

# Capital Journal HOME PAGE

## Don't Hide Fine Hardwood Advises Noted Floor Stylist

New York — Homemakers should utilize the decorative possibilities of their fine hardwood floors to beautify their rooms and give them distinction, says a nationally known floor stylist.

David Erbe, who has designed and installed exquisite hardwood floors for many of America's wealthiest families, is a strong advocate of the trend toward display of more floor area.

The homemaker who covers her attractive hardwood floors, he says, is concealing what otherwise could be one of the most appealing features of her home.

Floors of polished hardwood, he adds, are especially fashionable today because they

harmonize so well with traditional styles in furniture, which many decorators are favoring in their newest creations. Such floors have the advantage, too, of always being in style since they are equally appealing when used in conjunction with other furniture styles, such as modern, contemporary, or provincial.

Erbe is a pioneer in the practice of tinting hardwood floors with stain to blend them more intimately with the color plan of rooms. While most persons prefer the mellow beauty of oak and other hardwoods finished in natural tones, many individualists favor the distinctiveness achieved by having the floors stained in specific colors.

The homemaker considering such a plan need not hold back for fear that the floors must remain colored permanently, Erbe explains. He says the stain does not penetrate the wood deeply, and thus can be sanded off whenever a change is desired.

Winter's Coming... Better SEE RADIANT GLASHEAT 1540 Fairgrounds Rd. Phone 4-6263

## Humor Found In Gardening

By MARK M. TAYLOR

There is a touch of humor in a garden. You will find gardeners a happy group of people quick to see the funny side of things. This is evidenced greatly in the publications issued by many garden clubs. When chlorophyll received its first impetus and popularity, one dealer advertised: "All our plants contain chlorophyll!" Another referred to man's greatest discovery in fertilizers as Erunam, which spelled backwards is manure! One club publication reaching my desk gives this philosophy: "The optimist is often as wrong as the pessimist but he is far happier!"

Another, "What this country needs is more people raising beans—and fewer people spilling them!" And this—"Great minds talk about ideas; average minds about events; small minds about people." And again—"There is nothing wrong with being a self-made man if you don't consider the job finished too soon."

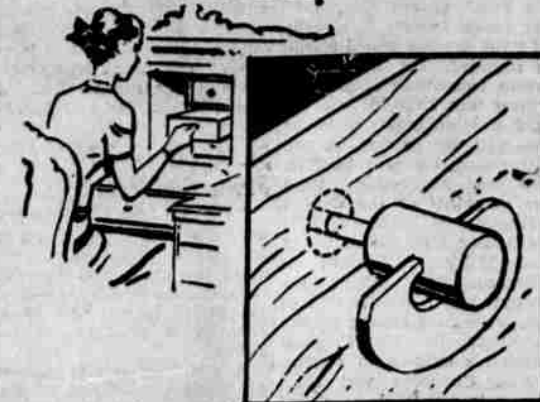
Applying horticultural descriptions to common things is a favorite of another. "Now, we find out what woman is really made of—Symbol WO—member of the human family. Specific gravity—Molecular structure—extremely variable. Occurrence—Can be found anywhere man exists. Physical properties—All sizes and shapes. Generally appears in disguised conditions, natural surfaces rarely free from extraneous coverings of textiles or film of grease or pigments. Melts readily when properly treated. Boils at nothing and may freeze at any moment. Ordinarily sweet, occasionally sour and sometimes bitter. Chemical properties—Exceedingly volatile, highly inflammable and dangerous in the hands of an inexperienced male. Possesses great affinity for gold, silver and precious stones of all kinds. Capable of absorbing astonishing quantities of expensive beverages and foods. Reacts violently when left alone. Turns green often!" I also liked this one: "Gardening is only man's effort to improve his lot."

In 1952 Canadians used about seven pounds of coffee per person compared with about three and three quarters pounds just before World War II.

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## Make Do



A hand pull for very small drawers is easily improvised from an alarm clock winding key. After drilling a hole in the center of the drawer front, attach the key with a machine screw to fit and backed by a washer.

## Garden Notebook

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Spanish Broom (Spartia Junceum) is not a true broom (Cytisus) but is closely related to it!

More than 250 different named varieties of lilacs are now offered by nurseries in the U.S.

Root pruning of lilacs promotes flower growth on those that are seemingly slow to bloom!

Blooming time of the various lilacs is so varied that by planting selected varieties one may have bloom over a six week period!

The Box Blueberry is a native evergreen shrub of particular value to Oregon gardeners!

That the Fringe Tree (Chionanthus Virginicus) is a close relative of the lilac but blooms a week or so later, making a fine companion shrub.

Trailing Arbutus (Epigaea repens) was called May Flower by the Pilgrims!

Enkianthus Campanulatus is an Ericaceous shrub requiring the same cultural treatment as azaleas and rhododendrons, with with pendulous flowers, and is not grown enough in our gardens.

Fothergilla is a shrub, striking when in bloom and brilliant coloring in the Fall with autumn color!

One of the first shrubs to bloom in Spring is the Chinese Witchazel!

Japanese Holly stands clipping very well and so makes an excellent hedge!

Pfitzer's Juniper has a wide spreading habit not common in other junipers!

That Shore Juniper is an ideal ground cover for sandy seashore locations!

That Shore Juniper is an ideal ground cover for sandy seashore locations!

Kalmia latifolia is a splendid native evergreen shrub requiring acid soil and abundant moisture!

That the oil from the fruit of Laurel is used in making a perfume!

Japanese Bush Clover has white, pea-like flowers blooming in October!

In general, honeysuckles

## Plants Have Personalities

By MARK M. TAYLOR

The similarity between plant life and animal life (including human beings) is never more apparent than in the home garden. Observe sometime when walking through your garden how plants respond appreciatively to kind treatment, resent improper care, how plants are born, grow, mature and die. Plants are subjected to as numerous ills as are human beings. Plants, too, have their natural enemies, not only in the form of insects and animals, but in other plants that encroach upon their well being. There are thieves among plants, too, who reach out and rob others of their life sustenance.

Some plants, like humans, must have their particular nourishment, even to the extent of similar requirements in vitamins! Plants have their illnesses, which plant medical science is learning to combat with anti-biotics just as anti-biotics are being found to combat man's ills. But, more than that, plants do have personalities. Some are born mimics, as the tuberous begonia, whose flowers assume forms similar to camellias, roses and carnations yet have no distinctive bloom of their own. Look at a large bed of pansies, their faces gaily turned toward the sun looking all the world like a group of happy children gathered for a lark.

Then we find vines that are of the criminal type that seemingly maliciously murder any plant that they can twine about and thus squeeze to death. Yes, there is life in a garden! There is companionship there, too. One does not feel alone in a garden. There you can relax and forget all worries and troubles of the man-made world. Actually, when working in a garden you have to forget personal problems and tend to the problems immediately at hand. Thus, we can truly say that we can find peace and contentment in a garden.

## Tree Peony Is Choice Shrub; Grow Large and Luxurious

By MARK M. TAYLOR

As we near the month of September, the accepted planting time for peonies, readers have expressed interest in tree peonies. Tree peonies are shrub-like plants having woody stems which do not die back in winter, although the leaves do fall. The foliage of the tree peony is similar to that of the herbaceous peony, but the blooms are larger and appear about two weeks earlier.

Compared to the herbaceous peonies, which we see most commonly, tree peonies are expensive because it takes much longer to produce saleable plants—a fact which deters many nurserymen from handling this shrub. Tree peonies usually grow to 3 to 4 feet tall and broad. Average blooms may average eight inches across. Under favorable conditions plants have been known to reach six feet in height and spread. Preferred planting time is October. The soil should be rich and well-drained and an occasional application of lime is advisable.

**TREE PEONIES HARDY**

The tree peony has been grown in China for 15 centuries and was taken to Japan by Buddhist monks. More than 200 named varieties are growing in this country and it is interesting to note that in the tree peony a yellow bloom has been more nearly achieved, through hybridizing, than in the herbaceous varieties.

Tree peonies are perfectly hardy, have numerous blooms (more than 100 blooms on one shrub has been recorded) and they lengthen the total blooming period for peonies. The flowers are usually much larger and more spectacular than those of the herbaceous varieties. Many of the better varieties are singles, although there are doubles, ruffled and lacinated flower types. Being spectacular, they make unusually attractive specimen shrubs. Some good varieties are:

Argosy—Clear yellow, late bloomer.

Tamafuyo—Shell pink flowers.

Suisho Hako—Pure white, early.

Black Douglas—Double flowers near black maroon.

Fragrans Maxima Plena—Deep pink, fully double huge blooms.

Gesekal—Pure white 12 inch blooms.

**PLANTS BLOOM EARLY**

Seedling tree peonies are often offered by nurseries at much less cost than named varieties.

## Natural Finished Wood Desirable

Nothing is quite so warm and cheerful as a room paneled in natural-finished Western Pine. Often the finish can make the difference in the final effect paneling may give too.

The Western Pine Association suggests natural finishes be applied to paneling—both Knotty Pine and without knots—as protective as well as appearance coatings. They will enhance the natural colors of the woods as well.

There are several such finishes which may be mixed right on the job by home craftsmen.

Water clear lacquer is practically clear and won't discolor the wood. It is clearer even than shellac, varnish or linseed oil. And it is one of the easiest treatments for the novice to use. Apply two or three coats, and buff the last coat to a shiny sheen with 3/0 steel wool.

Clear, flat varnish will do the trick if you apply two coats, sanding the surface slightly between coats.

## Coming Events

- Sept. 8-10—Oregon State Fair, Salem
- Sept. 11—Oregon Turkey Improvement Association annual meeting, Withrow Hall, Corvallis
- Sept. 21—Your Opportunity Jazzy Sale, State Fairgrounds, Salem
- Sept. 24-25—North Marion County Fair, Woodburn
- Sept. 26—Santiam Harvest Festival, Santiam Valley Grange, Lyons
- Oct. 12-15—Oregon Leadership Institute for town and country churches, Oregon State College
- Oct. 20-24—Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Union Stockyards, Portland
- Oct. 21-23—4-H section, Pacific International Livestock Exposition

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