

Home and Garden . . . Lillie L. Madsen

Gardener Has Plenty to Do Even in Month of January

Pewter Shown to Advantage



Here's a compact Early American version of Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, featuring an open hutch with scalloped sides and bracket scroll top. Bone china, pewter (now becoming so popular again) and glassware can be displayed to advantage in this. Note that buffet sports three hinged-door cupboards with miniature antiqued brass willow pulls. Deep offset bottom drawer holds silver tray and table linens. This can be had in either solid cherry or hard rock maple with hand rubbed clear lacquer finish.

Many Plants Have Wintertime Beauty

By LILLIE L. MADSEN
Garden Editor, The Statesman

We often refer to January as the "drab month" in the garden and the month in which there is—like the teenagers say—"just nothing to do."

In a well-planned garden this need not be so—at least not in this part of the country. There are days that you will not be able to work outside, but in the ordinary year there are a number of days in which you can find something to do outdoors in the garden. For the days that you can not be out, a gardener has much to do inside.

Beauty in January
If you select your materials right, you will have considerable beauty in the bare limbs of certain trees, and more beauty, perhaps, in some of the broad-leaved evergreens and in the fruits of certain shrubs.

Look closely at your garden now, to see where interest may be added for next winter. Your deciduous trees and shrubs can use a good dormant spray, but choose a day that is not frosty and one that is neither rainy nor windy. If you have had trouble with peach leaf curl in recent years, apply puritized agricultural spray at the rate of three ounces in five gallons of water. This is a deadly poison and should be used only as a dormant spray on peaches. If you wish, use Bordeaux mixture at the rate suggested on the container for dormant spraying.

Finish Off Debris
If you didn't gather up debris, including leaves, around the lawn in late fall, do so now. This harbors insects and slug move and chew on everything that is not completely frozen. Leaves do better in the compost than lying around the lawn.

Questions & Answers

Question—Am having trouble with Prayer Plant. Leaves turn yellow and look like they are getting soft. This looks like a plant which needs a lot of water, which I have given it. Could it be that I'm watering it too heavily? B.T.

Answer—Water usually doesn't hurt the Prayer Plant if drainage is good. Otherwise decay may set in. This plant does not want to be drowned. Don't let the soil in the pot be constantly soggy. Check drainage.

Question—Our lawn grass turns yellowish . . . Not just this winter, but late last fall, the grass turned rather yellow after it was nice and green in the summer. What can we do to insure a green lawn this spring and summer? Could there be something wrong with the roots? The lawn is on the sandy side. C.E.

Answer—There could be something wrong with the roots, but chances are the lawn needs a nitrogen feeding. Sandy soil loses nitrogen rapidly. This loss frequently results in the grass getting a yellowish look. Try giving it one of the slow-release forms formulated to provide nitrogen over a longer period. Put it on the lawn the last of this month. Then toward the end of summer, say in August, give it another application of a slow-release form of nitrogen.

Question—Can you identify these blooms enclosed? Was told it was forsythia but it is not the forsythia that I know. Is this another variety? We have lived here for a number of years and the plant always blooms at this time of the year. It has a rather viney growth. C.D.

Answer—This is not forsythia but a winter-flowering jasmine (J. nudiflorum).

Question—When should one prune tamarisks? Mine has become sort of scraggly. G.O.R.

Answer—Tamarisks vary in their pruning requirements. They all respond to heavy pruning and without it become leggy, but the one group forms its bloom on the tips of the current season's growth and should be cut back in very early spring, just before growth starts. The other group blooms on the previous year's ripened wood and the pruning should be done immediately after flowering.

Question—We are setting out a few ornamental trees this spring as soon as we can get on the soil. There will be two Mountain Ashes, a Sweet Gum, a couple of oaks, and a maple. Have heard it said that often a tree dies because it is planted at the wrong depth. Can you tell us how deep to plant these varieties? R.E.T.

Answer—Any tree that has been grown in a good nursery will have been grown at the right depth. Replant at the same level—no deeper than an inch more—but best at the same level. It pays to buy at a reliable nursery. The root systems of your trees will have been developed properly.

Question—I have always liked a horse chestnut tree but my husband says it is not a good lawn tree. I have wanted one, and he has objected. We have both decided that we will abide by your decision on this. Our lawn isn't real small, but it isn't too awfully big, either. UNDECIDED.

Answer—I hate to admit it—but your husband is correct. A horse chestnut is a lovely tree, and planted in a park or a bit of woodland, does well. It casts such dense shade that it actually does not make a desirable lawn tree, however.

HOLE FILLERS
Fill nail or screw holes in veneer or solid woods with a sawdust putty. Mix sawdust from the wood to be filled with glue. Make this mixture the consistency of putty. Then apply it to holes with a putty knife. Level it, and after it has dried, it may be sanded smooth and finished. The holes will be practically invisible, even in natural finished wood.

For the woman who wants a sewing corner, here is a capital suggestion. Space along wall no deeper than 18 inches will give room for sewing machine and cabinets below for storing all sewing gear.



WOODEN SASH POPULAR
One reason for the growing popularity of wooden sash around large picture windows in contemporary homes is that the wood sash blends readily with the home siding, whether it is western red cedar or Douglas fir. Wood sash and frames can be built to any size and this is important since most of these large glass spaces are not standard.

Sewing Space
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By

Lillie L. Madsen

Garden Gabbing

By Garden Gadder

KNOW YOUR PLANTS—Foliage plants contribute much to the friendly atmosphere of the home. By understanding their simple needs everyone can have success with them. First the temperature is important . . . but it is easy to maintain for most of the foliage plants. Their preferences range between 65 and 80 degrees—the common temperature of most homes.

The plants require considerable light but little or no direct sun. Modern houses usually have plenty of light. Light from the south-east or east windows is ideal, or sunlight filtered through sheer curtains. Fluorescent or electric light substitutes well for natural light.

Since foliage plants do best with warm humid air and well drained soil, here is what you should do to keep them in the healthiest condition. Sprinkle freely with water. Take the plant and place it in the sink. Then use a bulb-type sprinkler, washing the leaves thoroughly. Moisten the soil with water . . . but don't keep it soaking wet. This sours the soil. It is best to use lukewarm water.

Don't use too much artificial plant foods. Good woody soil, rich in humus is best. To trim a plant always cut off just above a leaf joint. To shape the leaves use ordinary milk on a soft cloth. Do not use oils that clog the pores.

A light soil is preferable. For transplanting use equal parts of rich, porous soil, leafmold, garden loam and sand. Don't transplant too frequently. Some roots of tropical plants may show on the soil surface, but this doesn't necessarily mean these plants need transplanting.

YOU DON'T DRINK IT—On your next trip to India, if someone arrives before dinner bearing a container which resembles a coffee urn, don't be fooled. This is not filled with coffee—or anything else to drink. It is filled with rosewater which is poured over the hands of the guests before and after dinner. This old India custom is called *afaba* . . .

FOR BETTER BLOOM—Was the lily of the valley bloom a disappointment to you last spring? It could be that the plants have become too crowded. While lifting should be done in fall, you can, with a fork, dig out a few here and there, then apart and discard the older ones, planting the younger ones about three inches apart. But, if you can, it would be best to wait for the replanting until after the flowers have faded, and instead put some well decayed animal fertilizer over the bed now . . . not too heavy . . . an inch is sufficient. If this isn't available, peat moss or good compost helps. With the peat moss, scatter some balanced fertilizer. Peat moss isn't a plant food.

Gardeners Told to Get Ready to Plant Azaleas
Within another six weeks or perhaps eight—depending upon the type of late winter we have—azalea planting time will be at hand. It is a good idea to establish these shrubs as early in spring as possible.

There are several things to keep in mind, particularly if you are selecting a location and preparing to plant these colorful shrubs.

1. Select a site protected from severe winds. Plants might make satisfactory growth in windy locations, but when in full bloom, the flowers will wilt rapidly in warm spring winds. Tender shoots may also suffer during a prolonged drought in the summer, with a hot wind blowing.

2. Contrary to popular belief, azaleas do not have to have shade in which to do their best. In fact, plants grown in full sun are more compact and frequently more covered with glossy foliage and each twig is tipped with flower buds. Even though sunshine is very important, be sure that you do not select the hottest, most southern exposure, an exposure which might become dry and parched in the summertime unless constantly irrigated.

3. Azalea soil should be on the sandy side, well supplied with acid organic matter such as decayed oak leaves, peat or saw dust, well-drained and quite acid. If soil is not sufficiently acid, it can be made more so by the addition of iron sulphate at the rate of 4 to 1/2 pound per square yard. Soil should be tested before and after acidifying to make sure that the right pH level is attained—somewhere between pH 4 and 5.5. Clay soils should have a four-inch layer of sand spaded into them, and all soils will be improved by incorporating large quantities of organic material. Scatter three pounds of general plant food over the entire bed before spading. If you wish to be fancy, you might get some of the fertilizer especially prepared for camellias and azaleas. The Statesman garden editor has noted some of these materials in Willamette Valley garden stores.

4. Set the plants at the same depth at which they grew in the nursery, water thoroughly and frequently until they are well established. Frequently, because the Valley is subject to a fine mist, inexperienced gardeners do not believe that newly set-out plants need watering. But just as frequently, the shrubs and trees planted do need auxiliary water. The natural precipitation does nothing about washing soil in compactly about the roots of the plantings.

Kurume, or dwarf varieties, eventually make a spread of two to three feet, while *Kaempferi* hybrids will make plants three to four feet across. Plan to space the shrubs according to their growth. If in doubt, ask the nurseryman what the ultimate size will be.

In making your selections of azaleas, keep in mind that the

Ancient Sites Uncovered
JERUSALEM, Israel, Jan. 12 (AP)—A Hebrew University expedition has unearthed buildings dating from the bronze or stone ages on Tiran Island in the Gulf of Aqaba at the north end of the Red Sea.

Safety Roundup on Tap
PENDLETON, Jan. 12 (AP)—The Eastern Oregon Industrial Safety Roundup will be held here March 16.

Septic Tank Owners: End Worries With Septonic!
Septonic activates sick septic tanks, keeps healthy tanks working! Just pour one or more envelopes of Septonic into toilet bowl and flush. Bacterial action digests, liquidizes sewage.

Non-potassium, harmless to plumbing or septic tank system. Costs only 30¢ a month for average 300-gallon tank. Results guaranteed or money back. Four-trimester package only \$1.00. Ask for septic or hardware.

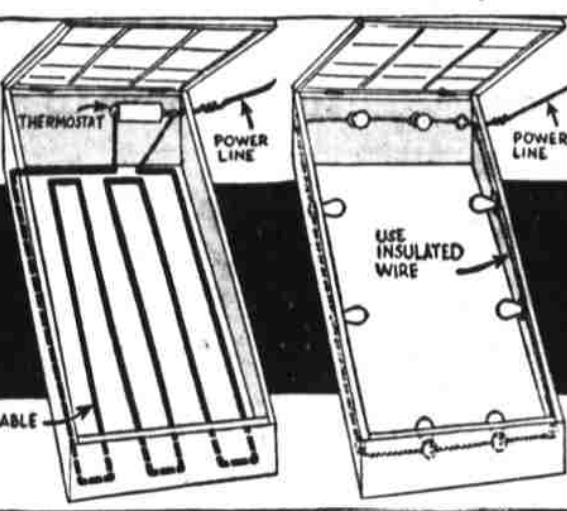
Rep. by Willamette Grocery Co., Salem, Oregon.

GOOD FOR LINEN SHELVES
Plastic finished hardwood makes an excellent liner for linen closets. Predecorated in bright colors, this paneling material provides a smooth hard surface on which linen slides easily without snagging. When door space permits these liners can be taken out to serve as trays for carrying freshly ironed linen to the closet.

COMES OUT OF DARK
Replace bedroom light switches and those in darkened hallways or cellars, with special switches that contain a luminescent material in the toggle. This makes them visible in the dark, and prevents aimless stumbling and fumbling to find the switch.

RUST REMOVER GIVEN
A quarter-inch electric drill makes a good rust remover for corroded tools and kitchen utensils. A wire brush on the drill will remove most of the rust from the pits, and a buffing wheel with jeweler's rouge will brighten the surface again.

Hotbed Rivals Greenhouse



Either electric cable or lamps can be used to heat hotbed and when so used the electric hotbed proves a rival of greenhouses for small garden use.

Hotbed Handy For Garden

By equipping a cold frame with electric heat, an amateur gardener acquires the next thing to a greenhouse. Practically all the services which a greenhouse could render an outdoor garden may be duplicated by the electric hotbed at much lower cost.

Among the many advantages of electric heating are cleanliness, lack of unpleasant odor, even and lasting heat.

It can be placed close to the house, where attention during cold weather will involve a minimum of discomfort.

So small a quantity of heat is necessary to keep temperatures in a hotbed above the danger point in spring, it is usually less expensive to use electricity for this purpose, than the traditional manures.

With an inexpensive thermostat, the heat is turned on or off according to need; and the plants growing in the hotbed enjoy an even range of temperature without the extremes which were common where manure was used.

Plants can be started earlier, and kept protected for a longer period, without danger of the heat source becoming exhausted before danger of frost outdoors is over.

An electric cable is the usual heater, but a number of lamps can be used if preferred.

Make Like Cold Frame
A cold frame is constructed in the usual manner, and is sunk in the ground a few inches. Soil is removed within it to an equal depth, and the cable is arranged on the bottom in loops, as is shown in the accompanying illustration. This provides for evenly distributed heat.

The supply wire and cable are both connected to a thermostat, which can be set at the desired minimum temperature, so that as soon as the thermometer falls to the point heat is turned on.

When temperature rises a few degrees above the minimum, heat is shut off.

The heating cable is usually covered with four to six inches of soil. It is a good idea to place a sheet of fine meshed poultry wire an inch above the cable, with soil between.

You can legally vote in Bermuda as many as nine times. Under law you can vote in each of the nine Parishes where you have property of an assessed value of \$180.

holly during the holiday season that you think you do not care for holly now, but this doesn't really hold true when the berries are yellow.

And January is not a bad time to finish that dormant pruning.

Garden Calendar

Jan. 17—African Violet Club meeting, Mrs. Zina Sharpnack, 2104 Evergreen Ave., Salem.

Jan. 18—Stavton Garden Club Feb. 4—Salem Garden Club meeting, Woman's Club House, 2 p.m.

Feb. 5-6—Short course for nurserymen, landscape gardeners, florists, Oregon State College.

Feb. 13—Mt. Angel Garden Club.

May 14—Victoria Spring Garden Festival.

May 15—Multnomah County Garden Fair, Fairgrounds, Gresham.

Remodeling Raises Spirit

The housewife who complains of being tired of "these four walls" needs a sympathetic ear. While it is true that her reason for wanting a change is probably prompted by "rabbit fever" there is much merit to her plaint.

Realtors say that older homes that have been remodeled with wood paneled walls in place of unattractive old surface, are much easier sold. In fact, they say that wood paneling is a big sales point.

The complaining housewife has several things in her favor. First she can have her change and without much cost. Beautiful panel boards in any of the popular west coast softwood species like Douglas fir, west coast hemlock or western red cedar can be installed at very little expense.

An entire room can be given a luxury look which enhances the rest of the home. Living rooms, especially lend themselves to redecorating in wood.

The urge to modernize the kitchen, now nationwide in scope, has brought with it an equally strong movement to use beautiful wood cabinets, built-in dividers and paneling in the kitchen.

Wood is beautiful and homelike inside the house, especially when fir, hemlock or cedar is finished so that grain and texture and coloring can be utilized. New clear lacquers, varnishes and plastic finishes make it possible to capture the rich coloring of these woods and pinpoint attention on the incomparable texture of wood, no matter where it is used about the home.

Green Fir Prices Gain
PORTLAND, Jan. 12 (AP)—A small gain in green fir prices has helped boost the lumber price index 13 cents in the past two weeks, the *Crow's Lumber Market News Letter* said Friday.

It was the second straight advance reported in the industry average for 75 selected items, although the index is down \$10.14 from prices a year ago.

NEW WAX CONTAINER
Wax or soap makes a screw easier to drive. But it's easy to misplace a chunk of such lubricant in the tool box. A shallow hole drilled in the end of a hammer handle will hold wax or soap where you can find it when you need it. Since a screw is usually started with a tap from a hammer, you'll always have the lubricant handy.

Know Your Chairs



There is no piece of furniture today that is more truly American than the historic Boston Rocker. It has survived those centuries of change—and is still cherished in homes across the land. Its high back and low, broad seat hold the same charm and comfort they did years ago. Familiarly called "Grandfather's Rocker" by many natives of New England, it has a high back, which supports the head, long back spindles to fit the body, and a low seat in which Grandfather can slump.

Horticultural Fax BY STAN HAYES



THE DAMASK ROSE
TREASURED BY THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS WAS THIS FLOWER BECAUSE OF ITS FRAGRANCE. EVEN TODAY THIS IS ONE OF THE MOST COSTLY PRODUCTS OF THE PLANT WORLD.

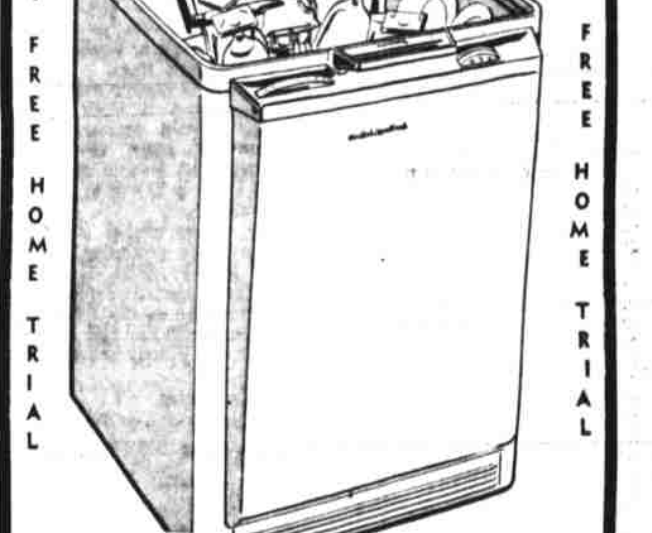
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MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO KILL BOTH INSECTS AND DISEASES AT THE SAME TIME.

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