



SWIM THROUGH THE ARCHWAY of this indoor pool and you are in the outdoor section. The Olde Orchard clubhouse also offers residents a Finnish sauna, billiard room, teen room and a day-care center. Olde Orchard condominium model homes may be seen on Ten Mile Rd. Just west of Haggerty in Novi.

# Flowers \$20 Million Industry In Michigan

**EAST LANSING** Michigan can boast of a \$20 million flower industry. About 500 growers produce about 3.5 per cent of all the flowers grown commercially in the U.S., reports Will Carlson, Michigan State University horticulturist. Bedding plants account for the biggest share of the total, about \$7 million.

"The bedding plant industry has been skyrocketing with sales and production more than doubling in each of the last three decades," says Carlson. "Michigan now produces 10 per cent of all the bedding plants grown in the United States."

A breakdown of the rest of the Michigan flower industry looks like this: outdoor flowers, \$3 million; roses, \$2 million; chrysanthemums, \$1.7 million; perennials, \$1.5 million; poinsettias, \$1 million; geraniums, \$1 million; azaleas, hydrangeas, etc., \$1 million; foliage plants, \$300,000; lilies, \$500,000; and gladioli, \$300,000.

And the flower market potential in Michigan is great, says Carlson.

IN A RECENT MSU study of 617 Michigan consumers, 98 per cent said they had a place to plant flowers where they lived and 78 per cent reported "yes" when asked, "Did you or someone in your family buy any bedding plants within the last 12 months?"

The study also showed that

ladies account for most of the purchases (59 per cent) or at least go along with their husbands to buy a bedding plant (another 25 per cent). More than half reported they spend more than \$5 a year on bedding plants.

Most had suggestions for improving the flowers they bought; better container design, better information on care, wider selection, lower prices, more durable plants, etc.

Carlson says these suggestions are being followed by MSU researchers as they attempt to produce "ideal" flowers.

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**The Green Thumb**  
By GEORGE ABRAHAM

**Pruning Shrubs:** Few things are more baffling to the home gardener than the subject of trimming ornamental plants.

Let's take the mystery out of it. Just remember this: spring flowering shrubs are usually pruned right after they flower. This includes deutzia, azalea, lilac (syringa), Siberian peashrub (caragana), honeysuckle (Lonicera), spirea (suckling flowering types), beautybush (Kolkwitzia) and mock orange, to name a few.

Pruning consists of reaching in and symmetrically removing (thinning) of some of the older stems at ground level. Just reach in and cut them out. DON'T whack off the top of a bush until it looks like a table top.

Summer flowering shrubs produce their flowers on current season's growth, so plants of this group should be pruned while dormant in winter to promote new growth which will flower that season. These shrubs can be pruned back by a combination of thinning out and heading back some of the growth.

NOTE: Some shrubs such as lilac, produce suckers around the base of the plant. You can cut out some of these suckers, as well as old wood inside the bush.

If your shrubs are in bad shape, you can go out now and trim them, regardless of their season of flowering. You may sacrifice blossoms for this year, but next year will bring plenty. Some shrubs are full of tangled wood and almost a hopeless mess.

Best way to handle these delinquents is to cut them back to within six or eight inches of the ground and let all new growth come along.

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## Good Polish Job Benefits Plants

**EAST LANSING** Your plants can benefit from a good polish job say horticulturists at Michigan State University. They recommend using plant polishes or rinsing the foliage with warm water.

Plant polishes are common items in garden stores and florist shops and can be applied with a soft cloth to impart a gloss to foliage and flowering plants. Before the polish is applied, the experts recommend watering the plant well and removing dust by wiping the foliage with a wet paper cloth.

To get rid of water spots, the horticulturists suggest using a mild detergent in the water and dipping the foliage. This should be followed with a clear water rinse to remove the detergent.

Milk and oil are not recommended because they clog the pores of the leaves and act as dust catchers.

Hairy leaved plants, like African violets and gloxinias, should be brushed with a camel hair brush to remove the dust and then rinsed with warm water.

**Handy Jim's FIX-UP TIPS**

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10'	1.21	1.57	2.43	3.17	4.26	2.89
12'	1.54	2.24	3.58	4.36	5.23	3.59
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