatever material you have on hand.

Some people like the cultivated look around the base of evergreens, but loosening the soil can disturb the roots and do more harm than good.

Never let evergreens go into the winter with dry soil. On sunny days of winter, the sun causes the plants to give off water. If none is available in the soil, moisture is lost from the foliage and that's why many evergreens are brown by the time spring rolls around.

EVERGREENS such as pyramidal arborvitae and Scotch pine turn a rusty brown and lose their foliage. At this time of year, it's only normal



### The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

shedding and is nothing to worry about. Sometimes drought and poor soils will cause premature shedding.

When evergreens turn brown all over, inside and outside, then you can be pretty sure that it's not normal. The plants are dying from one of many possible causes, such as lack of fibrous root system, (after being dug), planted at the wrong season, lack of moisture in soil or perhaps insect injury, such as ants forming tunnels around the base of the plants.

IT IS EASY to grow edible mushrooms in your cellar.

It's not as simple as it sounds, although it is possible and many gardeners do it each year.

You use composted manure packed in six-inch boxes. Buy pure culture spores from your seed house, and inoculate the soil by sprinkling over the material. Then cover lightly with rot-

ted manure or compost, keeping the surface moist.

Grow in a temperature of 55 to 60 degrees. You can buy prepared flats or boxes of compost with the spawn already planted.

Don't expect to get rich on the project, but you can have a lot of fun.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "We raised several bushels of potatoes this year. How should they be stored?"

Answer: Keep them in a cool cellar, in burlap sacks or slat crates, rather than in solid boxes. Do not let light reach them as it causes green skins. Greened potatoes are poisonous and should not be eaten.

GREEN THUMB BONUS: Having trouble with your African violets? Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my bulletin, "How to Raise African Violets for Year-Round Beauty."

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