

# Indoor Gardens Provide Spot Of Greenery

**EAST LANSING**  
Have you already become bored and impatiently waiting for spring to arrive? Michigan State University horticulturist Dr. William H. Carlson recommends gardening indoors with a terrarium.

A terrarium is a miniature garden enclosed in a glass container that will provide a bright spot of greenery in your home.

Empty fish tanks, rose bowls, brandy snifters, goblets, large drinking glasses and glass jars can be used for terrariums. Be sure the

container you use is made of clear glass to insure good light penetration. Cloudy glass may cause the plants to stretch and thus cut down the life of your miniature greenhouse, the horticulturist explains.

The plant material selected will depend on the type of terrarium built. Natural settings can be built with the use of moss, native ferns, small pieces of driftwood and pebbles. For a desert garden, select cacti and other related plants that do not require much water. Such a garden is slow-growing and is ad-

vantageous because it will last longer without having to be replanted.

Carlson recommends Crotons, Dracaenas, Fatsia, Fittonias, Palms, peperonias and prayer plant for a tropical garden.

On the bottom of the container place coarse sand, gravel or broken clay pot chips to a depth of one inch. Add a layer of coarse peat moss or other mulch to prevent the soil mixture from sifting through. Next, add a

soil mixture of one part soil, one part peat moss and one part perlite.

After creating the proper contour, add the plants and carefully water them in. Be careful not to overwater, as the terrarium environment should remain quite moist and humid. If the condensate runs down the side of the jar after the cover has been in place, remove it for periodic ventilation. This helps prevent buildup of algae and fungal diseases.

This terrarium will not only keep your green thumb in practice, but add beauty to your home.

**Handy Jim's  
FIX-UPS**

Cover Laundry Tubs  
THERE'S real convenience for the homemaker when laundry tubs are covered to create a sorting table and the underneath area is converted to storage. Basement appearance is improved, too.

A free plan gives complete details.

tails for making this time and energy-saving installation. Dad can obtain the lumber and Masonite Tempered Preadwood at his nearby building materials yard.

In addition to the underneath storage, the plan reveals construction of an adjacent table with four additional drawers. Construction of the doors is detailed.

For a copy of free Plan AE-206, send a postcard to Masonite Corporation, Box B, Chicago, Ill. 60680.

# Live Christmas Tree Needs Special Care

**EAST LANSING**  
Have you always wanted a real live tree for Christmas with roots and all? Dr. Harold Davidson, Michigan State University horticulturist, explains certain requirements if the tree is to be planted later.

The trees most commonly used are Douglas-fir, spruce (white, black, or Colorado blue) and Scotch pine.

The plant must have an adequate ball of earth for its size. Use a ball six to nine inches in diameter for each inch of trunk diameter. This will limit the size tree which can be handled easily in the house.

Use a container or tin which will hold water. Red or green

plastic can be used and is very attractive, Davidson adds.

Keep the soil ball moist at all times until planted outside. Do this by packing damp peat or sphagnum moss around the ball of earth.

LOCATE the tree in the coolest part of the house, away from hot air registers and never near the fireplace, to minimize the drying of needles. A cool breezeway would be ideal. Make sure the furnace humidifier is operating properly.

Keep the plant in the house the shortest possible time, Davidson advises. Bring it in just before Christmas Eve and take it out as soon as possible after. To prevent drying of the

foliage, spray the plant with a foliar antidesiccant, such as Foli-Gard, Wilt-Pruf, Plant-Cote, Vapor-Gard or Stop-Wilt.

Use a minimum number of tree lights, as the heat from these will dry the foliage of the tree.

After care of the trees can be handled in two ways. Trees may be stored at low temperature or planted out right away. If storing is practical, keep in a dark garage where the temperature seldom goes below freezing but never higher than 48 degrees.

Then plant the tree outside in March, or as soon as the ground thaws in early spring. Mutch the root area with a five to six-inch layer of peat.



IN THE GUEST ROOM -- All the charm, quaintness, and hospitality of an English inn are reflected in this guest room, with traditional furniture and deep turquoise walls. Adding to the atmosphere of warmth and graciousness is an English-inspired cotton fabric printed in blue and rust floral stripes.

## Grass Grown In Oregon Muted Colors Give Roof Natural Look

More Highland benigrass seed is sold than that of any other colonial bent, all of it grown in the bright mountain valleys of western Oregon. Highland has long been the most ubiquitous lawngrass for the Pacific slopes from San Francisco northward, and it performs well in humid climates of the Northeast.

When you're remodeling a house, approach color with care, especially if you're reroofing.

Since a roof is highly visible and must protect your home for many years, it should be chosen for both appearance and quality.

Color is tricky: it's not easy to imagine how several colors will look together on the large exterior areas of a house. For a guide you, there are booklets that contain color charts and expert advice.

There are also fundamental rules any family can follow. No more than three colors should be used for roof, sidewalks and trim.

The fewer the colors, the greater the harmony and the easier the painting job. FOR MORE contrast, use texture. Textured roofing-

heavy-weight asphalt shingles, for example - and siding add diffusion and interest without fussiness.

Use complementary colors on the roof and sidewalks for harmonious contrast. Or, for an agreeable blend, use a lighter value of the roof color on the siding.

For a richly textured roof that's designed to be fire-retardant and weather-resistant up to 25 years, many families are turning to the new heavy-weight asphalt shingles. They come in the popular earthtones and other muted colors of nature, and some are woodgrained to complete the natural look.

For help in choosing a roof, send 25 cents for a 24-page booklet that includes a color chart to SREA, Box 3202, Grand Central Station, New York, N.Y. 10017.

# PINE

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