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CALLA LILIES IN BLOOM are a beautiful sight at the Paul Ziniker residence at 2456 Onyx. The Zinikers have had more than 300 in bloom at the same time.



KEEP PLANTS ALIVE while you are away by this simple trick for keeping them moist, suggested by Florists associations. Place a ribbon in a soft-drink bottle full of water and extend the ribbon to the soil around the plant. The water soaks up through the ribbon as with a wick, prevents plants from drying out. This trick will keep plants watered for days at a time.

Stakes Needed For Gardening

Properly staked plants insure an orderly garden. Lack of proper staking means that you are reasonably sure to have some wrecked and messy beds later in the season. A heavy rain or wind storm is likely to knock over tall and heavy foliage plants which naturally have stems not sufficiently sturdy to stand up under such circumstances.

Delphiniums are the first plants in the garden to show the need for staking. The heavy spikes of bloom on these stately perennials make them singularly susceptible to destruction by winds or heavy rains. Stake them before the buds start to open and save the beauty of the delphiniums.

Gladiolus with heavy spikes of bloom are likely to need stakes. Lilies and iris of the taller types also need this assistance. Tall African and French marigolds are tipped over by wind or rain and become a jungle. Staking would have saved them.

The first requisite of good staking is that the stakes should be strong and capable of holding up the plant, but as unobtrusive as possible. Green painted stakes are least conspicuous. The cheapest and most efficient stakes are the bamboo canes sold in varying lengths by dealers. They may be bought already painted or in their natural color and you can paint them yourself. They are strong and durable. Heavy wire stakes are least obtrusive of all, especially when painted green. Plants can be tied to them easily and held upright so that the tying cannot be distinguished until viewed at close range.

Set the stakes and tie the plants before they come into bloom. A good job of staking that will not make the plant look stiff and obviously tied up cannot be done after it has come into bloom. For plants of lighter growth that are apt to sprawl and be of untidy habit, twiggly branches carefully applied make the best supports.

Renovate Outdoor Furniture With Every Day Materials

Distributed by NEA Service

Spring being their unpredictable season it is, and housewives being slaves to the spring cleaning habit, indoor and outdoor activities of home handymen are limited about now.

For want of "more important things" to do, why not closet yourself in the workshop, out of broom's reach, with a job you put off last year—renovating porch and lawn furniture. When guests come to call this summer, you'll be glad you did.

A little paint and varnish will go a long way on weather-beaten outdoor furniture and will increase its life's span, too.

There's no problem to refinishing painted wood furniture. Your job will very likely look better than the original, if—you counter-sink nails that have worked outward, fill nail holes with a plastic wood and then sand out rough spots and areas where the grain has swollen from dampness.

CLEANSE the piece thoroughly with a strong washing solution. After it is dry you have only to dust and paint it, being certain to use a hard, gloss enamel, never an exterior house paint.

If the painted surface of your metal furniture is no more durable than most, it is scratched and chipped. Unless you spend a few minutes more to take all the paint off you probably won't be completely satisfied with the job.

Use a paint solvent and a scraping tool to bare the metal, then follow it up with steel wool to remove all rust. The surface is then ready to receive a metal undercoat and gloss enamel.

REDWOOD lawn and porch furniture can take a beating and sometime looks better for it. You may not want to put a finish on redwood, but if you do a few

coats of marine spar varnish gives a lasting lustre, while an oilbase is recommended for a durable flat finish.

Rattan furniture is worth the amount of work it takes to do a thorough refinishing job. First, remove a shellac finish with alcohol, a varnish with varnish remover, Bleach stains and rust from areas around nail heads with a commercial bleach.

A dull knife helps to get into crevices. Use steel wool and sandpaper over the finish and apply several coats of spar varnish.

CANVAS for folding chairs should have a bound edging. If it has none a sewing machine will do it quickly. Tacked ends should be doubled under and tacks spaced about an inch apart. Canvas pain or preservative should be used after you've scrubbed the surface with clear water.

You can proudly show the finished product to your guests.

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KRINK NURSERY, Dept. 74549, Bloomington, Illinois

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Wall Paneling Revives Tired Old Houses

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