

## Setting Up a Fluorescent Greenhouse

"As advertised" last week I do want to tell you this week about setting up a fluorescent greenhouse. We have many in the area who are enjoying growing plants in their basements by this method or in dark rooms.

Saul Bernat on Pierce has enjoyed this type of an indoor garden with his wife. Mrs. Douglas Swell on Bloomfield court is another enthusiast with her garden room off her dining room. Your writer had a successful demonstration for three years of this type of plant culture when we had a home with a basement.

**GROWING PLANTS** with fluorescent lights is especially good therapy for those who have had to limit their activity due to health restrictions. They can have the joy of working with soil twelve months out of the year, as it is relaxing and is challenging as the grower tries to dream up new approaches for plant culture.

If you select a location in the basement you will have the best light use if you paint the walls of the area white to reflect more light. As far as temperature is concerned the plants will gladly accept any span of degrees as long as you do not

fall below 55 degrees. For best results select any old table and arrange for a month to make you a tray which will have a two inch lip. You will be growing your plants within their pots and nestled in one inch of pea gravel or sphagnum moss.

**SECURE A FLUORESCENT** fixture with a reflector shade and an accommodation for two forty watt daylight type tubes. For best results you will want to plan on the fixture having its elevation variable to suit your program, therefore secure a fixture with chains regulating its height.

It is really necessary to have a time clock so that the plants can have this light for fourteen hours and darkness for ten hours. Plants are like human beings and get frustrated if their cells can't relax away from a light stimulus. Very few plants can survive constant light, maybe the variegata in hotel lobbies.

**THE PLANTS** you may expect to grow should be selected for their shade loving characteristics, otherwise sun loving plants will grow tall and spindly, seeking more light. In your acceptable list

you will find African violets, begonias, ivy and fern collections, impatiens, etc.

Do not expect to get a head start on the season by starting lots of annual seeds under fluorescent light as they will become tall, spindly, and diseased due to insufficient light power.

If you plan to place annuals out-

doors remember they will only come into flower when the night has the right number of dark hours. If you place them outdoors too soon they are apt to freeze.

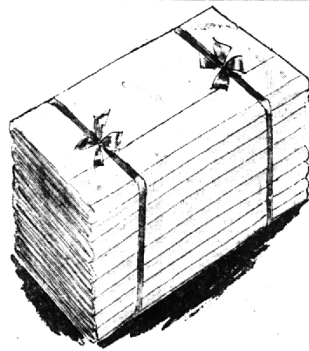
**YOU HAVE TO BE SURE** to secure the daylight fluorescent tube care the other types of tube can hold back growth. It will interest you to know that many of the color tones of fluorescent tubes are not flattering to the face or food on a plate. Test this observation.

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## Rotarians Propose To Reverse Order Of Office Holders

Local Rotarians will vote Monday on a proposed change in the by-laws of their International club, No. 1097. The measure would set up a system whereby the club's vice president would next assume the presidency.

Under existing by-laws, presidents are elected directly, then assume the vice presidency following their term. The proposed change would also stagger terms for members of the board of directors, so that four directors will have at least one or two more years' experience on the board. The club's annual meeting is proposed for the third Monday of March each year.



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