

Make greenhouse from burger box

We appreciate our houseplants during the winter whether they are new introductions or family favorites.

Here are some tips to assure a good performance. You have to be aware that many potted plants prefer sun, while others thrive in the shade. When purchasing new plants, check their light requirements to be sure you can accommodate their needs before purchasing. Light is of paramount importance. In your present domicile are you aware of north, south, east and west?

Humidity is important for human health as well as houseplant health. Many homes have furnaces equipped with a humidifier to provide necessary humidity.

If the air in your home is dry, it is possible to secure a portable humidifier to locate near your plants. This will benefit both plants and people in the home.

Root environment is critical for your plants. A good house plant book will give the proper soil mixture for each of your plants and will also tell about watering. These are things you need to know, not just guess about.

Water the plants in the morning, put the water on the soil, not on the plants and have it at room temperature if possible. As day length decreases, grow most plants on the drier side, with no fertilizing.

In late winter, as days begin to lengthen, begin feeding and step up the watering so the plants will make vigorous new growth. House plants respond to spring just as garden plants do. But they depend on you for their showers and a little extra nutrient.

Here is a tip for those of you who like to start seedlings indoors. Now is the time to start saving styrofoam containers from the fast food restaurants. These "burger" containers

down to earth

Alice Burlingame

make a perfect chamber for seed starting!

At the appropriate date, lay the container out flat, and fill one side about ¾ full with a good soil mix. Cut two small slits in the bottom of the styrofoam container to allow for drainage. Wet the soil mix thoroughly with water to which you have added fertilizer, following the manufacturer's directions.

Gently firm the soil, add the seeds and cover with additional soil mix. Again, moisten the surface. Close the cover, and place your "mini-greenhouse" in a warm environment (about 65-70 degrees). Open the con-

tainer periodically to check the moisture conditions. Add water as needed.

Once the seedlings pop through the soil, open the cover completely and gradually place in a bright sunny warm area, about 70 degrees. A word of caution — these seedlings are very delicate and must not be exposed to bright hot sunlight immediately when the cover is removed.

When the seedlings develop a second set of true leaves, transplant into fresh potting soil. Place the plant in a cooler area to allow it to fully develop before transplanting outdoors.

Ready for auction

Pictured are three of a collection of 10 silver Victorian napkin rings which will be part of Cranbrook Academy of Art's Art/Antique auction on April 11. Tax deductible donations for the auction are being sought. For information on how to donate items, call Cranbrook Academy of Art, 645-3309.

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Miniature classes going

Miniature Makers' Workshop in Royal Oak is sponsoring a winter series of miniature crafts courses which will continue through April 30.

Eight miniature artisans teach the on-going classes, workshops and seminars in making dollhouses, room settings, miniature dolls, furnishings, food and collectibles. For registration, dates and fee information, call 549-0633.

Miniaturists are also invited to participate in a free Open Workshop each Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to work on personal projects in a congenial group setting at Miniature Makers' Workshop.

Included in the winter class schedule is instruction in electrical wiring, a wing chair, Delores Coles doll and a bedroom setting by Betsy Robinson; wicker rocker and table and room design by Marilyn Piller; Spring Tree and Tino dolls, Pagan room and ¾ inch Irish cottage by Terry Hansen; twin dolls by Elaine Powers; a fruit stand with produce and a seven-week mini project series by Iris Longo; Queen Anne serving table carved by Judy Sheilhas; dressing table and bench and canopy bed by Donna Dabrowski and Cooking with Karen by Karen Suda.

Present and former students will exhibit their miniature projects in the second annual Student Miniature Show at Miniature Makers' May 1 and 2. The store is at 1725 W. 14 Mile near Crooks, Royal Oak.

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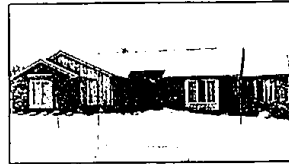
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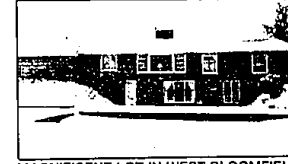
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