

Down to earth

Colors change

Autumn officially begins around the third week of September and we begin to see a change in the coloring of our favorite trees. Cool nights and warm or sunny, crisp, cool days are ideal for a maximum coloration. The color in plants is due to the pigments in the cells that make up the tissue. The green

color in a leaf is the pigment in chlorophyll. Some leaves do not color but turn brown and drop off. Short days in combination with cooler temperatures at night reduce the leaf's ability to replace the green chlorophyll. Maybe little elves giggle while

splashing bright colors over moonlit leaves of the trees before the first rays of sunlight or whether tiny cells and their substances slowly transform the trees into ethereal beauty, the results catch the eyes of all. Many are green salad enthusiasts who might like to grow some greens in a window sill. Secure the seeds of mustard and cress (Shumway's, Rockford, Ill.) and plant them thickly in vermiculite in any 2" container. PRESS SEED into the vermiculite but do not cover. Enclose the project in plastic until germination

takes place. Keep in a sunny window. Plant them together and in 10 days expect cuttings for a salad. Mustard can be brassica napus or brassica alba. The cress will be called rape. This is an ideal quick growing project for school children to take home and also interesting for the homebound. We are all proud of the Detroit Garden Center at 1460 East Jefferson. This headquarters in one of the oldest restored homes of old Detroit and has a garden in a historic style in the rear. The Center is sponsoring a series of classes which will include many

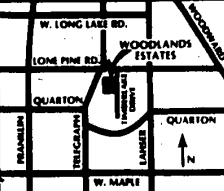
indoor and outdoor techniques to increase the knowledge of gardeners. They include: Growing orchids and greenhouse; ferns; miniature nature scenes; metal tile flowers; citrus peel plaques; fall arrangements, bread dough and dolls, etc. or particulars. There is a book which should be in every school library. I discovered it while wandering around the hills of Pennsylvania. "The Shrub Identification Book", George Symonds, William Morrow and Co., 105 Madison Avenue, New York, 10016, 370 pages, \$5.95. The leaves of shrubs, vines and ground covers are photographed. The bark, buds and berries are also shown. There are keys to help you "play detective." The flowers are beautifully illustrated. Good garden books on a reference shelf extends interest in gardening and acts as continuing education.

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