

Suburban Gardener

Snowballs In Summer
Frosting Area Gardens

By BETTY FRANKEL
Snowballs in summer are indeed a paradox, but many area gardens have shrubs that seem to be laden with huge fluffy balls of snow.

These are hydrangeas, which come into bloom in mid-summer and provide a display for the rest of the season. There are several varieties available, some of which have long cone-shaped clusters of bloom, while others have round white flower clusters.

Hills-of-snow (Hydrangea arborescens grandiflora) is a low shrub about three to five feet tall. Starting in July it bears round white clusters of flowers six inches across. The flowers form on the ends of the branches so the shrub often looks like a rolling mound of snow.

In several area gardens it has been combined attractively with plantings of golden day-lilies. Although this shrub has a tendency to die back some during the winter, this is not serious because bloom is produced on the current year's growth.

Even more popular is the Peegee hydrangea (Hydrangea paniculata grandiflora), which

has flower clusters like large ice-cream cones. They can grow to be a foot long. When the flowers first open in August they are a creamy white but by early fall they start to take on a pink tinge. The flowers remain on the shrub long after the leaves have fallen, becoming dry and papery. They make excellent dried bouquets that will last all winter.

The Peegee hydrangeas will grow in almost any situation or soil. They will tolerate considerable shade, although they bloom more profusely when grown in the sun. They will eventually develop into large shrubs or small trees reaching to 25 feet. However, they can be kept small at any desirable size, by hard annual pruning.

In early spring, the shoots of the past year's growth should be pruned to within an inch or two of the main branch. As new shoots sprout they should be thinned so only a few develop in each place. This will result in exceptionally large flower heads.

Although the Peegee hydrangea is attractive and easy to grow, care should be exercised in locating the plant. It is a striking plant but is somewhat

coarse textured. It makes a good specimen, but several planted in a yard can result in a busy effect that is not attractive.

ANOTHER interesting hydrangea that can be grown in this area is the Oak-leaved hydrangea. Although this medium sized shrub has attractive clusters of flowers similar to the Peegee hydrangea, it is the foliage that makes it a valuable shrub. The leaves are shaped like those of the red oak, sharply indented and pointed. They turn red and orange and gold before they are shed in fall. This shrub is well suited for growing in light shade.

Handy Jim's
FIX-UP TIPS

Tote Box for Scouts

ON CAMPOUTS, Boy Scouts will find a tote box can be a handy item for carrying supplies. One design opens up to become a serving table. Companion pieces are folding benches.

Scouts with some adult coaching can make tote boxes of lumber and a smooth, splinter-free Masonite Weatherall, a factory-primed hardboard which takes hard knocks.

For a free plan showing in



diagrams and pictures how to make one, send a postcard to the Home Service Bureau, Box B, Chicago, Ill. 60604, requesting AE-505. It also tells how to build a car-top luggage carrier.

Two Firms Win Honors

Campbell Soup Company and Owens-Illinois, Inc., won top awards in the Sports Foundation, Inc.'s Gold Medal Awards program in water pollution control. G. Marvin Shutt, secretary-treasurer of the Foundation announced.

Campbell won in the single plant category for its development of a unique surface filtration system to handle industrial waste in its Paris, Texas, plant.

Owens-Illinois was the winner

in the multi-plant development of its company-wide water pollution control systems and for its additional improvement program in water pollution control, G. Marvin Shutt, secretary-treasurer of the Foundation announced.

Wet Areas

If the yard has seepage areas or swales that pond rain, consider planting a beargrass there. Highland beargrass is economical and widely available as seed.



HE'LL BE PROUD OF HIS ROOM. A room as attractive as this is bound to be enjoyed - and cared for - by the youngster who's lucky enough to own it. Prefinished hardboard wall panels create a contemporary atmosphere - and take hard abuse. Functional built-in furniture and easy-care fabrics complete the high-style, low-care look.

New Lawn Care Ideas

The many new fine fescues, bluegrasses and bentgrasses that are now changing lawn complexes across the country, bring with them new fertilization requirements. These are thoroughbred varieties, performing at their best when amply fertilized.

The breeding programs that created them were conducted under conditions of sufficient fertility to encourage good color and year around growth.

Most bentgrasses, even Highland, and newer bluegrasses such as Fylking, Merion, Pennstar, Prato, should be fed more liberally than older varieties.

Those seeking an un-pampered lawn might choose natural Kentucky bluegrass or traditional varieties such as Arboretum, Kenblue and Park. All of the excellent fine fescues on the lawn scene today (Chewings, Highlight, Illabeve, Pennlawn, Ruby,) survive with

minimal care, too. They benefit from balanced feeding, but resist excessive nitrogen in hot weather.

The grass will thicken and be in shape for a fast start come spring. With liberal autumn fertilization spring feeding may not be needed until the surge of early growth passes. Traditional grasses will need only light-rate fertilization later.

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