

Flowering Trees Add Beauty

Few flowering trees can equal a specimen or border tree in beauty the ornamental plants and cherries during the season of bloom. The colorful foliage of the plums provides a pleasing contrast when planted with other trees and shrubs.

Purpleleaf Plum: small pink flower before the leaves come on, holds reddish leaves all season to fall. Grows to a height of 20 feet.

Kwanzan cherry: grows to a height of 20 feet, large double pink flowers of this variety are very showy and attractive. As a specimen or border tree it is unexcelled.

Flowering Plum: grows to a height of 12 feet. The bright pink flowers stud every twig and branchlet in the spring before the leaves come out.

Weeping Flowering Cherry: grows to a height of 10 feet, in the spring the tree arrests attention when the branches are covered with delicate clusters of dainty pink flowers.

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MANY AREA HOMEOWNERS will be getting out their paint brush to spruce up their homes during May Clean-Up and Fix-Up Month. John Schaeppner (above), owner of the Decor Suburban Paint and Wallpaper Company located in the Downtown Farmington Center, has his stock built up to take care of the added demands of the season as can be seen on the shelves in his store which are lined with a wide variety of paint for shoppers.

Ask Nurseryman First Before Making Stock Buys

An "Ask Your Nurseryman First" program designed to protect home owners and gardeners from cheats and frauds in the sale of nursery stock has been announced by the Michigan Association of Nurserymen in cooperation with Attorney General Frank Kelley and Department of Agriculture Director George S. McIntyre.

Assistant Attorney General Mrs. Maxine Virtue, in charge of the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division and C.A. Boyer, chief of the Agriculture Department's Plant Industry Division have joined the M.A.N. in urging home owners to check with their local nurserymen, the Plant Industry Division or Michigan State University Horticultural Department before they are victimized by high pressure salesmen using fancy names for ordinary shrubs and plants and making exaggerated claims for their plant materials.

"OUR FILES show that purchasers generally receive what they have contracted to buy but fail to understand the contracts and orders they sign," Attorney General Kelley pointed out. "All consumer complaints, including verbal misrepresentation, are reviewed by the Consumer Protection Division with other state agencies concerned and appropriate action is taken or recommended."

"Mr. Boyer and his assistants have expert knowledge of the horticultural facts about any type or kind of plant material," said Mrs. Virtue.

Shrubs, Trees Bring Birds

If you are interested in attracting birds to your yard there are a few shrubs and trees you can plant to do it:

Red Chokeberry: white flowers in June, red berries in fall.

Barberry: red berries in the fall.

White Fringe: large clusters of fringed white flowers in May.

Blue berries in the fall.

Coleaster: pink flowers, bright red berries in great abundance.

Honeysuckle: reddish pink flower in May, red berries in August and September.

Jet Beads: starry white flowers in June, jet black berries all winter.

Cornus: rose pink berries in abundance.

New Snowberry bush: pink flowers followed by upright sprays of huge white berries.

Wayfaring Tree: stout upright, with leathery wrinkled foliage, red in the fall, red fruit turns black.

Mt. Ash: fruits heavily with bunches of bright orange-red berries in summer and winter.

Almey Crab: blooms when very young, small scarlet fruit holds on well.

Hops Crab: large fragrant, deep pink flowers, orange-red fruit good for jelly.

Floribunda Crab: buds deep pink opens very light pink, fruit small reddish-yellow.

White Flowering Dogwood: white flowers in May, fruit in tiers.

Petunia Color Trend Is Seen

There are three pronounced color trends in these popular annual petunias. The first is toward bright colors, like those in varieties Comanche, Tango, Fire Dance, Red Satin and Scarlet Lasso, all of which are brilliant in hue.

The second is toward bi-color or variegated petunias. This trend started about 1956 with the introduction of the variety Crusader which has flowers of rose-red and white. Since then, such varieties as Satellite, Glitters, Comet, Polaris and Galaxy have been extremely popular.

THIRD is the trend toward white flowered petunias. This may be because people like the bright colors in the varieties mentioned above with white, thus achieving strong contrast garden planted with petunias.

Another possible reason for the desirability of white petunias is that people use their gardens as outdoor living rooms and often sit in or near them at night.

Whatever the reasons, these are the trends.

Be Ready for a Quick Picnic

The best kind of picnic often is the spur-of-the-moment variety when you just pick up and go. A picnic kit, outfitted now and always ready, enables you to leave for an outdoor meal in a minute. Disposable picnic supplies eliminate clean-up chores, too.

All you need is an attractive basket, filled with picnic essentials such as plastic or wood forks and spoons, packages of paper plates, a twin server box of paper napkins, paper cups and a paper tablecloth. Also include a covered mason jar of sugar and salt and pepper shakers (place a bit of paper toweling over the top of the shakers before screwing on the tops to avoid spills).

A knife with a serrated blade will come in handy. Wrap the blade in a paper towel and secure with a rubber band. Your picnic kit should also contain a quart of water.

box of kitchen matches, a bug-repellent candle, and a roll of towels for cleaning barbecue grills and wiping off tables.

After each picnic check the kit and replace used items. Then the next time someone says—"let's have a picnic!"—you're ready on a moment's notice.

An empty large size instant coffee jar makes a convenient container to store rice, beans or popcorn. This prevents them from spilling on cupboard shelves or in the drawers. Be sure containers are dry. Recipes often a package may be clipped to correct size and put into the bottle.

Add table salt to the water that you boil eggs in. This keeps eggs from cracking open. Cover eggs completely with water, add 2 teaspoons of salt to a quart of water.

Tag Your Attic Items; Keep Tabs on All Junk

Do you have difficulty keeping trash from accumulating in your attic?

One family has developed a plan that keeps attic trash at a minimum, the National Board of Fire Underwriters reports.

Here is how it works: Whenever an old rocking chair, a stack of magazines, newspapers, discarded clothing or similar items are taken to the attic, a tag is attached showing the date.

Once a year, during Spring Clean-Up Week, the contents of the attic are checked. Any item which has been there over a year and has no worth is thrown out.

Marble-topped tables require special attention. Never clean marble with harsh abrasives or oily furniture polishes. Always use a specially-formulated marble polish.

Do you have trouble with your sleeveless dresses sliding off the hanger. Try a wire hanger that drapes are returned from the cleaners on. They are larger and deeper than regular hangers, and the garment will stay put when on this type hanger.

To remove stains left by oily foods such as butter or salad dressings, soak several thick pieces of paper towels with lighter fluid, place over stain and allow to dry. Repeat if necessary. Follow with an application of marble polish.

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