

Time To Plant Deciduous Trees, Shrubs

By BETTY FRANKEL
Special Writer

Leaves on trees and shrubs blazing in glorious shades of gold and russet, crimson and scarlet signal the arrival of the fall planting season. Leaf-losing plants are becoming dormant now, and this is an ideal time for transplanting them.

However, before you rush out and buy any trees and

shrubs to add to your landscaping, decide what you need. Consider what you want the plants to do. Then choose plants that will accomplish your purpose.

There are literally hundreds of kinds of trees and shrubs from which to choose.

Consider the growing conditions. Choose plants that are hardy and can withstand our cold winters. Choose

plants that fit your soil type and moisture and drainage conditions.

If a plant can't stand wet feet it will die if you put it in a poorly drained soggy area. The same plant, though, might really thrive in a hot, dry bank.

Some shrubs and trees need acid soil. A few are tolerant of a wide range of conditions.

Some plants can withstand buffeting by winds. Others die or become distorted. If winds may be a problem don't plant delicate specimens. Rely on rugged plants.

Consider also the size and form of the plant. There are trees that remain under 25 feet in height. Some of the loveliest of our flowering trees are in this "small tree" category. They can be placed as an accent by the entrance

where space is ample. Not only will they get 80 to 100 feet or more in height, but their branches have a spread of 30 to 40 feet or more.

Before you plant a tree consider its mature size in relation to the size of your yard. Of course, it takes many years before a young tree grows up to full size. However, some grow quickly. By the time a young tree is 10 years old, it will be 35 feet tall, and sugar maples, locusts, pin oaks, green ash when they are 10 years old.

Shrubs mature much more quickly than do trees. Within five years they have attained maturity.

Among the low shrubs that remain less than knee high are dwarf barberry, dwarf flowering quince, shrubby cinquefoil, dwarf cranberry

bush and several varieties of cotoneaster. These shrubs are good for ground covers or as low borders or edgings.

Medium shrubs grow to about four feet in height. They can be used as part of a mixed border or as specimen plants. They can hide low objects but are not high enough to completely screen a view. Since they are below eye level they can be looked over or across.

They are high enough, though, to screen people sitting or lounging on a patio. In this chest-high group are Japanese flowering quince, dwarf burning bush, Nanking cherry, fragrant viburnum, gariand spiraea and Chinese azaleas.

Tall shrubs that make good backgrounds and screens include forsythia, lilacs, beauty bush, honeysuckle, mock orange, red osier dogwood,

winged euonymus, and numerous viburnums.

Whether you are planting bare-root stock, balled and burlaped plants, or container stock, be sure to make the planting hole large enough. Dig the hole a foot deeper and at least a foot wider than is needed to accommodate the roots.

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The Green Thumb
By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Right now you probably see black flies (fungus gnats) buzzing around your house plants.

You can get rid of the small black pests by making a suds of laundry soap (bar soap) and then pour 1/2 cup to one cup around the top of the pot. Some gardeners have been using this simple remedy for years. While any bar laundry soap will work, I like the Naphtha soap.

Another good solution is to soak cigar butts (or cigaret stubs) in water, then drench the soil surface with the solution.

Parents, teachers and service clubs looking for a good project for the young people can encourage them to survey streets in your community to see how many trees are dead or dying. Years ago when the trees were planted, streets were unpaved and roads had room to grow. With the advent of automobiles, factories, and more people, many of our giant trees are literally smothered, and our trees are dying of thirst, salt and old age.

Many villages are planting new trees, making it possible for each tree that's cut to be replaced by a new one. If your village or city doesn't have such a program, put a bug in the mayor's ear. Trees can get along without people, but people can't get along without trees. A tree's a treat to have in your lawn.

Those house plants you brought indoors might be a bit leggy now. Why not "slip" or take cuttings from these plants and make new ones for you and your friends?

You can root cuttings in plain water, sand, perlite, vermiculite, or a mixture of sand and peatmoss. If you want to make a good home "propagator" put a small clay pot (hole plugged) inside a larger clay pot, and fill the space between the two pots with sand.

The smaller inside pot is a reservoir - you fill it with water. Cuttings three to four inches long are inserted into the sand. Lower leaves are trimmed back so they won't rot. After the cuttings are inserted and watered, enclose entire pot with a plastic sheet to increase humidity and trap moisture inside.

Plastic bags which carrots, apples, etc. come in are good for this as they create just the right "greenhouse" atmosphere.

You can root gardenias, begonias, African violets, snake plants, ivies and hundreds of others with this method.

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"We dug up a clump of parsley and brought it indoors

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