

A Few Tricks Add to Indoor Gardens

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Many gardeners tell me they do not have a "green thumb" when it comes to raising houseplants.

Here are some tips for those who might feel that they come within this category:

You have to have more than a couple of houseplants so that you will not forget to water them. Those who have at least 12 plants around the home seem to have best results. If you have a humidifier on your furnace you should have a twice-a-week watering schedule. As an illustration you might call Wednesday and Sunday the days for plant watering. It is important that the potted plants be given a generous space in the top of the pot to allow for sufficient watering one time.

Where a home-maker has a ledge or shelf appropriate for plants, she would find it helpful to have a galvanized tray, two inches deep. Put one inch of pea gravel in it as a base for the pots. Now you can pour extra water in the tray above the gravel level and have the pots water themselves by absorbing through the surface of the pot and then up through the soil to the top.

Wedding Plans In New Mexico Are Revealed

The engagement of Edith Louise Bertholon to William Walker Macdonald, son of Mrs. Harry Colin Macdonald and the late Mr. Macdonald, of Bloomfield Hills, has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Eugene Bertholon of Mesilla Park, New Mexico.

The wedding is set for Jan. 29 in the St. James Episcopal church of Mesilla Park, a church which was founded in 1912, among 17 Episcopal churches in the Southwest, by the bride's grandfather, the Rev. Hunter Lewis.

The bridegroom was born in Bloomfield Hills and attended Brookside school. He is a member of Christ Church, Cranbrook, where he sang in the choir for over ten years, and is a 1943 graduate of Cranbrook school.

AFTER SERVICE IN the navy, he attended the University of California at Los Angeles, and is now with the Douglas Aircraft company division at White Sands Proving ground, New Mexico.

After a honeymoon, which will include a Michigan visit, the couple plans to reside in Las Cruces, New Mexico.



EDITH LOUISE BERTHOLON

THIS TECHNIQUE is known as "hydroponics" and was employed during World War II on the coral Pacific islands to assure our soldiers of green, fresh vegetables. On all leaves there are cells called "stomata" which open during daylight hours and take in and release oxygen. The reason for keeping the leaves clean is because of the fact that leaves benefit from light and receive more when light doesn't have to penetrate a layer of dust.

There is a vapor constantly being given off by plants which is beneficial and for this reason they are an asset in a sick room.

MRS. TEMPLE can expect two flowering periods from her plants. Some years the Christmas cacti don't seem to realize that Christmas comes on Dec. 25 and their "show" is given in January. An abundance of these flowers will be on the plants, then after a two or three weeks' rest, many more flowers will open.

Mrs. Temple says that twice a year she feeds her plant a teaspoon of bonemeal and she fertilizes it further with a cup of liquid sheep manure once a month. During the summer months the plant rests in a sheltered spot.

Jack Bell has just returned from the national trade show in Chicago and it didn't take me long to quiz him about what's new for the gardener of 1955.

IT IS THE constant introduction of new garden magic which makes this gardening hobby attractive to people who have to have challenges to hold their interest. There is a capsule which you

can have inserted near plant roots. After it is dissolved by watering it is assimilated by the roots of the plant making it resistant to disease.

Dr. R. M. Carleton of Chicago, writer and well known horticulturist, told Balkewitz it is important in this area that we buy northern raised roses.

In order to prepare them for shipping they have to be placed in storage which is too rapid a change which affects their hormone growth substance so essential for a good spring start under different climatic conditions.

IN ORDER to control weeds in the lawn and garden there is a spray which prevents weed seeds from maturing. The date of using this spray calls for lots of study to assure the user that all of the grass seeds present on the surface are not killed. The spray will not harm ornamental plants nearby.

So many insects are becoming immune to the sprays which kill them so now scientists are approaching the problem from a new angle. They are developing a great way to sterilize the insect.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "To-Sale-Houses" columns on the Classified Ad page of this week's Eccentric.

usual, you may be sure that your plant is hungry. It is interesting to grow houseplants in water, using frequent feedings to provide for a balanced growth.

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WOULD THIS WERE a scene along the shore of Quarton Lake—especially in view of the first-of-the-week plunge of our thermometer to just above the zero mark. But

before Birmingham can swing into spring, we must endure several more weeks of drear winter. Should you be one of the fortunate Birmingham folk who are escaping Florida way for a vacation, perhaps you will see pretty Mary Lou Lynn as-singin' on Miami Beach.

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BUDGET

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