

# Creative Living

Marilyn Fitchett editor/591-2300

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(C)15



organizing  
**Dorothy Lehmkuhl**

## Planning on all fronts assures trip's success

**Q:** Every year we try to take a nice vacation, but we always get off to a harried start or something goes wrong and we can't go where we wanted. How can we avoid such pitfalls?

**A:** The difference between careful or inadequate planning could mean the difference between a fun, relaxing get-away or a ruined holiday.

Many people fantasize about their dream vacation but do insufficient planning to assure its success. Procrastination and assumptions can cause big problems. Most of us know what's needed, but we put off doing it until it's too late.

If you are driving, don't just assume your car will probably make it. Nothing causes more frustration than finding you need three days of work done on a car that is scheduled to leave tomorrow. Have your car checked well in advance.

If headed for the beach, have you tried on your bathing suit, or do you just "assume" it's all right? (Maybe a mouse has chewed a hole in a strategic spot...) If you are camping, waiting until the last minute could mean finding the tent is moldy, zippers are broken or a stake is missing. If scuba diving is your bent, have your tanks been visually checked? Do you need gear that must be ordered?

Don't wait to get your passport, reserve a boarding place for your pet, or buy the luggage you need,

assuming you can get what you want in the final stages. If you haven't made reservations, you may miss the Octoberfest, the cabin you always rent or the flight that will get you there on time. Delaying vacation scheduling at work could mean someone else getting dibs on the weeks you wanted off.

Why procrastinate on something so important? Consider some of these reasons: 1) Fear of Failure/Decision making. Some people can't decide between going to the mountains or the beach because they are afraid of making the wrong choice. (It's not a life and death matter; flip a coin and stick to it!) 2) Inadequate information. Without researching your plans, for instance, you don't know what nights to reserve motels. 3) Time/Priority. Current appointments seem more important than planning sabbaticals and a specific time is not set aside to do the planning. If you wait, it may be too late.

Building on past debacles, start a checklist now and schedule times to complete each task. Get a checklist book from the library or bookstore, catch the glitches in advance — and have a happy vacation.

Dorothy Lehmkuhl welcomes comments and suggestions for columns from readers. Send those to her in care of this newspaper, 38251 Schoolcraft Road, Livonia 48150.

## Popular plant-ins: perennials, color veggies

By Earl Aronson  
special writer

**W**HAT DID you plant, or plan to plant, in your garden this year? Did you include many of the items that are popular among gardeners, seed buyers and other sources?

David Phillips, of Park Seed Co. (Greenwood, SC 29647), reports that perennials are much in favor; so are cut flowers, everlasting dry arrangements, drying potpourri and wreaths.

Selling well, he added, are marigolds, sinias, impatiens, Achillea, Delantia, gomphrena, echiveria, glabiosa, and herbs that are used in place of salt to flavor food, providing more natural flavoring.

Colored vegetables also are popular, including purple peppers and radishes, yellow stuffing tomatoes, orange bush squash, Honey Red seedless watermelon, and yellow ornamental edibles such as Malabar spinach and hyacinth bean.

**SPACE-SAVING** vegetables that will grow in containers are also in demand.

Vegetables that are big sellers at Park include Sweet Million, Better Bush and Whopper tomatoes, County Fair and Whopper cucumbers, Venture bean and Romano bush bean.

New items from Petoseed (P.O. Box 4205, Salicoy, CA 93004) include Jack of Hearts, hybrid triploid, seedless (or nearly so) watermelon, early to midseason, 10-15 pounds; First Lady hybrid tomato, medium-size fruit, 65 days from transplanting, disease-resistant; Brigadier hybrid broccoli, midseason, medium-green heads; Yellow Stuffer tomato, abundant producer, resembles yellow pepper; and Clairmore hybrid squash, slightly tapered 5- to 6-inch long fruit, light green and speckled, early.

## weeder's guide

Earl Aronson

From Van Bourgondien Bros. (P.O. Box A, Babylon, NY 11701): Mil-goon dahlia Sweetheart, daisylike flowers, 12-15 inches tall, bloom all summer; Japanese anemones, large, cup-shaped flowers, purple-red, white and pink, flowers 2 1/2 inches wide, plants 2 inches tall, bloom September to fall; and Red Cap primula, 15-18 inches tall, with clusters of lilac-pink flowers, likes shade or sun, good for borders and rock gardens.

Burpee (Warminster, PA 18974) offers, among others, international vegetables that are "favorites in their native lands but little-known in the United States." They include the Haricot Vert, or filed bean from France; asparagus pole bean with long pods from Southwest Asia, and well-known in Europe; broccoli Romanesco, widely grown in Italy; and Whitefoot (French or Belgian) endive.

**OTHER BURPEE** introductions include butterhead lettuce from France, Japanese mustard green, bush shell beans from the Caribbean, and cabbage from Alsace-Lorraine.

Newcomers from Stokes Seeds (Buffalo, NY 14240) include Super Sweet Banana pepper by Hungarian plant breeder Istvan Tur; seedless Jack of Hearts watermelon; Summer-set VF beefsteak tomato, very early; Centron cabbage; Precocious sweet corn, early maturing; Can-Am Express, a cross of a Western cantaloupe and an Eastern muskmelon; and two "baby" vegetables — Bush Baby cucumber (pickling gherkins).

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condo queries  
**Robert M. Meisner**

**Q:** Our condo has what can be best described as a "peeping Tom" who happens to be a female. She has been observed throughout the condominium project on numerous occasions. Several residents of the association, who are reluctant to confront her, have registered complaints with the board which is all male, which, for some reason has been reluctant to take any action. I, as a co-owner, am about ready to call the police but am asking you for your good advice regarding this sensitive, but serious, problem.

**A:** While the police may be the best vehicle, initially, to contact with respect to this question, it is not altogether clear that the police will assume jurisdiction over this type of complaint, particularly on private property. On the other hand, the association may have a responsibility to intercede to the extent that this has become a problem which is pervasive throughout the condominium, i.e., that the peeping lady seems to be conducting her affairs throughout the condominium project.

I would suggest that you contact the board by letter, advising them in specificity of your allegations and advise them that there is a provision in the condominium documents which prohibits "immoral or improper behavior" (as there usually is). They should be encouraged to invoke that provision and be reminded of their legal and fiduciary responsibilities to do so.

Perhaps, a short letter from the board to the person in question may have a therapeutic effect on that person and/or will serve as impetus for that person to seek the professional care which is, apparently, needed.

**Q:** I am an apartment owner and am wondering what responsibility I have now under the recent amendments to the Fair Housing Act, as it relates to keeping children in one building with their families and allowing other buildings to be "Adults Only," which I understood used to be allowed in Michigan.

**A:** You're right. It used to be allowed, based on a 1981 Michigan Supreme Court decision. However, under the Fair Housing Act, as amended, regulations and rules promulgated under that act suggest that families with children be given the opportunity to rent any apartment unit in the entire complex, horizontally or vertically. Not allowing them to do so is a violation of the act with the attendant civil penalties, which are substantial.

Robert M. Meisner is a Birmingham attorney specializing in condominiums, real estate and corporate law. You are invited to submit topics which you would like to see discussed in this column, including questions about condominiums, by writing Robert M. Meisner, 30200 Telegraph Road, Suite 407, Birmingham, 48010. This column provides general information and should not be construed as legal opinion.

Meisner will be instructing a basic condominium association operation class on Saturday, June 10 under auspices of St. Clair Community College. For more information, call 864-3881, Ext. 214. The class is open to developers, association board members, management companies, attorneys, accountants and anyone servicing condominiums.

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