Home and Garden . . . By Lillie L. Madsen

Camellias Damaged by Early Cold Spell

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Garden Editor, The Statesman

Today is yet too early to know the exact extent of damage to shrubs and flowers —and judging from the amount of telephone calls I've had since the cold set in, that is one of the things everybody wants to know right now.

But it isn't too early to note some damage to the camellias. This is particularly true of some of the more tender pink and white types like Pink Perfection. There will be a heavy loss in flowering in this variety, I fear, and there may be some killing of the shrub itself.

September gave us considerable good moisture this year, and October gave us some nice spring-like weather which brought out new growth on a lot of the camellias. You can already tell that much of this is killed. Some of the foliage on camellias is already dropping.

Will Make Comeback

However, most of the hardy ones are expected to come back and unless there is more damage, there should be considerable bloom this spring.

Rhododendrons are expected to come through somewhat in better shape, although here, too, there may be some damage to buds and new-growth tips. The curling up of some of the foliage must not be interpreted, necessarily, as serious damage. This is nature's way of "cuddling" to conserve what warmth the foliage and shrub may have. Some of the tender evergreen azaleas are expected to show some damage. Even some of the hardier hybrids will show some burnings, Jock Brydon, Salem shrub authority believed.

Magnolias, while most of them will show a good come-back are also expected to show considerable burning on the foliage and flower buds. A number of magnolias were just about to bloom when they got snowed in.

Check Soil

Considerable "final" serious results may be averted if some attention is given to the condition of the soil immediately after the ground thaws. If it is dry — and it is very apt to be, as the cold draws out the moisture — then it should be soaked. Don't take for granted that the snow will have made it nice and moist. Even a rain, unless it is much more than an "Oregon mist" will not dampen down sufficiently to the roots. Drying winds and drying colds do more damage than frosts and snow.

Colored Leaves

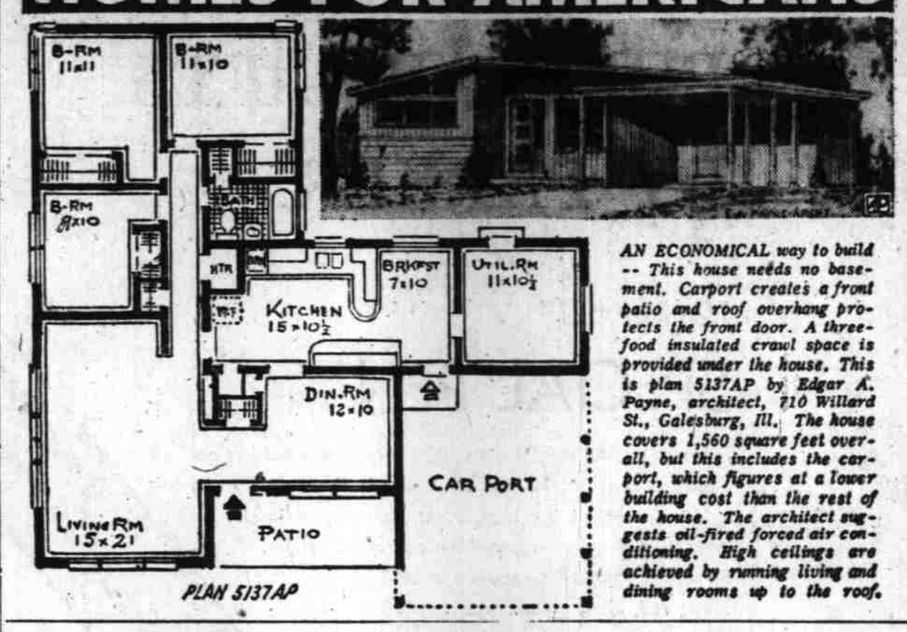
Because I have had a number of requests for certain trees with bright foliage, I will transfer the questions from the Question - Answer column to this — and hope the inquirers read both.

To those who are looking for a maple that will give color both summer and fall, there is nothing better than the Crimson King. It is brilliant during the summer and more brilliant in autumn.

While the Schwedler maples are green in summer, they take on a nice hue of "autumn colors" in the fall. This is a fast growing tree and has a beautiful soft green foliage during the summer. A little fertilizer and plenty of water in its earlier years and you have a good sized maple before you expect it. It is a particularly lovely thing for rural yards where there is plenty of space.

The Red oak is the smaller pin oak good too, a little easier to find, but not quite so brilliant in the fall. In oaks, the Scarlet is about the best. It grows nicely, is fine during the summer and is beautiful as a whole not quite so particularly attractive in this. pretty a tree. excellent tree. The foliage is

HOMES FOR AMERICANS



AN ECONOMICAL way to build -- This house needs no basement. Carport creates a front patio and roof overhang protects the front door. A three-food insulated crawl space is provided under the house. This is plan 5137AP by Edgar A. Payne, architect, 710 Willard St., Galesburg, Ill. The house covers 1,560 square feet overall, but this includes the carport, which figures at a lower building cost than the rest of the house. The architect suggests oil-fired forced air conditioning. High ceilings are achieved by running living and dining rooms up to the roof.

Answers to Garden Questions

Question — When can we transplant our calla lilies? They have grown in the same place for almost 10 years and we want to divide them and make more of them. M.S.G.

Answer —When the snow and cold weather stops. They could have been transplanted anytime from November and on. Some folk divide them earlier in the fall. They like a soil that is rather rich with humus. And when the weather clears and you do transplant them, cover them with a four-inch mulch of peat moss, leaf-mold or similar material. Do not plant them too deeply.

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Question — I have a calla lilly with spotted leaves and yellow blooms. Have grown it in the house for four years and it has bloomed well. Now I have divided it and was told to plant one of them outside. Will they survive our winters here? L.I.

Answer — Some of them will—and in some winters. I wouldn't plant them out until early March and even then I'd give them a loose covering of leafmold or peat moss. I had a yellow one growing outdoors for about six years — and finally it failed to come up again. While it did not bloom as profusely as my white ones (which are the large variety and not the dwarf) did, the yellow ones bloomed quite well.

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Question — We have a dog that simply will not take the worm capsules. What can we do to worm him? S.H.

Answer —Drop five drops of turpentine in the center of a spoon of honey. Smear on the lower teeth when the stomach is empty and he will swallow this, so a friend veterinarian tells me. You should feed him mostly raw beef for a time and once a week give him a teaspoonful of lime water in a little milk or drinking water. This is similar to the treatment you give a cat that needs worming.

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Question — Had trouble with the hawthorne this past year. It came out beautiful in the spring and then began drying up, especially around the edges of the leaves. I made a note book of my garden ills and this was at the top of the list. What should I do. D.O.R.

Answer — This isn't much information to go on. It could be some insect — like the spider, or it could be a hawthorne leaf-blight. My guess would really be at the latter. The treatment for the latter is garden sanitation and spray. By sanitation, I mean raking up and burning this year's foliage. Spade around the tree—about two feet from the trunk out the whole way around. In the spring, dust the soil around the tree with bordeaux mixture, and start spraying at two-week intervals with a Bordeaux mixture, foliage strength. This should be started as soon as leaf buds open and continue until in flower.

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Question —Would you tell us how to break flagstones for a walk in the garden? They tell me there is a trick to it, and that if we just try to hammer them apart they'll shatter. F.R.

Answer —I didn't know there was a trick to this either, but a friend who does a lot of work with flagstones says that he makes a guide line with a cold chisel and then taps the chisel with a hammer. As the cut gets deeper, he increases the force of the hammer. This will give you a better, cleaner cut, he says.

Question — Can you tell us how to get a "pickled pine" finish on some wood? Why do they call it this? R.B.C.

Answer— This finish is supposed to be an imitation of vats and other wood found in old vinegar and pickling places. It has a weathered appearance. A wood finisher told me that a good imitation could be had by bleaching the pine wood with a commercial bleach. Then stain the wood gray. When the stain is completely dry, put on a coat of clear shellac. This is followed by a white glaze, which you wipe off, wiping in the direction of the grain of the wood. This gives you the light streaks. A second coat of shellac is applied and last a coat of wax. If you want it to look really old, try mixing a little rottenstone with the wax for the final finish.

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Question — You have "home" added to the top of your page now . . . with winter coming on we want to do some reading. You used to book review and were at one time a librarian, I was told. Could you name around five of the books now considered "best sellers". About three fiction and two or three non-fiction, that would be good to read within the next couple of months — to give us a talking knowledge along that line? C.A.D.

Answer — If you want to read your books just to have a "talking knowledge" then read those that are the top of the list this fall. Listed last Monday as among the 10 best sellers are: Non-fiction — "Gift from the Sea," Anne Morrow Lindbergh; "The Power of Positive Thinking," Norman Vincent Peal; "Inside Africa," John Gunther. Fiction— "Marjorie Morningstar," Herman Wouk; "The Tontine," Thomas B. Costain (this comes in two volumes and should keep you busy for quite a time unless you are a very rapid reader); "Man in the Gray Flannel Suit," Sloan Wilson; "Andersonville," Mac - Kinlay Kantor.

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Question — Have a new bed of asparagus that was in this year for the first time, so didn't cut it. What does one do with it now? You don't leave the tall stalks standing all winter do you? W.H.

Answer — No, these should be cut down as they yellow. It is well to give your asparagus bed a good mulching of animal fertilizer in late fall. Asparagus is a heavy feeder.

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Question — First year we gardened. We had a row of pie plant growing in the back and it gave us so much this summer, we are wondering if we should cut off the leaves now or what to do with it so we can have some next year, too. Does one divide it each year? New Gardener.

Answer — No, do not divide it until the stalks are thin — and then, usually the trouble is lack of fertilizer. Just leave the foliage on it and give it a good mulching of well decayed and a little strawy barnyard fertilizer.

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Question— Can you tell me if solder will hold on aluminum? We have an aluminum kettle we want to fix—it's a keepsake. Tried ordinary solder, but it wouldn't stick. Wondered if there was something we could do to kettle to make it hold. B. T.

Answer— There is a special solder for aluminum, I am told, at houseware counters in department stores.

Question— I want to grow some African Violets from seed. Is the seed expensive? How long does it take to come up? How to plant it? T. F.

Answer— The seed is not difficult to obtain and I believe it runs about a half cent apiece. The seed takes from 15 to 18 days to germinate. Sift equal parts of garden soil, peatmoss and sand through a ¼-inch sieve. Put in a pot (self-watering ones are best). Take seed with a little very fine soil, place in an empty salt shaker, shake this about a little and then shake on top of soil in pot. Press into soil with smooth spoon or bottom of glass. Some growers use a piece of glass over the pot to prevent drying out, and one woman in Salem told me the other day she used a plastic cover. Either should be removed as soon as seedlings appear.

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Question—I have a tiny little palm, grown from a date seed someone sent me from California. They tell me these get to be great trees, but this first leaf looks just like those of palm trees I've seen growing in pots? Will you tell me something about this? S.W.

Answer—A palm in a pot will grow very slowly, even a date palm. It likes sandy soil enriched with well decayed leaf mold or cow barn manure. Do not put it too large pots. Don't overwater, but do not let dry out. Don't expose it to cold winds or drafts. During the summer you can set it out on a shady porch. If set directly in the sun, the leaves will sunscorch. I've had a little palm tree for five years and have enjoyed it very much. It is now about 10 inches tall.

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Question—I have a spot that is somewhat shady. There are some trees—not evergreens, but a couple of birches, a dogwood, a couple of alders and an oak—growing in a corner of our place. We don't want to cut them down, but we don't want tall grass or even flowers that have to be planted each year here. Have you any suggestions for small shrubs—anywhere from six inches to three or four feet? We thought such shrubs might make the place more interesting. R.I.P.

Answer—The plan sounds interesting. Why not some of the azaleas? The Dwarf Japanese Quince? Witch Hazel? Deutzia gracilis? Hydrangea? Mock orange? You might plant some daffodils at the edge where they get some sun. And near the birch trees they are lovely. This too would be a good place for a few flowering plants such as trilliums, hepatica, forget-me-nots, lily of the valley, lambs' tongue, birdbill or shooting star, wild bleeding heart (the white variety does not multiply quite so rapidly as the rose one does).

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Question— When should clematis be pruned? This one is a Jackmani. H.W.

Answer— Cut back in late winter after the vine becomes dormant.

Russian A-Power Claims Revealed

LONDON (AP) — The Soviet Atomic Power Station has produced nearly 20 million killowatt hours of electricity using only five kilograms of uranium, Moscow radio reports. The director of the station—the Russians claim it is the first in the world—said the daily expenditure of uranium is only 30 grams, whereas a conventional power station must burn more than 100 tons of coal to produce as much electricity in a day.

'High Pressure' Recruiting Fails

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Air Force says high-pressured recruiting does not bring the best results.

Reporting on tests designed to determine which men would be good recruiters, the Air Force says "persons with coercive tendencies — a tendency to force others to act in a manner contrary to their own wishes—did not promote recruiting."

Bridge 'Stockpile' Urged in Northeast

NEW YORK (AP) — Stockpiling prefabricated "Bailey" bridges for emergency repairs after severe floods is urged for the Northwest by Boston's Civil Defense Regional Administrator, Albert O'Connor.

He told a highway safety conference the temporary structures have been installed in a day, in contrast to the weeks required to replace washouts with other types of bridges.

COLOR, FOR BRIDE

NEW YORK (AP) — Kicking over the traces of tradition, American florists suggest colored flowers for the modern bride—and smaller bouquets. On suggestion: crescent cascade of Fuji mums and Spiral Eucaliptus (lavender, pale pink, yellow or lime).

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Garden Calendar

Nov. 20 — Annual meeting of Oregon Cactus Society, 2 p.m. at home of Mrs. James P. Reddy, 602 N. E. Brazee St., Portland.

Dec. 1-2—70th annual Oregon State Horticulture Society meeting, Corvallis.

Dec. 3-4—Christmas Treasurer Chest Show, Oregon Federation of Garden Clubs, Multnomah Hotel, Portland.

Dec. 5—Salem Garden Club, Salem Woman's Club House, 2:15.

Dec. 10-11 — Labish Meadows Garden Club Christmas Show, Hazel Green School. Saturday: 1 to 9 p.m. Sunday: 1 to 6 p.m.

Dec. 17—Nestucca Valley Garden Club Christmas Show, Oddfellow Hall, Cloverdale.

Bus Wedged Under Track, Children Hurt

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A chartered bus carrying 45 children got wedged under the old elevated structure on Market Street near 30th shortly before noon Saturday.

Eight of the children were injured, none seriously. They were taken to Philadelphia General and Presbyterian Hospitals.

The bus, from Manville, N. J., was on its way to a television show ("The Big Top") at a nearby armory.

The bus's top scraped the low-hanging steel girders of the elevated structure, recently abandoned and waiting to be torn down. The city extended the Market Street subway 20 blocks to do away with the elevated.

The Rev. Eugene B. Kelly, pastor of the Church of Christ The King, in Manville, said the bus was carrying a group from the Church's Cub Scout troop 193 to the show. There were 12 adults on the bus also.

Big 4 Meeting Costly If Not Successful

GENEVA (AP) — The big four Foreign Ministers Conference which ended in failure cost almost $25,000 in office expenses alone.

The total covered all expenses of the joint Four Power Secretariat set up for the conference, including interpreters, documents, guards, office rent and administration. It did not include the individual outlay of each government for the travel and accomodation of its delegation.

Secretariat expenses for the three week conference, which ended Wednesday, totalled $25,991.52. Each of the four governments was sent a bill for $6,247.88 for its share of the expenses.

China to 'Eliminate' Private Physicians

HONG HONG (AP) — A Japanese doctor says after a visit to Communist China that nation's policy is to build state hospitals and gradually eliminate private medical practice. Prof. Hideyuki Iwasaki added that the few Chinese doctors trained in Western medicine are being forced by the government to educate large numbers of their Chinese colleagues.

Red Boss in Italy Given Souvenir Gun

ROME (AP) — Italian Communist boss Palmiro Togliatti has been given a souvenir by Rome's tribunal. It is the revolver a Sicilian student used to plug him with three bullets July 14, 1948. The Justice Ministry agreed Togliatti should have the gun to hang on a wall and a unfired shell for a watch charm, as he asked.

PACT SIGNED

BOGOTA, Columbia (AP) — Columbia has signed an agreement with the United States guaranteeing future U.S. investors they can take their profits out of the country. The pact, effective immediately, is designed to stimulate the flow of American capital to this country.

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AS A message board it fits in with modern kitchen or may be used elsewhere in the home.

Pressed Wood Hardboard Panel Has Many Kitchen Uses

By VIVIAN BROWN
AP Newsfeatures Writer

THIS IS THE AGE of dual-purpose household items, and a combination message and work board is inexpensive and easy to make. It may be used in the kitchen for market items, in the nursery for baby's menu, in the hall for telephone messages. It can be a cutting board, writing or typing board, sandwich or cake board, sewing aid.

Make it in a jiffy with a panel of pressed wood hardboard cut by a lumber yard, the man of the house or by you if you are handy. Tempered hard board that is smooth on both sides is ideal cut to a handy size of 15 by 18 inches. Round the corners and bevel the edges lightly with a file or sandblock. Drill a hole for hanging the board. On one side apply some chalk board surfacing material, available at paint stores or lumber yards, following directions on the can. When the material is dry, it'll be as good, they say, as one you can buy ready made.

It's a good blackboard, a protector of expensive working surfaces in the kitchen when you want to cut vegetables, sandwiches, pound a steak or crack lobsters. It can serve as a lap board and should cost less than 50 cents.

Group Asks Cremation Price Hiked

PORTLAND (AP) — The Oregon Interment Assn. Friday asked the State Welfare Commission to increase funeral allowances for cremations.

The allowance of $25 should be increased to $110, the present allowance for burials, the association representatives said. The present $25 allowance represents only the charge for cremation and does not provide for storage of ashes, they said.

The commission indicated it will study the request and take action on it at the next meeting.

Miss Jeanne Jewett, assistant administrator, reported that the maximum allowance for indigent burial is $238 and that the average cost is about $120.

In another report, Miss Jewett said that the case load and expenditures for October were about average for the season.

Submerged Fort Discovered After Long Drought

VAL D'OR, Que. (AP) — The drought last summer dropped the Duparquet River far below normal and led to discovery of a submerged fort built by Pierre Le Moyne, Sieur D'Iberville, in June, 1686, on his treks between Montreal and Hudson Bay. Alphonse and Donat Gendron, brothers, have just reported the discovery. It included a musket trigger mechanism, fish spear, pearls, French nails and a pipe made of stone and fishbone.

Immigration Leader To Retire on Dec. 31

PORTLAND (AP) — Roy Norene is retiring Dec. 31 as chief of the Immigration and Naturalization office here, a position he has held 17 years.

Norene, 62, began his government career in 1913 with the railway mail service in Portland.

Money-Saving System Studied

ROME (AP)—Eight countries are campaigning to save time and money in the U. N. Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) by doing away with unnecessary documentation and re-hashing of subject matter. The FAO's 10th anniversary session here decided to study the economy plan put forward by the United States, Britain, Canada, India, Mexico, Pakistan, Spain and Switzerland.

GENERAL TO TALK

PORTLAND (AP) — Maj. Gen. Charles G. Holle, deputy chief of the Corps of Engineers, will be principal speaker at the Inland Empire Waterways Assn. convention here beginning Monday.

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