

Take your cue from the birds

Many urban residents like to plant a few sunflowers seeds in their gardens to enjoy watching them grow tall as well as realizing that they are excellent food for birds.

Then too, we can take a cue from the birds and use the many ways to toast the seeds for our consumption.

You might like to save a few of the seeds, put them in a small clean, dry medicine bottle. Label the bottle and place in the refrigerator. There, you have your seeds for 1983. This storage idea is good for all leftover seeds.

The other day, I went to a neighborhood party and Gary Flowers, a local flower designer who comes up with clever displays, used stalks of fresh sunflowers in a very large container as an accent piece. (I suppose you could use a waste paper basket.) The flowers were purchased at one of the large summer markets.

Just mention fall and gardeners at once think of chrysanthemums as the good flower accent to use during the season. So, folks, just place this date on your calendar: The National Chrysanthemum Show will be conducted Oct. 16 and 17 at Tel-Twelve Mall.

Experts with these flowers will show off the best. You have probably seen those mums which are trained to flow over the edge of a pot like a waterfall.



down to earth
Alice Burlingame

Many examples of that Japanese technique will be there to admire. Even if you have only four ounces of garden interest, promise me you will circle the date on the calendar.

Many of us have Christmas cactus in our house plant collection. You can encourage them to set buds by giving them at least 12 hours of darkness although some people don't believe that is essential. Keep the cactus in a spot where the temperature doesn't exceed 70 degrees. They like 55 degrees to set buds.

For those of you who have been nursing along last year's poinsettia, those rascals require total darkness from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. Sept. 20-Dec. 1.

It isn't worth the trouble is it? You break that pattern and you have had it. Old poinsettias make good compost. Soon your columnist will take up her beautiful geraniums which have been stunning for the second year.

I dig them up and prune some of the height and a few side branches giving

them a slim look. Then I place them in a eight inch pot, pushing them in so I can fit about eight pruned geraniums to a pot. Stand them up like soldiers, put a lot of good soil in the pot, firm it around the plants and water well. Some of the leaves will fall off — no harm done. Place in a location with good light. Don't give the plants too much water and hope that 1983 finds you with a good start in geraniums. They are so expensive.

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Watercolorists exhibit

A show of paintings now on display in Alpha Art Gallery includes the work of Alice Nichols of Farmington and Gladys McMillan of Farmington Hills. Both are members of Farmington Artists Club and the Michigan Watercolor Society.

All of the works on display come from invited members of the Michigan

Watercolor Society. The artists exhibit a wide variety of techniques and subject matter, though all employ watercolor as the media in the show that continues through Oct. 17 in the gallery at 8165 Macomb, Grosse Ile. Gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

Rothenberg art on display

Jean Rothenberg shows acrylics, collage, and oil paintings in a one-woman show that continues through Sept. 30 in Farmington Hills Branch Library.

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Free concerts planned in series at Somerset

October brings a series of free concerts and opera lectures to Somerset Mall, Troy.

From 2 to 4 p.m. Sundays beginning Oct. 2 free concerts will be staged in the center mall in front of Benno's French Cafe. The lineup is as follows:

- Oct. 2: Wendell Harrison & Friends
- Oct. 10: Golden Rain Percussion Ensemble
- Oct. 17: Pastiche Wind Quintet
- Oct. 24: Susan & Thomas Barna, piano and flute duo
- Oct. 31: Ortheia Barnes sings with Jimmy Dowall at the piano

Illustrated opera lectures are offered at 10:30 a.m. Mondays with Dr. Jack C. DuBois. The series previews the works to be presented by the Michigan Opera Theatre during the 1982-83 season.

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