

throughout the year. Colbert's instructions are clear and methodical; plant lists are extensive. Lots of color photographs illustrate various designs. A source list for supplies and plants is helpful.

"Bonsai Survival Manual: Tree-by-tree Guide to Buying, Maintaining and Problem Solving," Colin Lewis (Storey, \$21.95), gives the low-down on this ancient craft.

Lewis, an expert bonsaist, makes it look easy, with detailed illustrations and script. The species profiles of 50 popular commercial varieties, each with a photograph, take up much of the book. I especially like the succinct information on the specific requirements of each one. If bonsai interests you, buy this book before you invest in your first plant.

Written by a "team of experts," "The Ultimate Plant & Garden Book," edited by R.G. Turner Jr. (Crown, \$50), contains more than 2,000 plant descriptions and 2,200 color photographs.

Information about planning and maintaining a garden to visiting plants growing in the wild is here; the majority of the book is encyclopedic in style. All kinds of plants imaginable are described - annuals, perennials, shrubs, trees, bulbs, grass, ground covers, vegetables and herbs, fruit and nut trees, indoor plants, vines, orchids and more. The sea-

sonal calendar of chores and ideas is quite extensive and useful as are the cultivation guidelines.

In "Creating a Garden" (Macmillan, \$35), Mary Keen, a prominent garden designer, shares her experiences of transforming a neglected garden at her new home in the Cotswolds.

"With the (garden) that is part of your life, commitment can be total," she writes.

"It could take years, but in the doing of it, you should be ... in paradise."

The book details how she married the landscape with the house and incorporated fruit trees, vegetables and herbs, hedges, shrubs, perennials and annuals into the scheme of things. There is a whole bed of hellebores in the kitchen garden border! Changing paths and steps and other hardscapes such as a terrace was accomplished to add dimension and focus to the garden.

Keen's explanations of why and how gardens were designed and plants chosen are sensible advice. The pictures will inspire those with enough land to copy ideas. The section, Tricks of the Trade, explains the nitty-gritty.

"The Shaker Herb and Garden Book," Rita Buchanan (Houghton Mifflin, \$27.95), is an account of their successful business of growing and selling veg-

etable seeds and medicinal herbs in the 19th century.

These dried herbs, oils, medicines and extracts were sold throughout the country. By studying the plants and reading the works of "botanists" and "root and herb" doctors, they knew which plants to grow and how to process them.

The gardens were very neat and contained all manner of crops. Their manuals, written for the public, included garden practices in order to have repeat business. Descriptions of herbs and other plants, especially those gathered in the wild and how they were used, is an interesting story. A list of Shaker communities and their living history museums is included.

Before you travel to England, the book, "Kew" by Ray Desmond (Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in association with The Harvil Press, London, \$40), gives a detailed historical account of this famous garden. It is distributed here by Harper Collins.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859.

Growing plants topic of talk at Jan. 8 club meeting

Marlene Uhlianuk will draw from wide experience to talk about growing plants and which plants to grow when she speaks to Troy Garden Club at its meeting Wednesday, Jan. 8.

Uhlianuk and her husband offer an extensive and unusual selection of herbs and other perennials at their Coon Creek Farm in Armada. They are regulars at Royal Oak and Pontiac Farmers Markets.

The club meeting will take place noon to 3 p.m. at the Troy Community Center, in the Civic Center complex directly behind City Hall at 500 W. Big Beaver. Refreshments will be served at noon. Guest donation is \$3.

For information, call Barb at (810) 879-1393.

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Presented by Carl J. Giespi & Mark Bronoff

MOLDING DETAILS

One of the most effective ways that homeowners have of lending a distinctive touch to their kitchen cabinets involves the use of moldings. At the very least, a decorative valance placed over the sink to unite the cabinets on either side of it can make a big difference. For added impact, homeowners can select pre-finished moldings that are fabricated by cabinet manufacturers and combine them at the ceiling, floor level, and on the end panels to create a finished look. Two rules of thumb to bear in mind when selecting cabinet moldings are: Keep the molding size in scale with the size of the room, and choose styles that complement the cabinetry. That does not mean, however, that homeowners should be afraid to mix molding styles, or even finishes. For instance, contrasting white molding with oak cabinetry can be a very attractive combination.

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