

DOWN TO EARTH

Select Shrubs to Fit The House for Beauty

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

It is important, when a homeowner plans on landscaping a new contemporary home, that he consider shrubs in proportion to the size of his home. If evergreens are purchased they should be slow growers, which will generally mean the most expensive varieties.

Always remember that the yews come in the category of evergreens which like our Michigan weather best, have the least disease and do not winter kill. Yews can be purchased in all sizes and shapes to take care of the needs of your design.

Yews form an essential basis for the foundation planting but it is not necessary to have all evergreens in front of your property.

To give a vertical effect and to afford privacy to a part of the foundation area you may want to consider one of the ornamental flowering fruit trees. These should be placed at least 40 feet from the foundation.

AS FRUIT trees mature they give interest in the winter due to their contour. The flowers are delightful in early spring and the shade it will give you when well placed will be a joy during mid-summer.

Remember, Birmingham is the town known for its flowering crabapple trees. If you are a newcomer be sure and include a flowering crab on your property so you may have a part of the "dress parade" when Birmingham is aglow with colorful blossoms.

In front of low windows of a contemporary home you will be interested in plant material which will not exceed three feet and can be kept pruned to that elevation.

Be sure and learn the color of the flower which will be produced and watch your red colors unless you have a grey or white surface. Most plants have a pink cast and your coral or white flowers are more flattering.

THE QUINCES placed as a hedge three feet apart are good. Get the variety chameleis lace-panaria. Watch your flower color with quinces.

Abelia grandiflora is good and bears flowers all summer. The flowers are white, fluted pink, bell-shaped.

The leaves turn a bronzy color in the fall. They are nearly evergreen, meaning they remain on the shrub most of the year. Let the new buds push off the old leaf and the cycle of the performance is repeated.

Cotoneaster adpressa is good.

Ar-treated natural wood. This evergreen comes to us from the mountains of China and thrives in a tony and dry soil. When used in a grouping together they should be pruned but when used as a specimen they are more attractive when they are allowed to grow their natural way.

Your yews known as taxus cuspidata do you will give you the best performance for the conditions stated above.

The last year has brought out lots of discussion regarding the merits of winter feeding of trees and shrubs.

THIS MEANS that nutrients are sprayed directly on the leaves of the plants, so let's consider some of the pros and cons in the following feeding story and decide whether this will be a new style of gardening, we shall follow this year.

When the nutrient is sprayed directly on the leaves it is true that it will become available to the plant almost immediately due to the short distance it has to travel to the point where they are manufactured into plant food.

IF THE SAME food is fed from the soil it has to be absorbed in water and enter the roots and transported up to the leaves.

In the spring the soil can be too wet and the nitrogen cannot be absorbed readily, thus denying a response to feeding. In mid-summer moisture often is not available in the soil. Many foliar feedings are needed per season.

Trees should begin with the first feeding after the leaves emerge and followed every two weeks. If the soil is fertilized also only two feedings on the leaves would be necessary.

Measured results will tell that this is a fine way to care for your choice material but does not take the place of fertilizing at the ground level. Very interesting results are noted when foliar feeding is used as a supplement to the regular fertilizer program.

Lathrup Scouts Tell of February Troop Meetings

Brownie troops 8 and 158 of Lathrup Village have elected new officers, with Kim Renton and Sandy Martin as respective troop presidents.

Other officers of troop 8 include Joan Booth, vice president, and Helen Kausaug, scribe. Janice Clark is vice president; Pat McCormick, secretary; Mary Linnato, treasurer and Janice Ross, scribe of troop 158.

These troops, along with 111 and 481, also worked on programming for the father and daughter banquet.

Scribe Becky Klock of troop 111 reports that the group is organizing new patrols. Members of troop 166 are working on the tenderfoot requirements for Girl Scouts and learning the Girl Scout promise and Girl Scout Law. Jane Herzik is scribe.

INTERMEDIATE Scouts of Lathrup troops 165 and 199 also worked on arrangements for their coming father and daughter banquet.

Tick Tock and Eager Beaver patrols of troop 167 are dressing dolls about 7 or 8 inches tall for the migrant fruit pickers' children. These dolls are put into a shoebox with a pair of scissors, needles and thread and more material for the children to make additional clothing.

Mrs. Albert Cattell, leader of troop 167, and Mrs. Richard Isaacson, leader of troop 165, report that the girls are taking swimming lessons at the Northern branch of the YWCA. Each Wednesday after school various mothers drive the 24 troop members to the pool and home again.

Makes Honor Roll at Pennsylvania College

Joanne Wagner, a student in the senior class of the preparatory department of Penn Hall Junior College and Preparatory school, Chambersburg, Pa., has achieved the distinction of being on the honor roll. To attain this recognition, a student must rank in the upper ten percent of her class.

R. Wagner, 1135 North Glenhurst drive. Active in Skating Party Armine Arzoumanian, 17368 Buckingham, a junior at Marygrove college, joined the Art club and faculty in an ice skating party in Mt. Clemons Sunday. She also attended the Art club banquet Tuesday in the college classrooms.

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