

The Birmingham Eccentric Features

DOWN TO EARTH Pruning Should Wait Until Season Is Ripe

By ALICE WESSELS BURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

The gardener always feels that spring is late in coming. Those who are neophytes must remember that shrubs are pruned after they have flowered. At this date, roses which are not climbers may be pruned so that dead wood is removed. The small amount of shaping will make the rose plant more graceful.

Be careful about trimming the wood on climbers which show green to avoid trimming away future flowers. At this date the "numb-er one" chore is to work to-wards the perfection of the lawn.

MRS. J. C. CALHOUN with her group of volunteers, Lyle Abel who is county extension director and The Birmingham Eccentric are sponsoring an ingathering of spare perennials on May 19th from 10 until 3. They will be delivered to those who live in the area near Eight Mile Road and Meyers Road. Local delivery point will be the parking lot of The Eccentric.

This program developed at the request of the student council of the Grand School which wanted to make home and neighborhood more attractive. Last year a pioneer effort was tried from the Birmingham area and two trucks were filled with plants containing surplus area. When they were delivered, there was a mob of eager gardeners with but a small per capita bunch of perennial plants.

WHY NOT ARRANGE to divide plants, and even shrubs, at this date so that a depressed area of Detroit can bloom because of your thoughtfulness.

Prior to this ingathering date, there will be evening garden classes to teach gardeners how to use the plants given to them. Those

Tent Caterpillar Spins Webs in Forks of Trees

Since the 1600's this pest has been recurring in cycles in this country. The Eastern tent caterpillar seems to become abundant about every ten years, causing severe defoliation on several types of trees, especially apple and peach. It also is a pest on many trees often used for home landscaping.

During the winter, bands of egg masses can be found encircling small twigs. These dark brown egg masses are only about 1/4 of an inch long, but contain several hundred eggs.

Early in the spring, as apple leaves begin to unfold, tiny caterpillars hatch. A mass of them will gather in a fork of the tree to spin typical whitish webs which will form their colony.

From these colony webs, Eastern tent caterpillars roam over the tree devouring leaves. In years of heavy infestation, several nests of caterpillars can completely defoliate that tree. The worms themselves are about 2 inches long, covered lightly with brownish hairs on their basically black bodies. Maturity takes 4 to 6 weeks.

In large plantings or around the home grounds, chemical control is the easiest way to knock out these pests.

Better Roads Campaign Had Early Beginning

Michigan's elaborate highway system, acknowledged the finest in the nation, is not a recent engineering development but actually had its beginning more than a century ago.

The development of our state highways in recent years is actually a continuation of a campaign for better highways instituted in 1825.

It was instituted by the Rev. Father Gabriel Richard, pastor of St. Ann's Parish on Mackinac Island more than a hundred years ago. Father Richard was the only priest ever elected to Congress, one of the founders of the University of Michigan in 1817, publisher of the first newspaper in the state and the original champion in Congress of good highways.

WHILE MUCH was said and written about construction of military highway between Detroit and Chicago at the start of World War II, it was Father Richard, who on March 2, 1824, introduced a bill

lacking plants to share many donate grass seed.

A SANSEVIERIA plant, is a house plant which is often called "mother-in-law's tongue. You often see it in hotel lobbies or barber shops.

This week I saw one in flower in the home of Mrs. Tom Ward on West Lincoln. It had a spike about 10 inches long, with greenish white florets. There seemed to be a few drops of sweet honey on the tips of the petals. This plant development is very rare.

TOMATO PLANTS and the harvest of the fruit is tops in gardening to so many people. Tuck one or two in some place to have the fun of picking your own tomatoes. Let the children plant seeds now in peat pots so that they will have the joy of saying: "these are my plants, begun by me."

PLANTING A bare wall up to the top of the structure is often a problem—if left unbroken by plant material, the profile of the house is lost stark.

On the south or east side of a building, an unusual effect can be had by planting a pear or apple tree. The flowers or fruit will be starting with the plant placed just six inches from the structure. Allow the branches to grow unpruned on the east and west only, while the out-growing branches are cut off. This technique is used so much in Bavaria and Germany.

Eucynous variegata will lend itself to this treatment if it is kept sheared so that the growth will be pink and not straggly.

PHYRACANTHA or firethorn can also be used in this manner. It has orange-red berries so the color of the structure must be considered.

Climbing roses now can be purchased which will grow and flower all summer. Do not use a trellis for this purpose. Plastic transparent buttons with wires to support branches which are readily attached to my surface are now available.

Because Eastern tent caterpillar egg masses are easily seen, pruning out branches with egg masses and burning them will cut down spring outbreaks. Also, eliminating the favorite "sweet" hosts, wild cherry and wild plum trees, will help avoid invasions by this insect.

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Robert Thom and Mrs. George R. Squibb, members of the Community House board, examine a newly-erected sign that identifies the 10-room two-story structure at the corner of Bates and Townsend. Thom, internationally-known artist, is responsible for the design and lettering of the sign.

Horses Popular In Area

"Please, get me a horse." This familiar children's plea will be repeated in more and more families as the weather warms up, and chances are an increasing number of children will get their wish, says Rose J. Wilhelm of The University of Michigan School of Business Administration.

Explains Wilhelm, "While the number of horses in the U.S. has been declining steadily since the turn of the century, the popularity of horseback riding is at an all time high." His views are presented in a U of M Broadcasting Service (WUOM) program, "Business Review."

PARENTS MUST remember, however, that the principal costs of a horse include more than purchase price. Riding equipment alone will cost at least \$100. Parents can spend whatever amount of money they wish on riding clothing. Additional costs: board and feed, blacksmith, veterinarians.

"On the other side, however, there probably is no sport which gives quite the thrill, challenge and sense of accomplishment at riding. It is a sport that the child can participate in throughout his entire life," Wilhelm notes.

HERE ARE SOME pointers for the parents buying a horse: A number of possible sources are open to the prospective purchaser—dealer and horse auction, horse dealers and horse breeders and farmers.

A word of caution: "The buyer should deal with somebody he knows and with whom he has a continuing relationship.

"THE WARY ATTITUDE that grandfather had toward horse traders in his time is still justified today. Unless the prospective owner knows a good deal about horses, he will do best to avoid going to the wholesale markets," Wilhelm advises.

The prices of pleasure horses range from \$100 for an undistinguished pony or plug to well over \$20,000 for the highly-schooled dressage horse.

Many factors determine the prices. The degree of training is one. The horse's temperament is another. The physical structure of a horse also influences the price.

There are other considerations: the age of the horse, its color and size. Prices seem to rise as one moves from West to East across the country. Prices dip in the winter and rise in the spring, Wilhelm says.

What would happen if 100 new families should suddenly move into Birmingham? What additional municipal and county services would have to be provided for such an increase in population?

The newcomers would require living quarters, electricity and gas, a school room, police and fire protection and a whole host of other services.

A guide to these needs is given by the International City Managers Association. The guide is based on a study made by the Bureau of Government, University of Wisconsin.

THE FINDING IS that each 100 new families moving into an urbanized community eventually require, besides their living quarters, 22 grade school rooms, 1.65 high school rooms, four teachers, two-thirds of a fireman, eight-tenths of a policeman, and four other public employees to take care of street cleaning, park tending, tax collecting and health and welfare services.

The same 100 families would use 10,000 gallons of water a day and would need a hospital bed, part of a jail cell, part of a visiting nurse and 500 more books in the library.

Something New

NATURE NOW Tree Frog's Big Voice Outweighs Small Size

A big name and a big voice belong to our common tree frog or spring peeper. Hyla crucifer crucifer. Field along side a ruler, the slippery little fellow measures only 3 1/2 inches.

On his back he wears the Greek cross of St. Andrew; on his legs crisscross stripes. His eyes are bronze rimmed and underlined with white, his nostrils are two tiny holes, his ears a pair of flat discs. His feet are equipped with small, round suction cups, made sticky for safe climbing.

Because of his protective coloration, the peeper is more often heard than seen. His voice, a resonant chirp, is frequently confused with that of a bird and can be heard at a half mile's distance.

WATCHED AT night with the aid of a flash light, one can observe the inflation of the sounding sack, a thin membrane beneath the throat. This swells out like a balloon until one almost expects it to raise the little fellow from his perch.

Like the chameleon, the peeper can change his skin pigment to match his background.

Peeper lay their jelly-like eggs underwater singly, instead of in gelatinous masses as do the majority of their kind. After a few days these hatch into tadpoles with a fish-like tail.

Each is equipped with external gills for breathing which during the 90-100 days of the frog's water-life gradually change into internal gills which are finally replaced by lungs. Nature further readies the

B'ham Growth Adds To Need for Services

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Local traffic and parking problems would be increased because of

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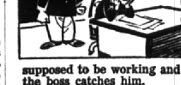
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STRICTLY FRESH

The woman who loses her head is usually the last one to miss it.

Plenty of sleep is good for anyone, except when he is



supposed to be working and the boss catches him.

Some say that a blotter is what you hunt for while the ink dries.