

Gardeners Get Pruning Ideas Now

When the leaves fall off the shrubs and trees most gardeners think this is the season for pruning. Whose... count ten. If you are making an investment in branch cutters, be sure to consider the weight of the tool. Remember, you can't buy the cheapest tool and expect good results and longevity of the tool.

"Pruning Made Easy" by Edwin with the aid of many diagrams, F. Steffen is the best book I have how to cut trees for more fruit on the subject. It shows you, or less fruit, hedges, and shrubs.

THE BIRMINGHAM (MICH.) ECCENTRIC Oct. 16, 1958

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BULB TIPS

From now on is right for planting tulips. It is especially important, however, to get all other bulbs into the ground as soon as possible.

Be sure to mulch all newly planted bulbs with marsh hay AFTER the ground is frozen hard.

Spring shade intensifies the flower colors. There must be filtered sunshine, however, to form a new bulb for the next year. If planted in consistent shade, plan to plant new bulbs each year.

Use BONE MEAL in the bulb beds. Do not use 5-10-5 or 4-13-4 until Spring.

Deep planting (12 to 15 inches) with good drainage may prevent multiplication, but may produce regularly for 10 to 15 years.

Most tulip plantings are good for three years at the most.

Daffodils & Narcissus grow well in sun or shade, near the water or near a rock ledge, through the sod. Very handy—and beautiful.

GARDEN WORK TIPS

AMARYLLIS—Repot immediately. When growth begins, start the water and fertilizer program.

BEGONIAS—Dig before hard freeze. Leave all the dirt on and the tops. Dry undercover for one to two weeks. Cut tops back to 4 inches and keep dry for several weeks (until the stems drop off at a touch). Pack in vermiculite or peat moss and store at 45 to 50 degrees.

CANNA—Dig when frost blackens foliage. Cut back to 6 inches, dry off and store upside down at 50 to 60 degrees. Don't keep in pitch dark place.

DALIAS—Dig several days AFTER killing frost. Do it on a sunny day; drop the clump to jar off most soil; dry for a few hours. Store in peat moss or vermiculite at 35 to 45 degrees. Inspect regularly to be sure there is moisture present.

GLADIOLI—Shake off loose soil, dry in sun a few hours, cure for a few weeks in frost-proof place, clean of stems, husks and old corms. Hang up in onion bags in 40 to 50 degrees after dusting corms with NEUDUST (5% DDT).

ISMENE (PERUVIAN DAFFODIL)—Lift after frost; dry upside down; DON'T cut off the fleshy roots. Store at near 60 degrees.

LYCORIS SQUAMIGERA (NAKED LADY)—Leave her in the ground.

ODD TIPS

- Put the hose away. Plastic hose will crack and break if handled at freezing temperatures.
- Hang the hose on a HOSE HANGER to prevent kinks and sharp bends.
- All liquid insecticides, fungicides and herbicides must be kept from freezing.
- BURNING BASKETS for leaves and debris are priced at \$3.29 (2 inch mesh); \$4.50 (1 inch mesh); Garbage can type \$4.95.
- UTILITY TRASH BURNER costs \$59.95 and has wheels, ash tray, convenient loading arrangement and holds 11 or 12 bushels. After you have used it 12 times it costs less than ¼ cent per bushel to burn leaves. Next year it won't cost anything. Good deal.
- PARKER LAWN SWEEPERS — \$33.00—4 bushels \$45.00—5½ bushels \$57.50—8 bushels Saves labor, tempers, money—IF you OWN one!
- Leaf and grass carrying cloths help like the dickens. 7½ by 7½ Canvas—\$5.95 6 by 6 Burlap—\$3.50
- Scientific TRI-CHEK RAIN GAUGE—\$3.95. will almost measure a heavy fog (but not quite); an excellent, different idea for Christmas.

Tipster

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The timing for pruning is important. With our new emphasis on the Japanese influence in our gardens, we are aware of keeping trees to a given pattern, for greater beauty near terraces and special garden spots. Evergreens call for careful handling to keep those foundation specimens in their bounds, as they will conform with the home architect.

THIS book carefully tells you how to prune every type of evergreen. It will tell you how to restore old evergreens. You do not prune liliacs at this time, because the flower buds were formed on the tips in August. AFTER the flowering period, early flowering shrubs are NOT pruned at this time of year, due to flower buds being formed. If your magnolia tree has seed pods, you might enjoy soaking the seeds in water for a few days, and then rub the covering through a sieve, using running water. You can sow them at once.

Back your bag and come by plane off to Rome with me. The plane arrived from Copenhagen at 2:30. There was the usual confusion through customs, with the travelers' awkward armloads of hand luggage. Fortunately, the bank was open to allow for the purchase of Italian lire. By the way, you can feel like a millionaire when 150 lire are worth approximately 26 cents.

I WAS determined to stay in Old Rome while there, so I chose the Hotel Santa Chiara which was down a narrow, cobblestone road near the oldest buildings. It was the cleanest hotel I have ever been in. Needless to say, very few Americans find their way there. But careful, discriminating travelers from other countries are on the guest list.

I was traveling alone and wanted primarily to meet interesting people relating to horticulture, to see the fine gardens, and find interesting eating places.

Before I left, Birmingham Dominic Caputo told me how to arrange for an audience with the Pope. At this time it is appropriate to share with you this never-to-be-forgotten occasion.

THE AUDIENCE was to be held at Castel Gondolfo, the papal summer palace which is about 20 miles out in the country from Rome. The gates are closed an hour before visitors see the Pope, and those present are given a chance to quiet down.

As it was a very hot afternoon, the Pope advanced his audience 30 minutes to consideration for his guests. About ten minutes before he appeared on the balcony, an attendant unrolled a long crimson velvet throw over the railing of the balcony.

All of those present of many religions were awed by the presence of Pope Pius XII. He looked so much younger than his pictures, with a personality which just "winked" with rays of kindness. He had a list of guest groups and called their names. Then in their language, in eight different tongues, he spoke personally to them about their country.

The Pope had smiling wrinkles at the corners of his eyes, his mouth seemed to be always smiling and chuckling. Cameras were allowed and freely used by the guests. On the way back to Rome I felt like a bigger person, enriched by this privilege of an audience with Pope Pius XII. He was very generous with his time and not in a hurry to terminate the occasion.

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