

Figley
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lenge to buy a smaller plant and watch it grow into a fine specimen with your ministrations.

Examine your chosen plant carefully (top and bottom of leaves, stems, joint where leaf meets the stem) to be sure there is no insect infestation. A sticky secretion will indicate aphids, while white flies cause leaves to turn yellow and drop. Spider mites give the leaves a speckled, mottled appearance and spin webs. Mealy bugs cause a white cottony mass to form on leaves or stems and scale look like spots or blisters.

Look for yellow foliage, there may have been too much light; look near the bottom of the plant for missing foliage. Leaf damage may indicate cold problems, stay away from leaves that have been broken and are discolored.

Look for as many growing points as possible in the variety you choose — you'll get more plant for the money; foliage plants should have leaves to soil level.

Stick your finger in the pot to check if the soil is soft and loose, and examine the bottom of the pot. If one or two roots are growing out, that is a good sign, but if there are a lot of roots covering the bottom of the pot, it could be pot bound and would need special care and repotting.

Most generally our greenhouses, nurs-

eries and retail stores are very clean and the staffs take care to control these problems. In case you notice a problem when you get the plant home, ask about a guarantee.

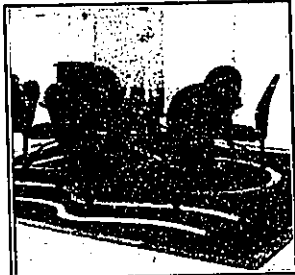
Before you leave the store, have the clerk carefully wrap your new plant to protect it from the cold weather. It's also a good idea to warm up the car.

Remember to remove the foil wrapping around the plants and be sure there are drainage holes in the bottom of the pot. An attractive cache pot can hold the plant in its original pot and add its own beauty to the picture. It also catches the runoff when the plant is watered, but water mustn't be left standing in it.

TIMELY GARDEN TIPS

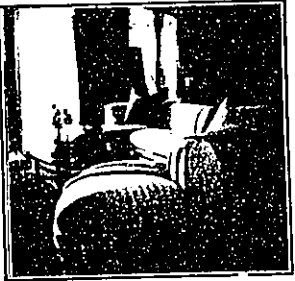
- Order seeds, plants and supplies for the new gardening season.
- Set a paperwhite narcissus bulb just above the water line in pebbles, or use a hyacinth vase.
- Don't walk on frozen lawns — it will damage the grass.
- Pour clear water through your house plants to leech out the buildup of fertilizers and salts.
- Replace mulch around strawberry plants and remove old berry canes at the base.
- Tighten guy wires on newly planted trees if they have been heaved by frost.

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