

Plants to Brighten Dull Winter Days

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The Christmas lighting production has had the curtain rung down for 1954. Many people in our area enjoyed sharing their home decorations with others.

Here are a few observations gleaned from tours which might be helpful for 1955 planning.

Some of the most effective results were achieved by having just a white background were the right amount of lights but very rich with good lighting on not enough to distract from the nice arrangement. At Coventry design of the home. Entranceways and Cranbrook a home was effec-



Mrs. Burlingame

tively lighted by having a single white electric candle at each window.

Those who did not have evergreen trees of the right height for an outdoor display erected temporary ones to assure a gay result.

Spot lights with a shield of colored glass are excellent lighting accessories for the yard both for the holidays and for summer hospitality on your own property.

IF YOU HAVE a sunny window you will want to start morning glories this month for late winter splendor in your windows. They can be guided and secured to the window casing with tape. Soak the seeds for 24 hours before planting. One envelope of seed will assure you gifts for two or three friends.

Yesterday I visited a Swedish grower and came away knowing that if I had a greenhouse or large sunny window I would grow climbing nasturtiums. They have a long flowering period and give an abundant growth.

Anyone who has visited the Gardner museum in Boston recalls how their balcony nasturtiums tumble down a wall for over 20 feet. In this instance the planting is renewed every six weeks due to it being difficult for workers to remove old flowers when they reach maturity.

ANOTHER ITEM the Swedish gardener had was white calla lilies. They are so easy to grow and give such an abundant crop. It is a tuber and it likes a feeding of ammonium sulphate.

This is also the time of year to start your amaryllis bulbs. Remember to have them nearly one bulb out of the soil and set in the dark to establish roots for two weeks after watering well.

When you purchase this bulb you get what you pay for as a small bulb will yield a small flower while the large bulb will give its bigger reward.

If you haven't watched an amaryllis come into flower at the end of six weeks you have missed a winter garden treat. One experienced grower says that this bulb should be soaked in warm water for an hour before planting. Bone meal is the perfect fertilizer for the amaryllis as it is for all bulbs.

Amaryllis will come to maturity with water culture as the flower has been formed within the bulb the preceding year after the flowering period. It is fascinating to watch the root structure through a transparent glass container. A small piece of charcoal in the bottom of the glass and fertilizer added to the water every two weeks helps the bulb mature.

MANY TIMES amaryllis will come through without flowers. This may be due to too large a pot or planting the bulb too deep. You might like to check those old flower pots in the garage and wash them. Use a cup of bleach in a bucket of water, soaking the soiled pots for a half hour.

Take a few clean pots and fill them with soil for a window sill herb garden. Guard against placing the seeds too deep.

AFTER PLANTING and before watering place a circle of paper the size of the pot on top of

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paper makes the best covers. Leave it on until the seeds sprout. This seeding technique is best when planting flats a little later, too.

Enjoy winter weather. Lots of rain and snow are the best friends of the gardener and remember that there has to be a given amount of winter weather to assure a proper amount of dormancy for all of our plants.

George Pickering's to Reside In Lansing After Rites

Mr. and Mrs. George Pickering, Franklin residents who spoke their wedding vows in a recent double ring ceremony in the Kirk in the Hills, have returned to East Lansing, where the bridegroom is in his senior year at Michigan State college.

The bride, who was Marjorie Premo before her marriage, will continue to teach at the Okemos school in Okemos, near East Lansing.

Their wedding was performed by the Rev. Harold C. DeWitt in an 8 p. m. ceremony and a reception followed at Botsford Inn.

THE BRIDE is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis J. Premo of Willowgreen drive, Franklin, while the bridegroom's parents are the Russell Pickering's of Franklin road in Franklin.

The bride wore a white lace and tulle dress with a fingertip veil while her maid of honor, her sister Carol, wore a coral gown of silk and velvet.

HER ATTENDANTS, the bridegroom's sister Margaret and Bonnie Lovejoy of Saginaw, wore turquoise gowns similar to the maid of honor's. Holly leaves and red rosebuds formed the attendants' bouquets, while the bride's flowers were stephanotis and a white orchid.

Aiding the bridegroom were William Redfield of Bloomfield Hills, as best man and Roger Schroeder of Royal Oak, Jacques Linder of Bloomfield Hills and Kenneth Whitner of Walnut Lake.

AMONG OUT-OF-TOWN guests were the bride's uncle, Richard Premo, and Mrs. Premo, of Lima, Ohio.

January 6, 1955 THE BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC Page 5

Garden Club Scheduling Two Speakers

Mrs. Robert Pease will be chairman of the day when the Birmingham Branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden association meets at 1:30 p. m. in the Community House on Monday, Jan. 10.

For her program topic, Mrs. Lewis Dibble has chosen "Success with Shady Places."

Mrs. Dibble, past president of the local club, is well known for her interesting talks for the Detroit Garden Center and the Michigan University extension courses in Detroit, as well as to various Garden clubs about southeast Michigan.

She also has had articles on horticulture for national magazines and the New York Times.

She will draw from her wealth of practical experience in giving pointers for planting in the shade.

"AFRICAN MOLETS" is the subject chosen for the theme for the flower hill of the month. Mrs. Robert Vanderly, who won recognition for her beautiful specimen plants at the recent Christmas show, will attempt to pass on to the group some of her knowledge concerning the culture of this popular indoor plant.

Mrs. Frank Blocker will be the hostess for the afternoon. Assisting her will be Mrs. Owen Hemmick, Mrs. Edith Marshall, Mrs. H. P. Holmes, Mrs. Lee Durbin, Mrs. Robert Thom, Mrs. Steele Sellers, Mrs. Dwight Tronard, Mrs. L. C. Tolson, Mrs. Agnes Hamner and M. W. T. Wright.

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

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Holidays in Ohio

Mrs. and Mrs. H. B. Barrett of Emmons street left Friday to spend the New Year's weekend with relatives in Ohio. They visited Mrs. W. B. Hooper and Mrs. Helen Jones in Bainbridge and Mr. and Mrs. R. P. Case in Columbus.

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