

Planned Lighting Has Major Decorating Role

"Planned lighting" can be one of the most effective decorating tools the homeowner can use—and one of the least expensive. New fixtures arranged according to a planned design will do as much as carpeting, wall colors, furnishings and accessories to create an attractive and welcoming atmosphere, explains the American Home Lighting Institute (AHLI).

Poor lighting causes colors, textures, and furniture settings to pale into drabness. Good lighting, on the other hand, dramatizes the visual beauties of any room.

Lighting falls into three categories—general, accent and task lighting. General illumination must be potentially strong, but may use built-in dimmers for altering atmosphere. This is created by chandeliers or other ceiling-suspended fixtures, as well as recessed lighting.

Accent lighting is used to emphasize certain areas, such as a handsome fireplace setting or a wall of paintings. This is done with bullet or beam spotlights focused directly on the arrangement.

Task lighting is for work areas, such as kitchen stoves, counter tops, and study areas.

This concentrated illumination is provided from wall-mounted or recessed fixtures.

As displayed in AHLI "Light for Living Centers," lighting designs are widely varied. Whether you choose classic simplicity, the elegance of crystal or the smart contemporary look of smoked acrylic, there are fixtures to suit your home and your budget.

TYPICAL of available choices, a provincial entry hall may be enhanced by gleaming brass wall lanterns,

or a colonial "gaslit" fixture. Or an elegantly serene dining room may be dramatized by the flash of shimmering Strass crystals. Or a contemporary living room, bold with color and pattern, will further brighten with the airy lightness of a sculptured "bare-bulb" chandelier.

Apartment dwellers and home-owners with small rooms will find popular designs in scaled-down models which provide as much light as a standard five-light chandelier. Many styles range from one-to-three light wall lanterns or sconces to five, 10-, 15- or 35-light chandeliers.



Is there anything you can do to hasten fruiting or bearing of a fruit tree? Yes, and tying the branches is one of them. Many commercial growers tie down the branches of young apple trees to hasten fruiting and to produce a much-better-shaped tree, easier to spray and pick. Here's how they do it: Drive a stake into the ground, put a slipknot on a piece of rope and tie it to the end of an upright branch. Then pull the branch down until it is more or less horizontal and tie this to a stake in the ground. Spreading the branches downward will induce earlier fruiting, and cause more abundant flower production.

In amateur gardens in England and on the European continent, the tying down of branches of apple trees is practiced quite extensively. It is used to shape the tree into small spaces as well as to cause early bearing. Here's the theory behind bending the branches: It acts just as knife ringings does, restricting movement of carbohydrates from the outer portion of the limb toward the roots. The resulting accumulation of carbohydrates in the limb and slowing down of growth behind the bend is favorable to flower bud formation.

NOTE: Although bending of branches may cause earlier bearing, it also may stunt the growth of a tree, a good thing for home gardeners since most of them want dwarf trees anyway. It's too late to effectively bend your branches now. Better wait until after growth starts next spring (or do it any time during the dormant season). The important thing is that it should be done before the end of May so that a chance is given for the carbohydrates to accumulate prior to the time of fruit-bud formation at the end of June.

I mention the bending process now because many wait until summer to do the job and find it has no effect on hastening fruiting or slowing down the growth of the tree. ROOT YOUR OWN SHRUBS: No reason why you cannot slip or start your own favorite shrubs such as roses, blueberries, oleander, weigela, dogwood, forsythia, privet, viburnum, deutzia, yucca, holly, barberry, lilac, azalea, to name a few. Many oldtimers use a box of moist sand in a cold frame. Take cuttings four to six inches long and insert them about two inches deep.

Make a cut with a sharp knife, close to a node or joint. Strip off leaves on lower half of cutting before inserting it. You can use a rooting hormone available in garden stores.

Just dip the base into the powder and then stick the cutting into the sand. Water well after insertion and cover with a plastic sheet to maintain humidity. Keep cuttings out of direct sun or they will cook before they'll root.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "Is it true that if you rub the juice of plantain (dawn weed) on a bee sting it will relieve the pain?" Answer: Yes, many beesmen rub the leaf of narrow or broad-leaved plantain on bee stings and it helps. Remove stinger first! Don't pull it out! Scrape it out.

LOCK'S require powdered graphite rather than oil. Or, dilute oil will gum up locks. Graphite generally comes in a container which, when squeezed, will puff out a small amount of the dust.

Rose Chafer Munches Away

The rose chafer is especially fond of rose buds and leaves, but it can also do serious damage to grapes, cherries and a number of other plants.

This insect is about 1/2 inch long and has a reddish-brown head and body with a black underbelly. Its whole body is covered with short yellow hairs that give the beetle a fawn colored appearance.

For control, apply two sprays of Malathion or Sevin, seven to 10 days apart, starting when the insects appear—usually in early June. Thoroughly cover the whole plant. For more information on controlling insects that attack Michigan trees and shrubs contact your local county Cooperative Extension Office and ask for Extension Bulletin 534, Controlling Pests of Trees and Shrubs: A Guide for Home Gardeners. This bulletin may also be obtained by writing to: Michigan State University, Bulletin Office, Box 231, East Lansing, Mich. 48823. Single copies are available free to Michigan residents.

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