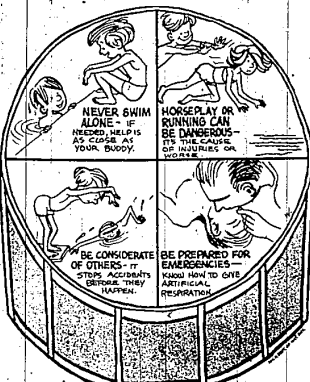


Backyard Pool Safety



Oriental Dogwoods Bloom Longer

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

Flowering dogwoods, with their hours of pink and white blossoms that brightened so many area gardens last month, are now but a pleasant memory. However, in a few gardens, the dogwood season is not over, and once again there are small trees laden with large creamy white blooms.

These are Kousa dogwoods (Cornus Kousa), known variously as Japanese, Chinese, or Korean dogwood.

These Oriental cousins of our native American dogwood (Cornus florida) grow into small spreading trees up to 20 feet tall. They tend to have a bushy or shrubby habit but can be pruned into a more tree-like form.

The leaves are similar to those of the native dogwood, but smooth edged and a lustrous rich green. In autumn they take on a deep scarlet hue.

The flowers of the Japanese dogwood are two to three inches in diameter. Actually, as with the American flowering dog-

woods, the true flowers are an inconspicuous small cluster of tiny greenish blooms.

These are surrounded by four large petal-like bracts. It is these that most people call the flower.

Unlike the native dogwood which has flower bracts that are rounded and notched, the bracts of the Japanese dogwood are elongated with pointed tips. Although these are generally white, occasionally a plant will show bracts that are tinged or blotched with pink. This seems to be dependent on

soil conditions rather than on variety.

The flowers begin to unfold in mid-June and the trees are in bloom for four or five weeks.

Soon after the blossoms fall the attractive red fruits develop. These fruits, which resemble large raspberries on long slender stems, are relished by the birds so they often do not last on the tree very long.

Like their native American counterparts, the Kousa dogwoods grow best in moist well-drained acid soil that has a generous amount of

peat moss or leaf mold incorporated in it. In their native habitats flowering dogwoods grow in the shade beneath trees.

On the home grounds they are planted in either sun or shade. They seem to thrive and bloom best in a situation that is partly sunny, but with shade in mid-day and early afternoon.

If you are looking for an unusual small tree for your yard, or want to extend the period of bloom provided by the American flowering dogwoods, the Kousa dogwood is an excellent choice.

A Wildlife Refuge In Your Backyard?

Perhaps you never think of your backyard as a wildlife refuge, but the National Wildlife Federation does.

The federation even hopes you will want to make your yard part of its new nationwide network of registered miniature refuges.

"Invite Wildlife to Your Backyard," an article in the April-May issue of National Wildlife magazine, gives step-by-step directions for converting your yard into a haven for wildlife. The secrets lie in putting the needs of birds and other animals first

when choosing trees, shrubs, flowers and grasses to beautify your home.

Mountain ash, for example, may bring 15 species of birds to your yard while red cedar has been known to attract 68 species.

The results are more pleasing than you might think.

Birds like variety and many of their favorite foods, such as bright red, orange or blue berries, grow on some of your favorite lawn trees and bushes.

The pines and oaks which squirrels need for cover, acorns and nests also provide

windbreaks and beauty for your home.

Installing a birdbath to ensure a year-round water supply for wildlife also adds charm and interest to your yard. A small pool not only creates a home for fish, frogs, turtles and dragonflies, but provides a new focal point in your landscape design as well.

To have your property registered as a "national wildlife backyard habitat," you need only provide evidence that your yard is a dependable source of wildlife's four

basic needs—food, water, cover and nesting places.

Your reward will be a more beautiful and interesting yard, fewer insects, and higher property value.

"Under this new program, thousands of acres in residential neighborhoods could become a tremendous asset to wildlife—and to people," says Thomas L. Kimball, executive vice president of the National Wildlife Federation.

"Backyards across the country add up to millions of acres. With a little thought, money and effort, we could reverse the flight of wildlife

before the bulldozer and re-orient their beauty to our lives."

For a free copy of "Invite Wildlife to Your Backyard," write to Backyard Wildlife Program, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 16th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Additional copies cost 25 cents each.

NWF membership information and an application form for enrolling your yard in the program may be secured from the same address.

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Floor Tile Serves As Wall Covering



The era of painted walls seems to be ending.

Interior designers and home furnishings buyers for chains and big department stores are showing great interest in other types of coverings: wallpaper, vinyl covering, fabrics and newest of all—vinyl asbestos floor tile. Yes, floor tile.

According to the Better Floors Council, the Resident Tile Institute has approved the use of this popular floor covering on walls that are in good condition. (That's because this is a thermoplastic material that eventually telescopes any holes or bulges behind it; if walls are in poor condition, apply hardboard panels first.)

The decorating possibilities with vinyl asbestos are numerous: it can be used as a wainscoting of the same tile as on the floor; on one or two walls, floor-to-ceiling, of the same floor tile; or where the room is carpeted, tile in a complementary color is very effective.

If you have a big wall space, stunning designs can be created using two or more colors of tile, or mixing smooth-surface and embossed designs.

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Expert Driver Predicts Move

When you're driving, do you know how to predict the actions of a confused pedestrian, a running child, or a pedestrian with too many drinks?

When you actually see them, it may be too late, warns the Highway Traffic Safety Center of Michigan State University. Spotting clues ahead of time is the ability attributed to expert drivers.

Tavern areas produce steady pedestrians. Parked vehicles, in residential areas, hide children and their pets.

Crowded business areas produce j-walkers.

Expert drivers protect thoughtless pedestrians.

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