

# Capital Journal GARDEN PAGE Christmas Ideas for Gardeners Discussed

## Wide Variety of Yule Gifts Available

At this season of the year, most everyone is faced with the perennial problem of securing a gift for someone that will be appreciated by the recipient. If the person on your list is an enthusiastic gardener, your task will be much easier as there are countless items that every home gardener can use and appreciate and the cost of the different items are such that a selection may be made to suit any pocket book.

Gifts for the discerning gardener may be selected from among a wide assortment of plant varieties, to suit the individual's own particular hobby or interest. Most nurseries offer gift certificates, too, that enables the gardener to select just the right plant needed to complete or enlarge his collection.

Equipment of various sorts is always a good choice for the hobby gardener or for one establishing a home planting for the first time.

For the new home owner, who

is, probably, concerned with gardening for the first time, such practical gifts as hoses, sprinklers, pruning shears, trowels, plant labels, sprayers, fertilizers and spray or dusting material will be found to be most appreciated. Too, subscriptions to leading garden magazines or "How to do it" books will be welcomed.

The more advanced gardener, that is, the one who may have a particular garden hobby or interest will appreciate such gifts as soil testing sets, electric seedbed heaters, terrariums, seed pans or flats and specialty books on nearly any horticultural subject.

The indoor gardener can always use flower pots, clay or glazed, potted plants of various kinds to suit one's fancy. Wick-fed pots, especially, are the delight of African violet lovers.

**Garden Books**  
Among garden books which, we believe, will find a ready welcome in any hobby gardener's home are the following:

"Treasury of American Gardens" by Fitch and Rockwell (Harper's).

"Encyclopedia of Horticulture" by L. H. Bailey, 2 vols. (MacMillan).

"Treasury of American Gardening" by Whiting (Doubleday).

"Camellias" by Hume (MacMillan).

"Greenhouse Gardening for Everyone" by Chabot (Barrows).

"Favorite Flowers in Color" by Seymour, Downer, Freese, Esson and Everett (Wise & Co.).

"Hobby Gardener's Guide" by Salem Men's Garden Club (Salem Men's Garden Club).

"Garden Encyclopedia" by Norman Taylor (Houghton-Mifflin).

And, of course, there are many others for the specialist as well as the general gardener.

A question asked the other day reminds that many gardeners when selecting gifts for others would like to add something new to their own collection as well. Often, novelty plants, or any plant for that matter, may be purchased from a nurseryman at reduced prices when purchased in a quantity. The quantity need not be large, but the saving in labeling and packaging when two or three plants of a variety are purchased at one time is passed on to the customer — a worthwhile consideration.

**Orchid Growing**  
There has been considerable growth in interest, in recent years, in the growing of orchids at home. Some dealers offer exceptional collections with full instructions and the necessary equipment.

African violet fanciers will be pleased at the number of fine, choice varieties available and already growing in pots, ready to go on their display in the home.

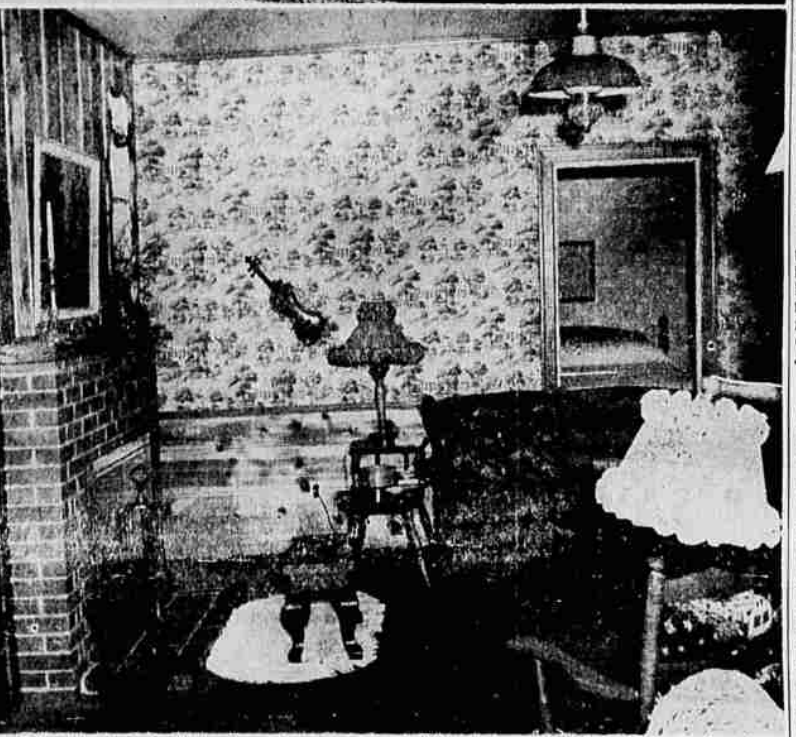
Bulbs of narcissus, tulips, hyacinths, etc. have almost become traditional gifts at Christmas, and this year is no exception. One word of caution, however: Bulbs of all kinds, are, at present, in very short supply because of the early demand. Bulb purchases, therefore, should be made as soon as possible, if available.

Bulbs sold and ready to bloom may be secured from florists who have forced them for the Christmas trade.

For the one who gardens indoors, the miniature roses that will grow and bloom in pots set on a sunny windowsill are delightful.

The various cactus varieties, and other succulents, with rarely beautiful flowers, have not received the attention of indoor gardeners in this locality that they justly deserve.

## 112-Year-Old Building Cozy Country Home



DALLAS (Special)—Photo above shows long, low building that was built in 1844-45 as a boarding house for a grist mill on La Creole creek west of Dallas, and is now the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Gohrke. The structure has been widened with shed roof addition across the back providing a sun porch, kitchen and utility room. Below is a glimpse of the living room with antique treatment, the door in background providing a glimpse of one of three bedrooms. Building is painted a soft gray with pink trim. (Capital Journal Photos by Mike Forbes)

## HOME OF THE WEEK

### Modern Touch for Historic Structure Conceals Its Story

#### Ray Gohrke Home Dates Back to Fifties

By GLENNA MARTIN  
(Capital Journal Writer)

DALLAS (Special)—In contrast to the modern homes being erected on Ellendale road, is a long low

structure, set in a small grove of trees and bordering LaCreole creek, originally built by James A. O'Neal in 1844-45 to accommo-

#### Questions Answered

By MARK M. TAYLOR

I have heard that there is a chemical you can spray on Christmas trees so they won't drop the needles. Is this true? Mrs. O. G.

Yes, there is a chemical on the market under various trade names that preserves the Christmas trees and even makes them fireproof. Your garden supply or hardware store may have it. If not, it's a good idea to get the tree in a base of water, or set it in a pot of moist dirt instead of using a regular stand.

We would like to know the best time to move some of our rose bushes, which includes some floribundas. Also we would like to move two soilmia bushes and the bush from which I took these two leaves. Could you tell us the name of it? J. W. C.

The roses may be moved as soon as dormant (without leaves). The skimmia is evergreen and may be moved at any time, provided a rootball is taken to keep the roots intact. The leaves you sent are difficult to classify without knowing more about the plant itself. Hazardous, I am inclined to believe this is a Welzeta, but I note it is suffering from a nitrogen deficiency which accounts for the excessive yellowing of the leaves. I would advise moving it to a new location now and see that the soil is enriched, particularly about next April.

There is a trace of rust on the leaves too which would not appear if the bush was growing healthily. I would replant now, pruning the branches back about one-third. Fertilize in the Spring. Will miniature roses really grow in pots? Mrs. J. R.

Certainly. These little plants in pots should be set in a sunny window and the soil (about half peat or leafmold) kept moist. They will bloom in the winter with tiny, perfect-formed roses.

My roses are still showing buds. Shouldn't they be fertilized now? Mrs. J. C.

It is not advisable to fertilize established rose bushes at this time of year. To do so would stimulate new growth and a sudden freeze would be disastrous. Attention to moisture and removal of old blooms is all the care required at this time. By all rights you should have some good blooms yet from those buds that are now showing.

#### Curtains Topic Of Bulletin

If windows have turned your home into a fishbowl, it may be a new set of curtains can help restore the privacy.

A complete set of do-it-yourself ideas for making curtains at home is offered in a new Oregon State college extension bulletin, "Make Your Own Curtains." The author is Myrtle Carter, OSC home furnishings specialist.

With more and larger glass areas in today's homes, curtains are needed to control light, increase privacy and soften the effect of room interiors.

Since windows form a part of the background of a room, fabrics used must be in harmony with the total decorating scheme, and the most attractive curtains reach some structural part of the wall, the sill or lower part of the apron or floor. In general, curtains are more likely to be too skimpy than too full.

Directions for buying yardage and hardware and guides for making three kinds of glass curtains are included in the bulletin, which also includes steps for hanging them.

## DECK THE HALLS

### Many Evergreens Available For Decoration at Yuletide

#### Oregon Grape Attractive For Decor

By MARK M. TAYLOR  
Capital Journal Special Writer

"Deck the Halls with Holly" is a familiar saying at the Holiday season. However, it is not necessary to restrict our Yuletide decorating to the traditional holly. Many other evergreen plants found in home plantings will supply equally attractive greenery and colorful berries.

Personally, I have always favored the use of Oregon Grape which is found in such abundance locally. It is holly-like in appearance but with a more mahogany cast to the foliage at this season. Berries from Firethorn or Cotoneaster can be added to make an admirable and inexpensive substitute for Holly. Branches of pines, yews and arbutives make attractive material for wreaths or swags. The few, bright red berries appearing on Yews at this season add a colorful note, too.

**Custom Ancient**  
The custom of decorating homes with greenery is older than Christmas itself, and survives despite the attack of ardent conservationists who believe the custom is apt to result in an eradication of some of our choicest native plants.

Christmas trees are best selected from among the Firs, Hemlocks and spruces should be avoided for they tend to drop their needles very soon in the heat of a room and are too valuable as trees to warrant destruction in this manner.

Pine cones in various sizes make attractive Christmas tree ornaments or decorative additions to wreaths or table displays. These may be painted or gilded to conform to a general color scheme.

Gourds that have been dried and shelled, also, make attractive ornaments for the tree or table as does ears of strawberry popcorn, dried, husked and lacquered.

#### Pot Plants Popular

Of course, too, the ever popular Christmas pot plants such as poinsettias add a festive note to any decorative scheme.

The handling of gift pot plants upon receipt is of prime importance to extend the period of their loveliness to the fullest. Poinsettias, which incidentally, are available not only in bright red but in salmon pink and white as well, should not be placed in the sun or in a location where there are draughts. They need daily watering and should look fairly well for two or three weeks. Then the leaves yellow and fall off. The colorful bracts should then be cut off and the plant placed in a cool spot in the basement, watering but once a week. In the Spring when danger of frost is past they may be restarted and will be ready for another blaze of color another Christmas.

The Christmas Begonia is another favorite decorative house plant for the Holiday Season, a plant being literally covered with red or pink blossoms. These plants cannot be saved for another season, though starts may be taken from them in the Spring.

One of the plants commonly seen at Christmas time that makes an ideal Christmas decorative piece is Kalanchoe blossfeldiana or Kalanchoe Tom Thumb, which is dwarf and very popular. These are undemanding and easy to grow and the plant is simply smothered with tiny, bright red flowers. These plants can seldom be kept over for a second season but cuttings may be taken from the parent plant in the Spring.

**Potted Azaleas**  
Potted azaleas are long lasting and may be planted out of doors.

and may be planted out of doors. Indoors the plants will provide colorful bloom for a month or more if attention is given to watering and faded flowers are kept picked off.

Pots of bright red tulips forced into bloom at Christmas makes an interesting conversation piece for any table setting for there is the color associated with the holiday season, but with a flower associated with the Spring that is yet to come.

Decorating the home for the Holidays can be tremendous fun and will convey the spirit of the Season. The opportunity to be original and creative is present now more than upon any other occasion. In addition, there is a great satisfaction in "doing it yourself."

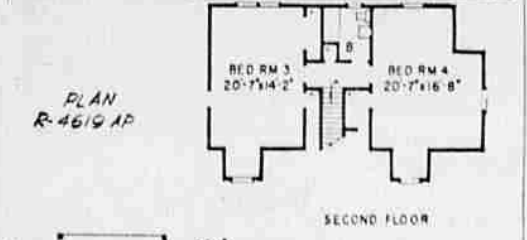
#### Your Garden Notebook

WHAT TO DO IN DECEMBER  
If good weather continues you can still plant seeds of sweet peas, sweet alyssum, clarkia, marigolds, ageratum, snapdragon, cosmos, godetia and candytuft.

Spray fruit trees this month with a good dormant spray. If needed, mow the lawn. Do not let the grass grow long for winter.

Tulips, ranunculus and anemones may still be planted, if you can get them. Make plans for garden improvement for the coming year.

## HOMES FOR AMERICANS



Classic styling and expansion convenience give this house a wide appeal. The first floor provides two bedrooms. The second story can be finished when needed. The house covers 1,340 square feet without two-car garage and porch. This is plan R-4619AP by Derick B. Kipp, architect, Home Plan Headquarters, Room 25, 117 W. 10th St., New York 25, N.Y.

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## Wide Sweep of Windows



As efficiently designed as the bridge of a ship, this inviting kitchen with its wide sweep of windows of ponderosa pine lets the housewife keep a supervisory eye on her children without leaving her work. She gets plenty of cheery light, too, plus a pleasant view.

### Large Windows for Kitchen Get Approval of Housewives

Today's young housewives want their kitchens to have a "lookout post" — large windows over their working area to give them a supervisory view of their children at play.

This was one of the most frequently voiced suggestions coming out of the Women's Congress on Housing in Washington, D.C.

Practically all of the 103 housewives attending agreed kitchen windows should be plentiful, easy to open, and placed so that they offer a "commanding view" of as much yard space as possible.

The kitchen "lookout post" idea is a good one to keep in mind when buying a new house or remodeling an existing one. Properly placed windows not only let the housewife keep a guardian eye on the children, but bring in light and air to make the kitchen a cheerier and more efficient place to work. Casement or awning type windows are popular for kitchens because the housewife can open them by turning a small handle without stretching over her sink or counter. These window styles also can be cleaned on both sides from inside the house.

### On the House

By DAVID G. BAREUTHER  
AP Real Estate Editor

#### Decay Comes If All Supports Not Ventilated

Adequate drainage and good ventilation for the area beneath houses without basements should be provided if decay organisms are to be prevented from attacking the support timbers. This warning has been sounded by Oris Rudd of the Marion county extension office as the damper season comes.

Good drainage includes sloping the soil away from the house, and making provisions for downspouts to discharge into approved drains or into other devices taking excess water away from the dwelling.

Proper ventilation requires construction of adequate vents in the foundation of the building. These vents should be located on opposite sides of the house, preferably near corners. For the average house, one square foot of vent area for 25 linear feet of foundation wall will provide adequate ventilation. If grills are used over vents, figure only the actual open space and adjust vent area accordingly. If louvers are used, double the vent area. Covering vents with 16 mesh screen is satisfactory as the screen becomes clogged with paint, cobwebs and dirt and will not admit enough air. It is a good idea, however, to cover vents with 1/2 inch mesh screen to keep out rodents and small animals.

Vents should be left open the year around, with such insulation of pipes and floors as is required for protection from the cold. During periods of comparatively dry, cold weather, vents may be closed; but for average winter conditions here it is desirable to maintain as much ventilation as possible in order to prevent excessive condensation.

Where it is desirable to close vents as a protection against cold weather, smooth surfaced roll roofing weighing 35 lbs. per roll may be used as an effective vapor barrier beneath the house. The roofing is rolled out under the house with a two-inch overlap at the edges. No cementing is needed. This stops at its source the moisture vapor which condenses on the wood and causes the trouble.

In homes where the water supply comes from a well and enters the pipe system as cold as 50 degrees F, there may be enough condensation on concealed pipes to start decay in adjacent woodwork. The only solution to this problem is to adequately insulate cold water pipes before they are enclosed.

used without any stain or paint, because this wood is famous for its durability. The natural oil in this wood makes it highly resistant to decay and so it needs no further protection. The Western Pine Assn., which embraces red cedar forests, says you can let this wood weather "to a slight driftwood gray with a silvery sheen," but we'd suggest a close check on the mites if you want to dodge a paint job.

**PAINTING** or staining cedar shakes, however, is very simple because the wood is so free of pitch. A specialist in shakes and shingles — Robert E. Blank of River Edge, N.J.—was discussing this aspect the other day. As head of the National Building Materials Co., Blank said he is making it a practice to ship all shingles and shakes already primed.

"So many people want to paint shingles," he said, "that 90 per cent of all shingles used today are primed. This speeds a good paint job and builders have fewer complaints from their buyers."

Personally, Blank is a hand-split shakes fan. "The trend in modern home exteriors today," he says, "is for hand-split shakes that dress houses in a suit of Americana, whether the house is contemporary or traditional in style."

If you can afford the difference, there is no denying that you can get a striking exterior design with irregular hand-split, whether you paint them white, or any color in the rainbow, or let them weather naturally.

The advantage of double coursing is that you can use shingles at a low grade for the under course because they are completely covered.

Either hand-split or machine made shakes of red cedar can be

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