



Surprise Blooms

A magnolia tree that had but one blossom this spring now is bursting into bloom again with 24 flowers.

Mrs. James Wrenn of Rockingham Street in Southfield had decided the buds were forming for next spring but they didn't wait.

The tree was planted last summer when the Wrenns converted a rather barren area to a Japanese garden. They made a hill and planted red buds and a dogwood as well as the magnolia.

The midsummer blooms are a surprise bonus in the new garden.

Here's How To Attack Your Poison Ivy Itch

EAST LANSING
Recognition and prompt treatment are your best protection against infection from poison ivy and sumac this summer, according to two Michigan State University specialists.

Horticulturist Stanley Ries and Dr. Elizabeth Hutchinson, assistant clinical professor of dermatology in MSU's Department of Medicine, suggest the following to avoid the "itches" this summer:

A good aid is the U.S. Department of Agriculture identification guide entitled "Poison Ivy, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac: Farmers' Bulletin No. 1972," Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Govern-

ment Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20540. Single copies are 10 cents.

If you come in contact with poisonous plants, wash yourself and your clothes. Soap or detergent in running water will remove poisonous oils, says Dr. Hutchinson.

Use cleaning fluid on clothes that must be dry cleaned. If you take clothes to a dry cleaner, let him know they are contaminated.

Scrub door handles, tools and furniture that might be also contaminated.

Remove plants you find in your yard or fields by digging them up or by using such herbicides as amitrole or ammonium sulfamate. They are sold under the

trade names Aminotrikol, Weedazol and Ammate-X. The USDA's bulletin describes removal methods.

At the first signs of poisoning - bumpy red spots in streaks - apply cool, wet compresses. As blisters develop, use calamine lotion. Dr. Hutchinson says. She also suggests using baking soda in your bath.

"The rash itself is not contagious," the dermatologist says. "Once the oils have been washed off, contact with a person affected with poison ivy is harmless. And scratching doesn't spread the blisters."

A poison ivy or sumac rash can be contracted by direct contact, by brushing against

contaminated people or objects, or from smoke as the plants are burned, Dr. Ries says.

You are more likely to encounter poison ivy than sumac in Michigan, he adds. Symptoms may appear a few hours or even as long as five days after contact.

If you must be in a poison ivy or sumac infested area, use protective formulas suggested in the bulletin such as a ferric chloride and glycerine solution, cottonseed or olive oil, or petrolatum.

According to Dr. Hutchinson, some people with extremely sensitive skin can be immunized against poison ivy. But treatment must begin in winter and be carried on throughout the season.

The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

If your cucumber vines were nice and green, but suddenly turned yellow and wilted, you can blame this on bacterial wilt, a disease spread by the striped cucumber beetle.

The vines start to bear nicely, then suddenly just wilt and die. The striped cucumber beetle carries the bacteria in its body and infects the cucumber plants during its feeding.

Soil is an excellent material for using on your cucumber vines, but don't use it on cucumbers during periods of high humidity as it may cause some burning on young plants.

A relatively new ivy plant that's gaining in popularity is the Swedish ivy or Plectranthus. It's a large family, and a friend of mine, Gladys Reed Robinson, has one of the best collections.

There are over 120 species of Swedish ivy native not

Wood Screen Decorates Driveway

A driveway is a necessary part of a modern home, but generally is not a decorative feature. This can be remedied by adding a screen of western wood on one side.

Extending the screen around the entry adds privacy for a sitting area.

On a sloping lot, three or more separate screens set at an angle to the driveway lends a graceful look. Douglas fir and western cedar are popular choices for outdoor projects.

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