

Old Plant Stalks Have Food Value

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The season has arrived when there are many uses for every Saturday hour—storm windows to put up, football games to be seen and heard, as well as the usual family expeditions.

Therefore, I should befriend the harassed husband when I again tell home gardeners to "take it easy." Don't clean up your flower beds where you have enjoyed annuals as well as perennials.

We know that the finest mulch of all for our gardens is snow. If you leave old mums stalks, as well as those of annuals you will find that they will hold the snow drifts in your flower garden an assurance of less winter damage where you have bulbs and perennials.

Often home owners are interested in the age of a favorite tree. A well-known tree company passes along a way to approximately calculate the age of a tree. Measure the circumference of your tree at least 3.1416 to get the diameter. If you have an elm multiply by 2 1/2, and if you have a maple multiply by six to get the age.

FEETING OF roses has progressed this year throughout the country and the American Rose society suggests as top choice the Queen Elizabeth.

This is a grandiflora rose of pale pink, with large single flowers on long stems. You will also like the new floribunda, Jimmy Cricket with its glossy foliage. The buds are a tangerine red and open to be a yellow-pink. It has a spreading characteristic which makes it splendid for a hedge.

From a seedling of the Peace rose has been developed the hybrid tea rose, Sun King. The petals are a light yellow while the center is lemon yellow. The leaves are dark green and very sturdy, covering the plant.

Mountain winterberry (Ilex monticola) is a plant which is characterized by lush clumps of red berries. I would like to find an ex-



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ample in a local garden. It is one plant I want to add to our plantings.

WE HAVE AN enthusiastic plantswoman in our area, Mrs. Lewis Dibble. She always admired the bayberry so well known in the New Jersey area. So she sent for specimens and aimed to give them a setting where they would prosper. This called for a lot of fine gravel, sand and a little poor soil to represent seaside soil.

Mrs. Dibble's reward with her bayberry has been a lush growing plant which has bronze, leathery foliage in the fall and an abundance of grey berries. The leaves have an aromatic odor and the twig growth gives an interesting oriental flavor. This plant choice has done very well for many years and it is surprising it isn't grown in abundance in this area, especially by those who enjoy flower arrangements where the texture of this plant would play an important role.

I like to use a mulch which can be incorporated into the soil. Hay is good if you can live through the mess of removing it in the spring. Leaves make a good mulch. Some keen-rose growers hold the opinion that when peat moss is mixed with the soil and heaped around the roses, the excessive moisture held by the peat around the stems affects the ability of the rose to withstand the winter cold, however.

The American Rose society's test plot for all roses used a mulch of four inches throughout the winter. These cornucopia can be secured in the cooperatives in the outlying communities. Be sure and have a good supply of peat moss that you can incorporate them into the flower bed with nitrogen fertilizer in the spring. Finely ground corncobs makes grand black humus.

RESEARCH HAS proven that you should not prune the roses in the fall for greater spring flowering. Remember these spikes will catch the snow to give a farther mulch for your investment.

As you become a "self made" plant enthusiast you will take a great deal of pride in growing around the countryside, locating unusual plant material to complete some need you might have on your own home grounds.

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Two Cakes Honor 87th Birthday

It took two cakes for the Red Cross Sewers at the community house to celebrate the 87th birthday of Mrs. Florence Rhodes last week.

Mrs. Rhodes, who lives at 399 Baldwin, sews regularly with the group. The club members broke from regular sewing tradition last week to serve up their two cakes and the ice cream brought by Mrs. Rhodes' daughter, Ferris J. Rhodes.

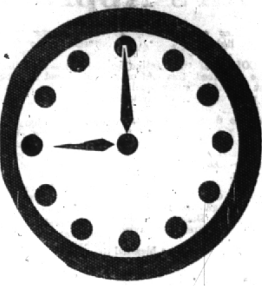
Moving here from Detroit four years ago, Mrs. Rhodes and Miss Rhodes had come from Chicago in 1914. The elderly woman's activities include sewing and television viewing.

Society deadline is 3 p.m. each Tuesday.

October 28, 1954 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC Page 3

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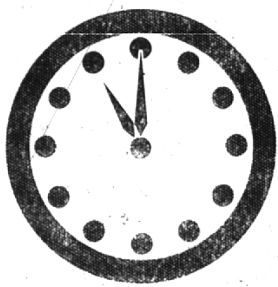
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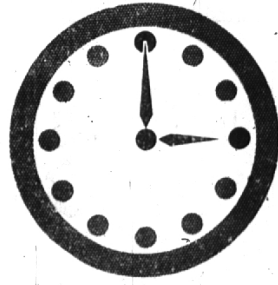
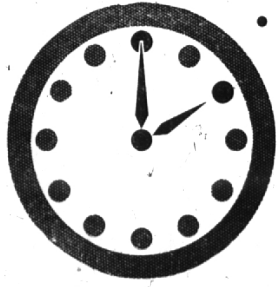


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