

Mulch is keyword for conservation

Certainly there isn't a person alive who doesn't get a lift from spring rains. I mustn't forget to soak my morning glory seeds when this column is completed as the outer coating of the seed is tough. This applies to all such coated seeds. If they are soaked in a cup of tap water overnight, they will be in fine shape for early germination. They could be planted in that empty egg carton with soil not quite to the top.

If the seedlings, upon planting, are judiciously watered, then place the container in a plastic bag, but don't set it in the sun; it will dry out too soon. When green sprouts break through, remove the bag. Don't forget to water and enjoy the seedlings until about May 24, when they can be planted in a sunny location to climb as a vine.

The garden world seems to have wild flowers, so a recent check at the farm showed a possible location on a shady slope with a stream running between the steep banks. You can be sure that wild ferns, forget-me-nots, Virginia bluebells, trillium and others will be placed there.

WHAT STEAM WE gardeners gen-

Artists, craftsmen can rent space

Applications are now being taken from artists and craftsmen who want to be a part of North Farmington Garden Club's third annual arts and crafts show.

The show will be given this year on

down to earth
Alice Burlingame

erate in the spring. I have just ordered a garden shredder used for rakings, cut up pruning branches and such. You do have to grind by hand; there won't be a motor to cause trouble.

Right now, we should be prepared to save the water supply on our gardening. While meeting with gardeners at Colonial Williamsburg, many from the East Coast reported losing much of their total gardens due to the water shortage. Let's resolve to be aware that we can't boss around the weather quality.

Mulch is a key word for water conservation as you aim to control evaporation. Mulch will reduce the presence of weeds. A four-inch layer of grass clippings (dry the clippings first) will serve the purpose. Lots of people use newspaper weighted down with soil. A

bale of straw or hay can be excellent for a vegetable bed.

Some people are using plastic, which can be bought by the roll for use year after year between the rows of vegetables. This choice of mulch for your vegetables will warm the soil and encourage earlier maturation.

Early spring and fall planting can be your ally because of the rain cycle. Many of your vegetables can be planted early or again in the fall. The professional growers are now advocating that we plant our vegetables closer together so the leaves can offer shade to

each other. To conserve, water deeply, but not as often as usual.

WHILE AT WILLIAMSBURG, I came across a book that looks good, "Growing Trees Indoors" by D.J. Herick, Nelson-Hall, Chicago, soft back, \$7.95. It could open up a completely new field of interest for the avid gardener. It looks very practical. You could go "on a hunt" and create your own woods within your home.

Many of our residents find since they have a courtyard or balcony for horticultural pursuits. How you will enjoy the new ideas as depicted in "Small-Space Gardens," Sunset Books, Lane Publishing, Menlo Park, Calif., 79 pages, \$2.95.

Entryways, window views, vines to enjoy, how to create an outdoor room, hospitality and resting spots are well covered.

Finishing needlepoint is taught

Peggy Freeman's "Needlepoint Finishing" classes begin at 1 p.m. Monday, May 2, in Farmington Community center for two sessions. Fee is \$12 plus materials.

Mrs. Freeman will guide students in the proper blocking, boxing and mitering techniques as well as the correct methods of binding stitches and the art of twisted cord finishes.

Registration may be made in the center, 24705 Farmington Road.



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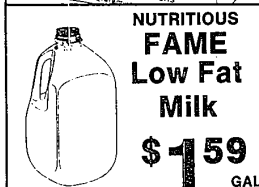


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