

Greenhouse gardening

Indoor plants deserve your attention

During July I realize how my outdoor garden complements the greenhouse and how my efforts in the greenhouse are enhanced by the outdoor garden.

The bulbs, seeds and tubes that were started in the greenhouse months ago are flourishing in the flower beds while other outdoor plants will soon have cuttings made from them for the winter greenhouse. The greenhouse can exist without the garden and the garden without the greenhouse, but each extends the possible uses and pleasures of the other.

Outdoor gardening has certainly taken priority until this month. Now is the time to attack greenhouse chores that have been neglected. The growing season for greenhouse plants extends beyond that of the outdoor annuals, so there is still time to repot or divide greenhouse plants that need it.

Clivia, with its large peach blossom and heavy strap leaves, is again in flower after sending up eight clusters last February. Although clivia resent having their roots disturbed and may not blossom the year following the operation, they must be divided occasionally or they will rapidly deteriorate.

Because it is such a huge and messy job, I wait until summer when it can be done outdoors. Just getting the huge plant out of its pot-bound container is quite an effort, and you may have to break the pot to release it.

Clivia is composed of a number of

crowns and an enormous mass of huge fleshy roots. Since the roots are so tightly entwined, its mass must be cut through with a large sharp knife or even a saw.

Offsets don't do well unless they possess a considerable root system, so don't divide it into single sections. Immature offsets may take years to re-establish and reach bloom stage. The big divisions repotted in fresh soil will recover rather quickly and produce blooms within a year or so. As you repot, be sure to soil the crown and around the roots with your fingers poking and pressing down. While the new plants are recovering from the shock, place them in a shady area and don't overwater.

Successfully dividing a clivia is a

challenge, even to a veteran gardener, but it is fun and with a loving touch they'll all survive.

Phalanopsis, or "moth" orchids, are almost finished blooming and some of them need repotting. One way to enjoy orchids is to tune into their slow process of growth. In the phalanopsis one sees stalks or stems forming in December, buds in January and February, swelling of the buds in March and April, and unfolding of the flowers through May and into June.

It's a slow process, but a continual show. Not all varieties follow this exact pattern, but for me the process of blooming is almost as exciting as the flowers themselves.

As the "phals" now begin a new

vegetative growth season and new roots are developing, consider repotting and moving them up into larger pots. Phalanopsis actually require rather small containers in proportion to their size and, in general, don't need frequent repotting.

However, I've been waiting for my phalanopsis to finish blooming in order to repot them. Last fall I visited the New York Botanical Gardens and had a good lesson in orchid culture. There I saw phalanopsis planted in five- or six-inch clay pots where I would have used at most a three- or four-inch pot. The answer to my query was that small pots result in small plants and that if I wanted to grow large "phals," I should use a large pot.

The reason one never sees them repotted is because the big pots take up too much expensive space to be profitable to the grower. This made sense so I rushed home and experimentally moved two plants into large size pots. These plants grew very long leaves and sent up several more stalks

than the others. So now at the appropriate time for transplanting, I shall follow this method for the other phalanopsis.

Overplanted in this way, excellent drainage is imperative. I use coarse gravel or broken crockery. Be sure to clean off the old media and dead roots, center the plant, and place the basal growth about an inch into the potting material. Sanitation in handling orchid roots isn't to be taken lightly. Infection is picked up through cut surfaces, so be sure any instrument you use for cutting has been sterilized.

Water sparingly until new root growth is well formed. Keep the atmosphere humid and shade the plants carefully from the sun.

All plants, not just the orchids, are growing rapidly now and need your attention, regular fertilizing and watering if they are to provide those welcome blossoms next winter. Greenhouse gardening might take you inside on days when you'd rather be out, but you won't be sorry when the snow flies.

Down to earth

Doctor garden to keep it healthy

"What, am I doing wrong in my garden? Why do I have troubles with my plants?"

To answer these common questions, let's look at tomatoes. Early blight is the name for a condition which causes leaf spotting, like a bulls-eye.

There may be leaf drop, sunscald and poor conditions for fruiting. There can be a leathery blackened spot around the stem.

The number one cure is to water from below as wet foliage attracts disease. Be sure and dig up old roots from the previous root's growth. Early into trouble, the blight can be controlled by using Maneb. Follow directions below.

Co-op nursery accepts fall enrollments

Family Life Co-op Nursery is now accepting applications for September enrollment. The nursery is non-sectarian, non-profit, licensed by the state, and located in North Congregational Church on Northwestern Highway in Southfield.

Parents meet monthly for discussions, and also observe their children in play groups when they are assisting during school hours.

cause you are fooling around with a table food.

If you have curled or distorted foliage, it may be due to aphids. Spray with an insecticide. The second cause can be air pollution. Not all plants can take being planted near cars with their stop and go patterns. Animal urine is toxic to so many plants. The lower areas of evergreens turn yellow. Cats can cause plants to decline due to excessive salt from their urine.

Septic tanks can cause injury through the drain field. Laundry and cleaning products are leached into the soil.

You have to watch when doing your

spraying. Leaf burn will show the results first. Often companies which spray for weeds and fertilizer will set up a route. The men are scheduled to do a number of jobs and they don't always regard the wind. Some lawn fertilizers contain dicamba. While this kills weeds, it shouldn't be applied near the roots of trees or shrubs.

Sometimes you have a tree girdled during the winter months. You can use poison bait if you don't have pets, and keeping the grass cut around the trees discourages the rodents.

If you think a leaking gas line might be the culprit, if your plants suddenly show trouble, ask the gas company to use their testing apparatus.

Another problem is when a "helper" slashes away this time of year on so many of our early flowering trees and shrubs and can't understand when there isn't a big crop of flowers next spring. After all, they set their buds beginning in late July. You should do the needed trimming right after the spring flowering cycle.

By the way, right now, be sure and give your flowering crabs, magnolias, and other early beauties plenty of water, they are forming their flowers for next year.



by ALICE WESSELLS BURLINGAME

Sometimes you have fruit trees which refuse to give fruit. The reason is that many fruit trees are either male or female. If the weather is cold and wet during the flowering cycle, this can result in a poor fruit showing.

Please don't get discouraged, just remember that life is filled with right and left turns.

A giant audience

An estimated one million people, perhaps one of the largest crowd to witness a single event in history, watched the blastoff of the Apollo 11 spacecraft that helped put men on the moon 10 years ago.

Cooney elected

Southfield attorney William P. Cooney, Jr. was elected a member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Insurance Counsel at the organization's 52nd annual meeting held recently at the Broadmoor Hotel, Colorado Springs, Colo.

The 2,200 member IAIC is composed primarily of insurance defense lawyers from law firms throughout the U.S. and Canada, as well as insurance company executives.

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WHEN?? The last week of August - We'll keep you posted as to the exact date.



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Nails, Waxing & Cosmetic Tips by Annette



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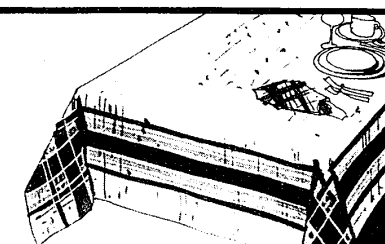
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"Free and Easy" solid color table cloth by Bardwil. Soil-resistant, no-iron blend of polyester and cotton in white, ivory, blue, navy, yellow, pink, cinnabar, hunter, brown. Oblong/oval: 60"x84", \$17; 60"x102", \$21; 60"x120", \$27; 52"x70" oblong cloth, \$12; 52"x52" square, \$8; 70" round cloth, \$18; 90" round, \$26; napkins, 1.50 each. Sale ends September 1, 1979.



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