

Vines make valuable contribution

These early fall days provide a good time to review your garden performance. In the spring cycle practicing gardeners are so tired of our midwest winter weather that they have a "spring lag," often ordering more plants than they can use. By this date they know the score - what is for them.

There is hardly a garden which doesn't need to have lower branches on trees pruned to let in more sunlight on the lawn and into the flower beds.

We still have enough time left to give the trees a moderate feeding. This is so easy to perform with a root-feeder which is attached to your hose.

After visiting a few gardens I have noticed that we don't pay enough attention to the value of vines as an accent in the home garden.

THIS TIME of year, autumn clematis is outstanding. It has a mass of white flowers. As it resembles smilax, often a lengthy cutting of the vine is used down the center of a guest-table for an exotic effect.

But there are many members of the clematis family to be used on a fence or construction of a summer house. The June-bearing clematis comes in many varieties and colors, a fine vine to produce shade or provide a color accent.

A vine which grows to moderate height that is well liked by owners is the Bradford Pear. It doesn't bear fruit of note, but has beautiful white flowers in the spring and in the fall the leaves turn red.

Years ago we planted it like a tall hedge at St. Anne's Mead to be a buffer for noise and to hide a service area. The object of planned gardening is to get the plant material to work for you with a purpose.

The herb fanciers are busy harvesting. Laurel trees can't winter outdoors in this zone, but you see plenty of them in California. Once when in California I had a laurel branch given me. I stripped off

the leaves, washed and dried them, resulting in enough bay leaf to flavor soups for a couple of years.

PLANT with a purpose. Tansy will keep insects away from an area near a patio. Tansy has a nice yellow flower and a curly leaf for bouquet fillers. Pink and blue will attract hummingbirds, especially if you have something in those colors to tuck in the flower planting tubes of sugar water attached to a stick at the flower level. Pink and blue yarn attached to the neck of the sugar water bottle will be an additional aid.

Basil will keep flies away. If you can get some variegated catnip you will find it will cause the beetles and ants to detour.

Coriander is a popular herb. Another name for it is Chinese parsley. Coriander has been found in Egyptian tombs and the Romans used it to preserve meat. It is a sun lover and should be harvested



down to earth
Alice Burlingame

when about six inches. The fresh leaves are found in Latin American food as well as Oriental foods. I don't see why a person couldn't grow a pot of it if you had a good sunny window in the winter time.

The flavoring is used in chili. Butter can be flavored with it for corn eating. Sunset magazine suggests using it in omelets and with steamed crabs, Cantonese roast chicken and other delicacies. So, you can see that an interest in gardening can open up many vistas regardless of the time of year.

Baroque series begins this week

Flauto e Basso Baroque Duo will open the fourth season of their popular chamber series, "Music from the Age of Enlightenment," this Saturday at the Birmingham Unitarian Church and Saturday, Sept. 24 at the Edsel and Eleanor Ford House.

"V. F. Handel: The Harmonious Tunesmith," a program featuring the works of Handel including a rare 18th-century harpsichord arrangement of the "Water Music," will be performed by Thomas Cirlin, recorder and baroque flute, and Daniel Jencka, harpsichord. They will be joined by Doris Williams, soprano, and Thomas Sefcovic, baroque bassoon.

Birmingham Unitarian Church, a popular concert site designed by Mi-

noru Yamasaki, is on Woodward at Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12. Complimentary wine will be served.

The Edsel and Eleanor Ford House is at 1100 Lakeshore in Grosse Pointe Shores, one-half mile south of Nine Mile. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Guests are invited to tour the main floor of the mansion, an Albert Kahn design.

All concerts begin at 8 p.m. Season tickets and advance tickets are available. Call 656-1874 for information and a free brochure. This series is presented by Baroque Music Ensembles Inc., a non-profit organization.

Paint Creek Center offers art classes

A total of 43 classes are being offered for the fall term at Paint Creek Center for the Arts at 407 Pine Street, Rochester.

The term runs from Oct. 4 through Dec. 17, with registration beginning Tuesday, Sept. 20.

Adult offerings include basketry workshops, drawing, fibers, watercolor, stained glass, found object sculpture, art appreciation, photography and clay sculpture. Children in preschool through junior high can choose from Suzuki violin, discovering art, ceramics and drama, among others.

For more information and registration, call 651-4110.

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