



ACTIVITY AREAS are clearly defined with distinctive wall surfaces, furniture groupings, built-in shelves and storage, plus color. Colors of brown, tan and pewter gray are carried out in one wall and the draperies at the right. The colors are repeated in the carpeting and furniture of the conversation area. In the family relaxation area Spanish Oak paneling by Masonite is used. For more information on this room and others, write for a free, 16-page brochure, "Living Ideas for your World at Home." Send a postcard to the Home Service Bureau, Box B, Chicago, Ill. 60690.

## Fresh Flowers All Winter By Forcing Spring Bulbs

Get the jump on Mother Nature this winter by forcing spring bulbs to flower indoors. With a little knowledge, care

and effort, you can have a steady supply of flowering bulbs from January to April, says Dr. Will Carlson, horticulturist at Michigan State University.

Tulips, hyacinths, daffodils and crocus are flowers that are easily adapted to forcing, recommends Carlson. You can plant bulbs in pots any time between Oct. 1 and Dec. 1. October is recommended because it is convenient to work with materials then. Minimum length of the cold treatment should be 13 to 14 weeks.

Pot the bulbs in a very porous soil mixture to prevent overwatering. Any container will suffice. A six-inch pot will hold six tulips, three hyacinths, six daffodils or 15 crocuses.

PUT ENOUGH soil in the pot to cover bulbs with their tips level with the top of the pot. Leave a space of 1/4 inch at the top of the pot for easy watering. Label each pot with date of potting and the date (13 to 14 weeks later) the variety should be placed indoors.

Place the pots in a cold storage area where temperatures range between 35 to 48 degrees. This temperature range is critical, and your success with forcing bulbs depends on the cold treatment. Water the pots frequently to insure good root development.

After the cold treatment, take the pots indoors and place in a semi-sunny window where the temperature is about 60 degrees. FERTILIZATION is not necessary because the bulb contains most of the plant food. Within three to four weeks, spring flowers will bloom. Additional information on indoor forcing can be obtained from Cooperative Extension Service Bulletin E-593, "Home Forcing of Spring Flower Bulbs." Write to MSU Bulletin Office, P.O. Box 231, East Lansing, Mich. 48823. Single copies are free to Michigan residents.

## Rodents, Rabbits Come With Snow

Rodents and rabbits could move in with the snow and seriously damage your trees this winter, according to Michigan State University horticulturists.

Measures should be taken now to prevent rodents or rabbits from completely removing bark around the trunk or stems of an ornamental. Bark removal, known as riding, can lead to death of the tree.

To protect trees and shrubs, wrap the lower trunk with one lower fourth to three-eighths inch hardware wire before the ground freezes. Form the wire

in a tube around the trunk at least 18 inches high and set it in the ground to a depth of one or two inches. Overlap the wire and secure in place.

The wire may need to be extended where snow tends to drift and build up to unusual depths. This will prevent rabbits from reaching up and feeding on the bark above wire protection, the experts note.

Mice prefer to feed and rest under cover of vegetation. Removing cover around the plants will help discourage them from feeding.



**The Green Thumb**  
By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Home storage of vegetables: Inflation, high unemployment and a shrinking dollar made 1971 one of the biggest years for growing your own fruits and vegetables.

Stores everywhere reported running out of glass canning jars. Home canning and freezing are back in style. If you still have some vegetables left over, try storing them for the winter.

The old-fashioned root cellar went out the window when they started designing our modern homes. The home freezer and improved preserving methods have taken up where the old-fashioned root cellar left off.

If you're interested in storing your surplus crops, remember this rule: Fruits and vegetables are still living parts of plants, and the cooler you can keep them the better. Some of our friends sink a clean garbage can in the

garden for storing crops. The can is fitted with a tight cover and covered with a pile of straw to a depth of two feet. Heat from the ground will keep the fruits and vegetables in fine condition.

Another trick is to use an old refrigerator buried backside down in the garden. BE SURE TO KNOCK THE LOCK OFF so no curious child could possibly get locked in. My neighbor's eight cubic foot refrigerator, stripped, holds five bushels of produce and has kept apples and vegetables in 20 degree below zero weather.

He still covers it with straw for extra protection.

QUINCE LOTION: One of our readers, Ralph Brown, quince farmer from Waterport, N.Y., passes along this homemade recipe for making a lotion for chapped hands. Use 1/4 cup quince seeds soaked overnight in one pint of rainwater. Strain and add 1/2 ounce glycerine, two ounces bay rum and 1/2 ounce perfume.

Here's his recipe for using

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## Carport Should Be More Than Shelter

More than just car shelter, a carport should be designed also to provide storage and activity areas and enhance the looks of house and yard.

The new structure should relate to the house in style and color, although the materials may differ. For instance, a well-planned carport of

western wood will complement a brick house. If the garage has been converted into new living space, or if the carport is to shelter a second car, it can be placed in front of the garage. This utilizes the existing driveway.

The carport can be placed directly in front of the house, but careful styling, landscaping and construction are vital to overall appearance.

If the carport is to be part of a sundeck, patio, pool or other activity area, keep in mind the direction of the sun's rays, prevailing winds and view angles or privacy.

A carport provides a wealth of storage possibilities, built-in along one or several walls, above the rafters, or as covered parking for bicycles and outdoor equipment.

For persons who buy an older home, or decide to remodel their existing house instead of buying, cracked or out-of-plumb walls sometimes are a problem.

A handsome solution is simply to cover the walls with a new surface of western wood board paneling, nailed to furring strips attached to the old walls.

Color, texture and patterns can range from rich tones of western red cedar, light, delicate grain of western hemlock, or the warm, open textures of Douglas fir and western pines.

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