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Suburban Gardener Start New Evergreens Labor Day Weekend

By BETTY FRANKEL Special Writer

Labor Day weekend is pivotal on which the seasons swing. No longer is it summer, although it's not quite fall, either. This weekend marks the beginning of the fall gardening season and is an excellent time to plant evergreens.

Fresh stock is arriving in local nurseries, and there is a tempting array of old standbys and interesting new varieties. It pays to take a look at some of the new introductions. Some of them can function in ways that the older varieties couldn't.

There are also numerous older varieties that are less common and all the charm of a novelty.

There ARE many places where the popular spreading Japanese yew (Taxus cuspidata) and Pfitzer's juniper (Juniperus chinensis pfitzeriana) are the best possible choices.

The latter is a fine choice for a sunny location where a broad spreading evergreen with fine light green foliage is desired.

Lots of houses these days come equipped with a paved patio off the kitchen or family room. Often the patio is just too small to be used.

Adding a wood deck alongside is an easy way to expand the patio and perk up the design as well. If the land is more-or-less level, the whole thing can be built of 2 by 4s on an eight-foot-square module.

It is a robust shrub that can get 10 feet tall and even wider but that takes kindly to pruning so it can be kept a smaller size or even used as a clipped hedge.

THE JAPANESE yews have the darkest green needles of all the evergreens and are among the most striking of all.

They tolerate a wide variety of soil conditions and also considerable shade. They can be clipped and shaped so they are perfect for hedges and specimen plants as well as for soil foundation foliage.

There are numerous varieties that show a wide size range. The smallest is T. cuspidata minima, which is only eight inches tall and has a spread of eight inches.

Perhaps more useful is T. cuspidata densa, which has an ultimate height of four feet and a spread of eight feet. The

variety expands has a vase shape five feet high, and the variety thuyana is a rectangular shape eight feet tall and up to 16 feet in width. There are also Japanese yews that grow into small trees twenty feet tall and rather conical in form.

OTHER GOOD varieties of yews are hybrid.

Brown's yew is a fine, dense plant with a naturally conical form, but can be pruned into a symmetrical globe. Halfsize yew has a pyramidal shape and is very popular. Hicks yew is columnar and is often used for formal accents or for small hedges.

If you are looking for a special accent plant you might consider a Sargent yew hemlock Tsuga canadensis pendula. It is a graceful plant with drooping branches and fine foliage. Although it has the potential for

growing into a large tree, it can be kept a few feet tall by pruning and soon becomes variety time as wide as it is high.

Another interesting evergreen is the Hinko yew (Chamaecyparis) which has scabrid foliage and a rather oriental appearance. This species grows too rapidly and becomes too large to be used in a foundation planting although it is a good specimen plant. There are several compact varieties that stay small enough for foundation use.

THE DAWN REDWOOD is a fascinating tree that sheds needles like an evergreen but sheds them every winter. It was discovered in China in 1945, but prior to that was known only as a fossil.

It grows best in moist soil and soon becomes a large tree with a pyramidal form, mak-

ing it suitable only for a specimen tree.

Among the numerous spruces, one of the most outstanding is the dwarf Alberta spruce (Picea glauca contorta) which has light, dense foliage and an upright conical form. It grows so slowly that a 40-year-old specimen is less than 10 feet tall.

There are pines, such as the Japanese red umbrella pine (Pinus densiflora unbraculifera) that have a conical, weather-beaten look, and there are pines that grow tall and slim and others are broad and bushy.

These are but a few of the many evergreens that are available. Whether you need a creeping ground cover, a low spreader, a tall screen, or a distinctive accent plant there are numerous evergreens to choose from. Decide what form and texture are needed and then find the plant that fits.



THE APPOINTMENT OF William R. Lowes as the head of City National Bank of Detroit's receivable finance department was announced by John H. French Jr., president. Lowes replaces Max W. Camp who retired. Lowes and his wife, Dorothy, live on Barkley Avenue in Livonia.

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