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Dr. D.W. Schiff
& Dr. K.J. Kulinsky
Optometrists

How gardeners can cut damage from winter

The frost is on the pumpkin and that means garden cleanup time in Michigan Horticulturists at Michigan State University suggest the following lawn and garden chores are timely

•Control insects that may have infested your houseplants while they were outdoors.

•Pot bulbs for indoor forcing this month Bury them outdoors or place them in a root cellar or refrigerator for several weeks before bringing them inside

•Fertilize actively growing houseplants

•Mulch young trees and shrubs with well rotted manure, leaves, wood chips or peat moss.

•Water evergreens thoroughly before the ground freezes They will lose water from their leaves or needles during the winter and may be severely damaged if they start the season too dry

•Plant or transplant deciduous trees and shrubs after their leaves have fallen. Mulch and water thoroughly Support large trees by staking

•Trim trees and shrubs of dead or broken branches

•Do not prune spring-flowering shrubs now You'll be trimming off next spring's flower buds. Wait until after they have blossomed.

•Cut back ground covers that have overgrown sidewalks, drives or patios

•Protect young fruit trees and ornamentals against winter rodent damage

•A cylinder of hardware cloth placed around the trunks will keep rabbits and other rodents from stripping off the tender bark, but it must extend 1½ to two feet above the snow level to be effective

•Gather black walnut, hickory and butternuts.

•Collect milkweed pods, meadow grasses and dried weed seed heads for dry flower arrangements

•Harvest vegetable crops and store, can or freeze them for winter enjoyment

•Clean all plant refuse from the vegetable garden Plow under organic matter or fertilizer or plant a fall cover crop of rye as a "green manure" for next year's garden.

•Mulch strawberries and raspberries.

•Rake and destroy fallen leaves and fruit of ornamental crabapples and apple trees to reduce carryover of this year's insect and disease problems

•Rake the leaves off your lawn regularly to keep them from matting and injuring the turf. Chop them up and add them to the compost pile or bag

•Keep mowing the lawn as long as the grass keeps growing

•Remove the dead tops of flowering perennials

•Clean dead or dying annuals from flower beds and borders.

•Dig dahlias, cannas, caladiums and tuberous begonias after frost has killed the foliage Dry the bulbs for several days and then store them in dry sand or vermiculite at temperatures between 45 and 50 degrees farenheit

•Plant tulips and other spring flowering bulbs after cool weather has set in but before the ground has frozen

•Winterize roses

•Clean up all dead iris foliage and destroy iris plants severely damaged by insects or disease

•Plant or transplant peonies and other spring flowering perennials

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What's in a face?

What's in a child's face? Possibly an important key to relationships with his or her parents and other adults, say two Michigan State University behavioral scientists

Because they believe that physical appearance has a lot to do with the way adults behave toward children, Dr. Hiran Fitzgerald, psychology professor and doctoral candidate Katherine Hildebrandt are scientifically studying infant attractiveness.

Although we are told "beauty is only skin deep," "don't judge a book by its cover" and "look below the surface" when evaluating someone, Dr. Fitzgerald claims physical appearance has a very powerful effect on the way people act

"Teachers," he said, "tend to expect more from attractive students and to punish them less than unattractive students

"Physically attractive adults tend to be more highly thought of than unattractive adults," he added "and appearance can also affect the way juries regard people on trial."

Parent infant relationships may also be influenced by a child's attractiveness or "cuteness," Dr. Fitzgerald said with cuter children possibly gaining more and better attention

"Preferential behavior could produce long-term effects on a child and may account for many of the differences frequently observed between siblings."

During their early experiments using student volunteers who viewed a collection of baby pictures, the baby's cuteness "like beauty, is in the eye of the beholder."

Forty students were shown a collection of six pictures and asked to rank them in order of cuteness. No two students produced the same order of rankings Fitzgerald and Hildebrandt reported

While the students were looking over the baby photos, the psychologists were watching the students and recording some interesting reactions.

Almost all of the babies drew smiles from the students Dr. Fitzgerald explained "and women smiled much more than men, but the amount of smiling had nothing to do with the cuteness rating of a particular baby

"Smiling seems to be a general reaction of adults towards all babies, regardless of how cute they are" Ms Hildebrandt explained "The big difference cuteness makes is in the length of time adults spend looking at the baby

"Cute babies are looked at longer than babies that are regarded as not so cute"

The simple act of gazing into a child's face may have powerful effects on the child's relationships with its parents she added

Other researchers have speculated that mother-child eye contact is a powerful stimulus for turning on a mother's caretaking behaviors Dr. Fitzgerald said

If that turns out to be true," he theorized "cuter children may develop faster and stronger bonds with their parents because their parents spend more time looking at them."

What is it about a particular baby that makes him or her cute? The researchers are not sure yet, but their experiments are beginning to focus in on a few critical factors

A baby's age and sex are important factors, Ms Hildebrandt explained.

The baby's facial expression and features are also important to the way adults react to children

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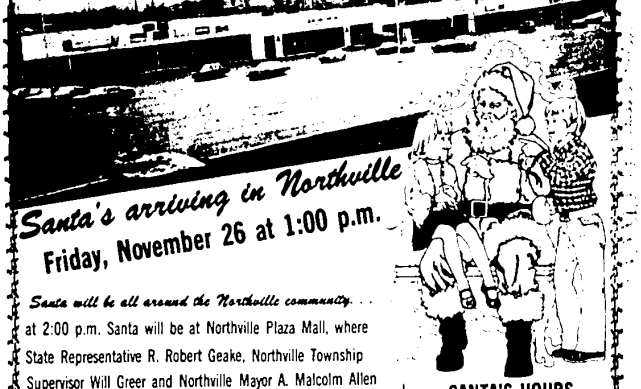
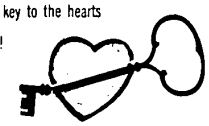


Santa's arriving in Northville
Friday, November 26 at 1:00 p.m.

Santa will be all around the Northville community...
at 2:00 p.m. Santa will be at Northville Plaza Mall, where State Representative R. Robert Geake, Northville Township Supervisor Will Greer and Northville Mayor A. Malcolm Allen will present him with the key to the hearts of children young and old!
Ann Roy, president of the Northville Area Chamber of Commerce, Chamber board members and members of the Northville Township Board will also be present to greet the jolly fat man.



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