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Irene DeLosh, 325 South Holly St.—Phone 390-L or 75

Luck With Cuttings

What luck do you have with your geranium cuttings? Do they develop good bushy roots? If not, you have failed because you have not solved satisfactorily the "when," "where," and "how" of cuttings, according to Ellen Eddy Shaw, of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens, writing in the November American Home. "When shall cuttings be made?" Preferably, in spring and fall.

Look over the plant carefully and choose the tenderest branches for cuttings. Grasp the knife firmly and make a horizontal or plant-wise cut beneath a node, not through a node. Stems of plants are made up of nodes or less evidently marked rings called nodes. Now you have in hand a four- to six-inch length of geranium with a nice, smooth cut under the nodes. Cut these into strips of three or four terminal leaves. Having stripped the cutting of most of its leaves, look at the terminal bud and see if you note any color except green. If so, it is a flower bud. Pinch this off.

If you use a flat for your cuttings, put some broken crock or coal ashes in the bottom for drainage and fill the flat with builders' sand, or "sharp sand," as it is called. Moisten this thoroughly. Now put in a cutting, using a dibber to make the hole. Lower the cutting in this hole, above the first node, firm it in place. Then press the surface sand with the dibber placed a little way from the cuttings, so that the sand may be forced down into any little hollows left by the dibber. Put moss or fine wood shavings, or a mixture of the two, over the cuttings. This mixture will keep the cuttings moist and will not rot them. Home cuttings root much faster in this mixture.

Home Decoration

By Jane Snedcor

Housewives having problems on their minds will find this column interesting. Queries may be addressed to the editor of this page, care Mail Tribune.

Query.—When should one begin trimming the house for Christmas? Mrs. D. E. R.
Answer.—Usually from three to seven days before Christmas. Christmas eve should be the climax and all preparations made gradually work towards that end. Use more pine, mistletoe and holly with red ribbons and Southern Oregon.

Query.—Which do you advise for painting furniture, lacquer or enamel? Mrs. D.
Answer.—Personally I like lacquer because it dries so fast and a piece can be completed quickly and many accidents avoided.

Query.—Are cross stitch covers good for foot stoves? Mrs. M.
Answer.—Nothing is more charming and they wear remarkably well.

Query.—Is violet a good color for a bedroom? Mrs. H. O. A.
Answer.—Violet or orchid is a difficult color to use alone because it fades out so under artificial lights and unless the very best of material it fades in the sunlight oftentimes. Tones it up with touches of rose, pink and light greens, with a dash of black.

Query.—Is varnish or hot oil best for new floors before waxing? Mrs. F. W.
Answer.—Some of the best mechanics prefer two coats of good floor varnish and then a heavy coat of wax. Others tell you to use hot oil. It is best to investigate floors which have had some year and that were treated at first in each of the two ways before you decide.

New Ideas for Pumpkin Pies
Pumpkin pie has an important place in our menu at the present season. We often tire of plain pumpkin pie so why not make a few variations. Fresh or canned pumpkin may be used but you will find using the canned to be just as good and makes much less work.

Don't Believe In Santa Claus But Be Him

So you don't believe in Santa Claus? Well, other folks in history have tried to be hard-boiled about that chubby, red-nosed old spirit of Christmas, too, and without much success. In 1644 the English parliament forbade any exhibition of happiness on Christmas day—and the stolid English rebelled on December 5, 1645. Christmas had become then—and is now—inherent in human nature.

The unbeliever robs only himself; the believer benefits because he believes—and because he believes, he benefits others. For, after all, what is Santa Claus except the Spirit of Good Will—and how can mankind have good will unless it believes in it? Santa Claus is Good Will plus Hope.

In the best sense, there never was an empty stocking on any Christmas morning, because the hope that hung the stocking up filled it with an expression of "good will to men."

In any sense, and whether you're young or old, it's better to hope and be disappointed than not to hope. Your stocking won't be filled if you don't hang it up—that's certain, anyhow.

And it's just as certain that if there's no Santa Claus to fill your stocking, you can be a Santa Claus to fill somebody else's. Even if you don't receive, you can give—and, giving, you do receive.

Don't disbelieve in Santa Claus—be him!

Use Baking Powder Cans

Christmas time is approaching and you will want all the extra empty cans for steaming plum pudding or brown bread which you can find. Ideal cans for molding Christmas puddings are empty baking powder cans. They come in various sizes ranging from 4 ounces to 16 lbs. and you have a large assortment from which to choose the size adapted for your particular need.

The 8-ounce cans are especially nice for molding puddings. It is just the right size to make three good servings.

Empty baking powder cans are not only used for steaming fruit puddings, but for molding gelatine salads.

If you have an empty 2 1/2-lb. or 5-lb. can it makes an ideal pan in which to bake fruit cake for gifts. Cut the can down until it is about 3 inches in height or any height which you desire. You will have no difficulty in finding decorated tin boxes to fit these small size cakes and who would not appreciate a lovely fruit cake for a Christmas gift?

What Shall I Serve At the Children's Christmas Party

Whether it is Christmas or before or after, the biggest problem of family parties is to keep the children happy even if they can't have what the grown-ups eat.

The following menu for the children's supper is suitable for youngsters of any age over five. (The tomato juice cocktail is suggested because of its color and vitamins, but it is not a necessity and can be omitted, if you choose). The children's supper is served any time from 5 to 8 o'clock, depending on the age of the children.

Children's Supper
Creamed Chicken on Toast
Buttered Peas
Celery
Santa Claus Sandwiches
Vanilla Ice Cream
Christmas Chimney Cake
Milk

Here is how the Santa Claus Sandwiches should be made: Cut whole wheat bread in thin slices and remove crusts. Spread with softened butter and a little curant jelly. Put slices together and cut out with special Santa Claus cutter. (If you cannot buy a cutter, trace a Santa Claus on paper, cut out and use as a pattern. Lay on the sandwich and cut around it with a sharp, pointed knife.) With a brush, or wooden skewer, dipped into beet juice, outline Santa's pock, cap, coat, boots and beard.

Cranberries Are At Their Best

What is so tempting to us now that Christmas time is approaching is a dish of luscious cranberry sauce or a dash of savory red jelly.

Frost is most injurious to cranberries and at the time of their maturity it requires all the members of the family to see that they are gathered. They are gathered by stripping forks at the fingers and placed into a winnowing machine to be separated from the leaves and dirt; then they are barreled and shipped to market.

It has been said that more money had been made and lost in the culture of cranberries than any other fruit. Often the whole crop is a total failure due to an insect destroying the bushes or an early frost.

Cranberries are more widely used today than ever before and more delectable dishes can be prepared from them than most any kind of fruit. Their popularity is due to the beautiful red color of the fruit as well as the characteristic acid flavor.

They are very valuable for their acidity and also for the mineral content, especially iron, which makes them an excellent food for an anemic person. The acid content of cranberries stimulates the flow of the digestive juices and aids in digestion, therefore the need for cranberry sauce or jelly with roast meats, and our Christmas duck or turkey.

Do the hurry and confusion of stock shopping help or hinder the Christmas spirit?

Special Recipes

For Christmas Dinner
Family traditions and customs invariably affect the plans for the Christmas dinner menu. If a Christmas goose has been prepared for the feast from time immemorial, even the youngest bride annoyed to the family tree would not think of serving a roast turkey. And if scalloped oysters have always made their appearance, notwithstanding short of complete disappearance of the species would prompt one to omit them from the menu. A few changes are gradually being made in the dinner accompaniments, however. One no longer feels constrained to serve mince pie for dessert, for instance, realizing that dietetically, if not traditionally, it is not a suitable way to wind up a big dinner. Then, too, we are becoming more conscious of the esthetic appeal of our foods. They must not only be worthy of the feast but they must help to decorate it. So, without violating these dishes which are particularly sacred to the great day, we can introduce a few dainties for the Christmas table.

Christmas Appetizers
These canapés will add to the table decorations:
Cut stale bread into quarter-inch slices, then cut into fancy shapes with cookie-cutters—bells, Christmas trees, wreaths, stars, and such. Toast the pieces on one side, then spread the other side with butter and any of the following combinations, depending upon the entire use.

Chopped, stuffed olives, or a combination of chopped, stuffed olives with chopped, green olives. Cream cheese decorated with thin strips of pimento and green pepper or sliced stuffed olives. Mayonnaise sprinkled with the whites and yolks of hard-cooked eggs run thru a sieve.

Sweet pickle relish, dotted with tiny pieces of pimento. Of course, if you can use several different designs with their accompanying fillings, so much the better, but if you must prepare everything yourself, you will find that it will expedite the serving—since canapés should be served freshly toasted—to use only one or two shapes.

In the opinion of many persons, the fruit cocktail provides the most delightful dinner appetizer. There is no reason why you should not make it especially Christmasy for this occasion.

Christmas Cocktail
Chill frozen sections of grapefruit, Malaga grapes which have been seeded and skinned, and pineapple cubes. Place in cocktail glasses, and pour over the fruit the juice, which has been colored red with vegetable coloring. Decorate the top with green cherries.

If there is to be roast goose, you may want to garnish it with these cinnamon apples, which are as good as they are decorative:

Cinnamon Apples
Closely pare medium-sized apples, without removing stems or cores. Stammer until tender, turning gently from time to time, in a thin sirup made in the proportion of 1 cupful of sugar to 2 cupfuls of water. Add some grated lemon rind to the sirup and enough cinnamon drops to color it.

(Continued next week.)

Beautiful windows



Answers to your individual window and door draping problems can be obtained by addressing the Editor of the "Beautiful Windows" Department. Enclose a self-addressed envelope with your questions. We urge our readers to cut this series of articles out for future reference. The suggestions will prove useful.

PERIOD rooms will always offer delightful decorative possibilities, largely because—with the general style of the room already determined by the furnishings—there are so many ways in which charming effects may be obtained at the windows.

The chief danger in the decoration of such rooms is that the home owner, in her eagerness to get beautiful effects, may "overdo" in the matter of decorations, overlap one period with another, and get discord instead of harmony.

Regardless of how popular, the modernist trend in decoration may become, it is safe to say that it will never replace sound old period values, though it may supplement them here and there. Our period styles are the best that the past has created; they have survived because they are good and beautiful, and they will endure for the same reason.

It is essential, of course, that windows be kept in perfect harmony with furniture, where a period effect is desired. This applies to both the color and the design of draperies and drapery hardware.

The windows of a Spanish room must be as rich as the heavily carved tables and chairs, as glamorous as the luxurious upholstery, as interesting as ownership is established, the boy will seldom neglect his charge, but will see that it has food and water, when he eats his own meals. Boys and girls often neglect animals because they do not feel the responsibility, and often satisfy themselves with the thought that "some one in the family will feed it." It was their own responsibility, it would probably be cared for. Very few young people who own a pet will allow it to suffer for want of food, water or proper care.

A story is told by a social worker of a boy, an orphan, who while under the care of an aunt, ran away many times, and his relative finally surrendered him to the care of the state. When the lad was questioned as to the reason for his running away, he said, "Oh, gee, not even a dog, and the ax always by the wood-pile. He was called unruly, wild and wilful, but when he was placed on a farm, treatment because of the affection of hens and chickens, two dogs, a horse and a cow, as well as a large family, the wild, unruly, wilful boy was happy. What he seemed to need was companionship of the dependent creatures, as well as the understanding of human beings. It is said that many boys have resisted a desire to run away from what they consider harsh or unfair treatment because of the affection they bear for some animal about the place. An animal never tells tales, answers back or scolds and is always ready for a frolic which usually brings a boy's spirits back to normal.

Animals, cats and dogs, especially, are always glad to show their affection for their owners and friends. Many animals seem to understand the mood of human beings. They are appreciative and sympathetic listeners to whatever troubles are confided to them by discouraged, troubled, or sometimes lonesome boys and girls.

(Selection from Human Education, approved by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers.)
Jackson County Humane Society, phone 528-J-3.

Questions to Think About
Is it ever right to give gifts simply because others give to us? Is it possible to avoid being disappointed about receiving gifts not wanted and not receiving those desired?

What can we do to make Christmas a happy time for lonely young folks who are away from home? Should Christmas be a home day, a church day, a day of social gaieties, or just what? Should Santa Claus have a part in a Christian's Christmas? How can we "keep the Christ in Christmas?"



The Christmas Dolly

It was in the cold December, and the ground was covered with snow and ice. People were hurrying along over the ice-covered sidewalks, holding their coats close to keep out the biting winds.

Darkness was just beginning to lower, and the lights were coming on one by one in the houses along the streets. The store windows were a glare of lights shining behind and above the beautiful Christmas gifts which were being displayed. One store in particular was especially attractive to the children because it was a toy shop.

Many beautiful dolls, electric trains, automobiles, doll carriages, doll furniture, fine building blocks, and so many other things, were temptingly displayed in the windows.

Boys and girls with their parents were constantly streaming in and out of the shop and each time the door opened, a gust of cold wind entered, sending shivers thru all who were near the door.

Up the street came a little girl about seven years old, who had no warm coat, nor hood, nor mittens in her hands, and her shoes were ragged, scarcely covering her feet. She was hungry for she had had no warm dinner and very likely no supper, for her folks were very poor and they made this little girl go out in the cold to sell papers to get something to eat.

Tonight she is very unhappy as she had not sold any papers today and she knew that meant nothing to eat. She came to this toy shop just as a rich little girl and her mother started to enter the shop. They saw the poor child standing outside the window looking at a beautiful doll.

Ellen Adams, (that was the rich girl's name,) said to her mother, "Mama, let's buy that little girl a Christmas present. I don't believe she has ever known about Santa Claus."

"I am glad to hear you say that, Ellen. I think that would be nice for you to do."

They took the poor child into the warm store. She could hardly believe her eyes when they told the clerk to wrap up the big doll

proportion. To watch all the performers in this gigantic one-ring show, even at the beginning of their act, is a much bigger job than keeping track of all the rings that were ever laid out under canvas. One can only go forth, open his eyes, and pick out more or less at random, things at which to wonder.

Pointers for Parents

To put a child at ease on entering a room where there are guests is a knack few parents possess. The child looks around, uncertain what to do or say, and the mother is apt to ask, in a critical tone: "Can't you speak?" The boy or girl at once becomes confused and self-conscious. To obviate this embarrassment one mother, as soon as her children could toddle into a room, would pleasantly introduce her little son, John, or daughter, Mary, to the guest, then invite the child to be seated, or would suggest what she wished to do. The child was saved from standing about aimlessly while the grown-ups stared at him—as so many grown-ups do. He was made to feel welcome, and could then conduct himself with composure even in the face of the rapid fire questions to which grown-ups so frequently subject children.

For your baby crib buy one yard of rubber sheeting. To two sides of this stretch cotton strips of the same width using a lapped seam. Tuck the cotton part under the mattress. This will not slip around, as an all-rubber sheet will, and thus the baby's mattress will be protected at all times. It is also less expensive than a full size rubber sheet.

Why not go out for a walk with your boy or girl and see what is happening out-of-doors? If you know for what to look you can make a walk a thrilling experience. Within the countryside circle that can be crossed by two hours of modern travel, from any of our large cities, there are from a hundred to ten thousand distinct species of plants, with insects, birds, fishes, fur-bearing animals and other creatures in

for her. Then they took her to a clothing store and bought a whole outfit of nice clothes for her; stopping at a grocery, they left a bill of groceries to be sent out to this home. When they reached the old tumble-down house they found a family in great need, but when they left, so much happiness was left behind I don't think Ellen was ever happier in her young life; do you?

Something to Make
A Kewpie Doll Pin cushion
This is the time of the year when we are thinking about Old Santa, and planning our Christmas gifts. Why not make sister, mother or some friend, a Kewpie Doll pin cushion? Even a small girl who enjoys using a needle can make one, with a little help.

Buy a small Kewpie doll at any ten-cent store, one measuring three or four inches in a good size, or any small doll will do if you cannot buy a Kewpie.

Next, select the color you like for the cushion, pink, blue, yellow or any other color you wish. The ribbon should be wide enough to cover the doll from the neck down over the feet and allow enough to gather in. First, hem the raw edge of the ribbon. Use cotton to fill in around the doll to form the cushion, making it quite full. If arms are movable, push them up so they will extend out from cushion. Now, sew the ribbon together, turning wrong side out. When sewn in several, turn right side again, and slip over the cotton. Run draw string around the neck, and draw the ribbon tight at the bottom. This makes a bag over the doll and you have a very pretty cushion to either stand on dresser or hang up.

Game—Hands Up
The players form in a circle, each one holding up his hands. One child is in the center, and tries to touch one of the pairs of hands before that child can lower them. They are raised again, when dropped for the play to continue. The child whose hands are touched, changes places with the center player. Continue as before.

All Colors Paper For Wrapping Gifts
To make one's Christmas packages unique is not a difficult task. Now that the traditional red and green have been somewhat relegated to the background, a favorite color can be cleverly introduced with perfect propriety.

To follow one of the new ideas for Christmas-gift wrappings, you should use the same color for all your gifts. It may be French blue and silver ribbon with silver star seals, green with white and silver holly, or perhaps black paper with silver trimming. Gold paper tied with scarlet tulle ribbon is a color combination, but many will like better white with green ribbon and gold stars, silver paper with red ribbon or white paper sealed with large colorful buttons and gummed ribbon.

If you wish to give a very original touch, disregard all suggestions of Christmas colors, and use orchid paper with Nile green, blue and yellow, green bronze with apricot, or any combination that suits your fancy.

Decorated crepe papers lend themselves to striking gift wrappings, too. These are economical, for usually no ribbon is required, and the ends can be simply pasted into place and held with seals. The red brick design in crepe paper makes an ideal gift wrapper.

HEIRESS GETS BRIDAL CROWN



The wedding gift of Prince Folke Bernadotte of Sweden to his American bride, Estelle Manville, is a bridal crown of platinum and precious stones. It will become "the family wedding crown of the Bernadottes."

Stuffey Rooms Seen Great Cause of Colds

The day of the draft as a cold cause has given way to the day of the stuffy room.

Interviewed in the American Magazine, Dr. Bundesen, who has made an astonishing record in his own city for lowering the death rate, first gave what he considered one of the surest recipes for taking a cold and then outlined several simple methods by which it might be prevented.

"I find that I can nearly always bring on a cold," he said, "if I stay indoors for four or five days, allow myself to become constipated, or stay for any length of time in a stuffy room."

Dr. Bundesen lists several important things to know if one is to avoid colds—these being that first of all a cold is caught from someone who has one; second that a majority of all colds can be avoided if one lives right and gets enough fresh air and sunshine; third, that a cold can be broken up if it does not get too good a start.

"Alkaline your system," is the advice of the doctor to those who would break up a cold at its very beginning. To accomplish this he suggests baking soda in a glass of water, followed by calcium tablets. This treatment is followed at regular intervals and the patient is cautioned to eat no acid foods.

Humane Society

DOG RESCUES GIRL, 13, FROM KIDNAP ATTEMPT
Tony hasn't much of a pedigree, but his loyalty is unquestioned. He's no great shakes of a dog, as prize winners go, hovering between three or four breeds—but Tony loves his mistress. Yesterday he proved that love.

With 13-year-old Helen Ruth Moss, 4193 Thirty-fifth avenue, Oakland, Tony was trotting contentedly along Redwood Road. They were romping gaily, Tony chasing sticks, and Helen laughing at his eagerness.

A man drove past in a small roadster. Stopping the car, he asked Helen the way to town. She told him. Appearing to be deaf, he cupped his hand to his ear. She spoke louder. Still he didn't seem to hear.

Helen stepped closer to the car. Suddenly the man reached out and tried to pull her into the machine. "Tony, Tony!" screamed Helen. There was a flash of a tawny body, and a fury of fur and teeth flung itself upon the intruder. Howling with pain, the man released the little girl, jerked himself free of her protector, and went racing down the street. Vindictively, Tony chased him out of sight.