



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ASHMAN

Amaryllis care: Right now we're getting a lot of letters asking about the care of amaryllis. You can buy advanced bulbs (previously forced) which will blossom in your home within a month, or you can resort to the regular untreated bulbs, sold all winter long.

A bulb bought in early December will bloom in February. The larger the bulb the more stems (also called "scapes") it produces. A fist-sized bulb will usually produce two to four stems each up to two feet tall, and each

with two to five trumpet-shaped flowers.

Put your bulbs so that the neck is exposed to the shoulder of the bulb. Some plant the bulbs so that 2/3 of it remains exposed above the rim of the pot. At any rate, pack the soil around the bulb firmly, and water; just enough to settle it. Place in a cool spot in subdued light for a few weeks, until the top growth begins. Then move to a sunny window and water well.

Withholding water until growth begins is important with amaryllis. If you give

You Can Grow Pepper Plants

If you pick the fruit of Christmas peppers and collect the seeds, you can grow your own gift plants next year.

The so-called Christmas pepper (*Capsicum annuum*), originally from South America, is an attractive plant in every way.

It has light green, pointed leaves, while starry flowers and fruit that may run from chartreuse to purple before finally turning a hot color of orange or orange-red. The peppers are edible, though hot to the taste, and they contain the seed.

The best plan is to keep the plant on your windowsill with as much sunlight and as cool temperatures as you can find.

PEPPERS have a habit of dropping leaves if the temperature is too high, the humidity too low, or the light too weak. Keep plants moist but not soaking -- the soil surface should begin to appear dry before you rewater. Then use enough so that some runs out the bottom.

Let the plant stand in the runoff for a few minutes till it will absorb no more, then drain the saucer and replace the plant.

After the plant loses its attractiveness, remove the peppers. From those you don't chop up, take out the flat, pale-colored seeds.

Unless you want to grow new plants immediately just to have something in the window, save the seeds by putting them in a labeled envelope and storing them in the refrigerator.

TO TIME THINGS so the plants will mature next Christmas.

mas, sow the seed in late spring or early summer. Use a damp mixture of equal parts clay loam, sphagnum peat moss and sharp sand, or an artificial soil mixture such as peatite (equal parts sphagnum peat moss and either vermiculite or perlite).

Fill the pot with the mixture, gently tamping, until the surface is a couple of inches from the pot rim. Place the seeds flat on the soil, each one a good two inches each way from its neighbor.

Barely cover the seed with more soil mixture, and tamp gently so the seed is in firm contact with the soil. Set the pot (which must have a drainage hole in the bottom) in a saucer and fill the saucer with water. Refill as the pot absorbs water until the pot will take up no more.

At this point you can cover the top of the pot with a piece of glass or a sheet of plastic to help keep uniformly moist conditions around the seed, and to help reduce the need for watering.

SEED WILL germinate best at warmer temperatures so the kitchen is a good place to keep the pot. Bright light is not necessary at first, but as soon as the first leaves appear, the pot should be moved to a bright spot, and the plastic or glass lid should be raised and gradually removed. This admits fresh air and helps to avoid damping-off disease.

When plants have four leaves or more, transplant them to separate containers. You can use peat pots to fit in a plastic tray or you can use clay pots to be set into the ground, rim level with the soil. Match the latter to conserve moisture.



REALTOR OFFICERS — Daniel R. Williamson (left) is president of the United Northwestern Realty Association/Western Wayne-Oakland Board of Realtors. Other new officers (from left) are Vice President John H. Hussey, Secretary William W. Bowman and Treasurer Jerry J. Rozema.

Realtors Install Officers

More than 1,000 realtors and their associates attended the golden anniversary Christmas party and installation of 1971 officers and directors of the United Northwestern Realty Association/Western Wayne-Oakland County Board of Realtors.

Realtor Daniel R. Williamson, vice president and director of advertising of Real Estate One, Inc., is the incoming president.

Other officers are John H. Hussey, vice president; Wil-

liam W. Bowman, secretary, and Jerry J. Rozema, treasurer.

New directors are Lois Wietersen Foltz, Robert B. Rillstone and Ansgar C. Johnson. Hussey was elected to the board for a second term.

Williamson, a 16-year member, is a graduate of Albion College and holds the certified residential broker designation from the National Institute of Real Estate Brokers.

In the last year, the regional board attained the \$2 billion mark in total real estate sales and for the first time and pushed its membership roster over the 2,500 mark. Projected 1970 sales are \$250 million, also a record.

He is the current vice president for the regional association.

Vice President Hussey has been in the business 15 years and a member of the regional association for 12. He is also a member of the Detroit Real Estate Board and the National Institute of Real Estate Brokers.

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Oak & Birch 1 3/4" 20" x 36" \$5.50

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Firm's Sales Increase As Unit Price Rises

Real Estate One sold more real estate in November for more money per property than for the same month last year, announced Richard S. Elisea, president.

Elisea also revealed the firm sold 58 more properties in November 1970, than for the corresponding month last year.

He said Real Estate One sold 327 properties for a total of \$2,376,030 last month as compared to 269 units for \$2,729,680 in November 1969.

These figures indicate the average sales price per property was eight per cent higher in November 1970.

On a dollar basis, the firm is \$680,422 ahead of last year's pace.

The firm sold 4,118 properties for \$33,559,421 through the first 11 months of 1970. This compares with sales of \$32,678,999 through November of last year.

Gardening Is No. 1 Hobby

While it is no secret that Adam and Eve began in the garden-few people realize how eagerly their descendants have tried to stay there, for today's number one hobby is gardening.

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