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The Green Thumb
By GEORGE ABRAHAM



GROW OLIVES INDOORS?
Gardeners like a challenge and nothing challenges them more than raising an olive tree from seed. We've had readers (not many) tell us they've raised heavy crops of olives indoors from trees started from seeds. Olive seeds are not easy to start, but they can be started. One reader takes seeds from the ripe (black) olives, places them in ice cube trays and freezes the seed for a couple of weeks. She tells us that freezing is the secret needed to get the seed started.

Others file a notch in the seed and plant them in a pot of sand-peat mixture. At any rate, it takes a couple months for the seed to germinate, so be patient.

One of our friends, a native of an olive tree country (Portugal) writes: "Over there, any time a farmer wishes to grow a new olive tree, he just cuts off a branch and sticks it into the ground. Within a short time (and without fail) he has a new olive tree growing. If you have a friend who has an olive tree growing, take some cuttings from it and root them in sand.

A GOOD FOLIAGE PLANT:
If you want a small shrub-like foliage plant try the Schefflera (Chef-tear-uh), a fast growing item with large palmately leaves on a long stem.

It's sometimes called "Umbrella tree." Plant tends to grow as a single trunk, but branching can be induced by cutting the top back. Best soil mixture is equal parts sand, peat and loam.

Water the plant thoroughly and then not again until the surface is dry. Start new plants from seed which will germinate in about two weeks in a 65-70 degree temperature.

You can also start plants from cuttings rooted in sand.

CHRISTMAS ROSE: Here's an item worth growing around your home. Foliage is evergreen and flowers are two inches across with white floral parts. They bloom all winter.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "Our clematis has been doing fine and we want to protect it from winter. What care does it need?"

Answer: Clematis is very hardy and I doubt if you need a mulch. Straw or evergreen boughs are sometimes used. FREE: Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my bulletin, "How To Grow Clematis."



PLANT SOME MONEY — Dried, peeled leaves from the Pope's penny look like real coins and may be used for interesting and attractive arrangements. Seeds grow in most climates and should be planted in the early fall.

Bays, Bows Will Grace Windows

Certain things seem to go together—love and marriage, beards and hippies, crackers and cheese, and wood bay windows with Colonial homes.

The tie-in between bay windows and Early American architecture is easily traced. They were originally used by Colonial shopkeepers to exhibit their wares.

Today, their purpose is more decorative than functional — although they retain a practical use.

Bays, and their sister-window, bows, are possibly the most beautiful window styles available. Bays are straight in the center, and angled at each end. Bows have a graceful outward curve.

Because of their large areas, both styles offer an expansive outdoor view. Ventilation is provided through operating panels in the top or bottom of the windows, or by flanking the windows with operating units.

Bays and bows are suitable for any room where sunlight, visibility and a decorative window treatment are desired.

Generally, they're used in living, dining and family rooms. Their obvious assets have also made them popular for libraries, bedrooms and dens.

Contributing to the wide use of wood bow and bay windows is their availability as complete, pre-assembled units.

Bow and bay windows of ponderosa pine can be found at local lumber dealers in stock sizes, ready for installation. They're obtainable with insulating glass which eliminates the need for storm sash.

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