

Trouble-free daylilies adapt well

While driving by or visiting gardens this time of year, you may see daylilies. These plants adapt well to almost any condition, can be transplanted any time in the garden and are virtually pest and disease free. What more could one want?

Hemerocallis, the flower that lasts for a day, means the "beauty of a day." Colors range from yellow and oranges to shades of pink and red. These intense colors make a definite statement in the garden. The flowers are often used in Oriental cooking.

"Daylilies" by A.B. Stout, first published in 1934 and now reprinted by Sagapress Inc., is a treatise on this flower (\$12.95 hardcover). Stout, who worked for more than 30 years at the New York Botanical Gardens, crossbred many daylilies to create unusual plants and increased the popularity of the daylily. The book is a treasure of information. To order, call Timber Press 1-800-327-5680.

SOME TIPS for harvesting perennial herbs are in order about this time of year to assure complete satisfaction with the harvest.

They should be harvested just as soon as they are large enough to be cut without damaging the plants. The most volatile oils are present at the beginning of the season. Cut only a third of the plant at a time.

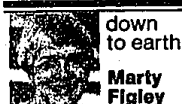
It is best not to harvest after mid to late August so the plant will survive the winter and be a healthy specimen for the following year. After the dew is off the plants is the best time for this pleasant task. A salad spinner is ideal to use after the bounty has been collected and washed. Many can be used fresh from the garden.

Fresh herbs can be preserved in oils and stored

in the refrigerator or frozen. Delightfully flavored vinegars are a snap to make and they will add zest to salads or marinades at any time. If the herbs are blended with a bit of water and frozen in an ice cube tray, it is easy to pop one or two in the soup kettle for added zing.

TO DRY, hang in a warm, dry area. Culinary herbs can be suspended in a brown paper bag in which several holes have been punched. Another method to preserve the harvest is to use a screen for drying. Spread the herbs in a single layer and raise it up from the table surface so that air can circulate.

After drying, the leaves can be stripped from the stems. To dry herbs in a microwave, place a layer on paper towels and set the temperature at medium. Microwave one minute at a time. Watch closely. Be sure to put a half cup of water in the



oven when drying anything. When using this method, don't dry the herbs completely. Finish by air drying. When they are completely crisp, store in a container with a tight-fitting lid. The greener the color, the stronger the flavor will be. Enjoy.

Dance classes slated

Summer dance classes at Oakland University will focus on jazz and party dancing for couples from July 10-31 and on ballet from July 31 to Aug. 11.

Mari Winsor of Los Angeles, film and television dancer and choreographer, will teach the sessions in jazz and the newest dances for couples in the party dancing sessions. Winsor danced in Michael Jackson's video, "Smooth Criminal," and in the film, "Salsa."

Laurie Eisenhower, assistant professor of dance at Oakland University, will teach the intermediate/advance ballet classes. She has danced with Mel Wong and Pilobolus Dance companies and received a creative artist grant from Michigan Council for the Arts. She will present a concert of her choreography in September.

For information about the dance classes, call 370-2030.

Choral group tours Europe

Cantata Academy will embark on its eighth concert tour of Europe on Friday. The group will give 13 performances in a 30-day sweep of Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Conducted by Frederick Bellinger and accompanied by pianist Gary Keller, the group will offer a repertoire of more than 50 pieces including sacred works, secular tunes and spirituals.

The Academy last toured in 1987. But 14 appearances in Germany, Austria and Switzerland weren't enough to fill the demand. Several invitations had to be turned down. This year, Cantata will visit cities that were bypassed last time and fulfill some long-standing invitations.

In addition, new territory will be covered in the group's first venture behind the Iron Curtain.

SINGERS WHO tour for the first time are invariably astounded by the thunderous ovations they receive from Europeans, who tend to be more appreciative of good choral music than Americans.

The choral tradition is especially strong in Germany and Austria, where chorus members can make a living wage. Europeans also enjoy a broad range of music; they are particularly fond of spirituals and gospel hymns, which comprise about a third of Cantata's touring repertoire.

The group travels by chartered bus, sometimes arriving the day of a performance. The host groups that sponsor and arrange the concert often open their homes to singers, who spend one or two nights with local families. Where hostesses are not arranged, hotels are booked. Income from concerts is used to offset travel and lodging expenses.

With so many performances in different cities, the tour is rigorous and demanding, but some time is left open for organized sight-seeing and individual activities.

EUROPEAN HOSPITALITY requires that many parties and afterglows be arranged for the choristers. All 34 American visitors will act as representatives of the United States and will be careful not to offend their hosts.

Highlights of this tour include singing at the famous Shrine of the Black Madonna in Czestochowa, Poland, a joint concert with Bach Chor in Linz, Austria, a major concert in Hannover and one in the medieval Cloth Hall of Krakow, Poland, which faces the old Market Square.

Other stops are planned for Vienna, Berlin and Frankfurt. The 34 member group returns on July 12 and will perform some of the tour music at Chene Park later this summer.



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