

It's Time to Plan Next Year's House Plants

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Bit O' Verse

OCTOBER

The sharper air and twilights gold,
Tell us the year is growing old.
Frost plunged into the earth a knife
And blood red autumn leaves are rife
Too soon October will have passed,
This lovely season cannot last.
But there will be another spring,
When winter will have had its fling,
The trees will put forth leaves once more,
And frost destroy them as before.

—CORA D. HOLMES.

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When we have a nice sunny day soon, set up a caritable in the garage, fill a bucket with nice dark compost and you have the perfect setting for repotting houseplants, a job which should be done once a year.

I may be old-fashioned, but I believe that just good humus is a good start for most plants. Later all plants should be fertilized every month.

Many plants require dividing and others need shifting to a larger pot. Often the plant will outgrow your facilities for its care. Then is the time to cut it into pieces and propagate it by making cuttings at the "joint" and planting them in a pot of sharp sand, builder's variety. Keep the sand moist by placing the pot in a cereal dish with water level in the bottom.



Mrs. Burlingame

Many of you have geraniums, and at this point remembering how much they root in the spring you are all for the winter. Now count ten geraniums need a temperate during the summer they are not apt to give you dividends during the winter.

IF YOU STILL want to bring in your geraniums, they should be batched off within three inches of the ground to allow a fresh new start so their size won't get out of hand. If you don't do this they will lose their leaves anyway due to shock. Keep them "on the dry side."

If you have a cool basement they can be taken in, the dirt shaken off the roots and can be hung upside down on a hook until March when they can be potted up for next year.

Mr. Sperry at Granbrook advocates shaking off the soil, standing the plants up in a carton and storing in a room with a temperature between 55 and 60 degrees. He suggests potting them up around April 1.

CONSIDERING the many hours of care this step in conservation would mean to you I would be inclined to save only a couple of choice specimens, pick the ones with a history of heavy flowering.

Now make cuttings of these and place them to root in a pot of sharp sand. Geraniums are one plant which really pays dividends to the owner of a sunny window.

Sort of look at some of those large old plants you have carried around for years from an objective point of view. Maybe it is time to break them for sharing with others.

During this grooming process don't overlook the step of washing

the return of the treat. Good care must be the answer but this plant does not just flower at a given time.

Fall days make good garden touring days and at 6545 Red Maple lane we found a rambling, yellow shingle and fieldstone ranch house.

The road is higher than the elevation of the house so in front of the living room there is a brick stone wall "tucked" into the topography to care for the rise in the lawn to the street level, about ten feet away from the window.

The entire wall provides a panorama of beauty with rock plants as well as small growing annuals and perennials.

The home has charm. Nestled into the landscape is its well kept lawn and a landscaping which is not too "busy."

OUR CAR HAS a way of annually returning to the home at 938 Westchester. If you love the charm of a shady garden, well done, you enjoy looking at this home setting at all times of the year.

There is the farm fence, and in front of the living room window, a 10 foot window box just teeming with impatiens.

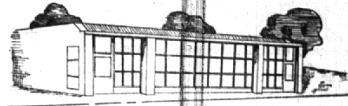
Evergreens and shrubs are combined beautifully. You notice that the lines in the shrub beds conform beautifully with the architectural lines of this attractive home.

Along the walk going into the house is a 15 foot path of hosta which were in flower along with chalk white lilies.

The spider plant peeks over the farm fence as many of us remem-

Have You Met

Dr. and Mrs. Paul L. Connolly and their two children who moved from Royal Oak to 3888 E. Miller Way in Bloomfield township in August? The doctor of optometry graduated from Pennsylvania State college of Optometry and received his education in London, England, and Zurich, Switzerland. Mrs. Connolly is a graduate of Golby Junior college. They belong to Orchard Lake country club and their children are Elizabeth, and James, six months.



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Have You Met

The Robert E. Millers who are living at 811 Tottenham road? They come, with their children, Robert, Peavee, Miller, 17, and Janet E. Miller, 15, from Wheaton, Ill. Robert is a senior at Birmingham High school, and Janet, a sophomore. Miller is Detroit branch manager of the York corporation, of York, Pa. He is a graduate of New York University and a member of Delta Chi.

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