

Azaleas Very Sensitive To Soil's Acid Content

Our houseplant in the illustration is the azalea which belongs in the rhododendron family. Many of you have received such a plant for the holidays and at this date you will be having only a few flowers left on the plant. It is possible to have an azalea with the color ranging from white to shades of pink and red.

These are plants which are very particular as to the quality of the water they receive for moisture. Azaleas only like acid soil and if you are watering them water out of your faucet it will turn the soil to test for too much alkaline. Rainwater is ideal for them. So, to correct a possible condition of too alkaline soil you would make a solution of one ounce of iron sulfate in two gallons of water.

If I only had one plant I am sure that I would make one pint of the solution at a time. If the plant flowers poorly and has yellow leaves you may be sure that it needs an "acid" treatment.

OUR DETROIT Flower Show is planned in conjunction with the Builders Association of Metropolitan Detroit the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Michigan Horticultural Society for Mar. 1 through 10, at Cobo Hall. Many volunteers try to make this show a real herald of spring. This year the theme will be "The Garden Path."

The Portuguese garden, the cactus and succulents exhibit as well as the Fair Lane feature garden will bring many visitors.

The "Glimpses of Fair Lane" will emphasize the Ford Centennial and the beautiful garden of Clara Bryant Ford.

For those who are flower arrangers there will be endless chances of competition to view.

THE BROOKLYN Botanical Gardens have again rung the bell of success with their new handbook: "Conservation For Every Man." It can be purchased for one dollar at the headquarters in Brooklyn, N. Y. This guide to plant management should be on every gardener's shelf.

The following are excerpts which may interest you. "Teaching the importance of water should be the first lesson in education, for water is the basis of all life. Each one of us is 75 per cent water. Without it, we and all living things would dry up and die."

THEREFORE we must be interested in the fertility of the soil on our own property, the value of trees, the ways to hold the soil, how to have purer water, etc. A large portion of our readers have a home on nearly an acre lot. They are dependent on their wells for water and the wind sweeps around their homes so they need a knowledge of correct placement of trees. So let's get more interest in reading what we can do to improve our properties.

A SINGLE wren will feed 500 insects to its young in one afternoon.

What are you doing to encourage birds? Do you have an area where you have planted Russian olives, highbush cranberry, Tartarian dogwood, or multiflora roses to encourage them? You can use spray on your property.

This same handbook gives a biography of a farm and how it rose from a low of value to an outstanding community asset by working with the U. S. Soil Conservation Service.

Five ponds were constructed. Steep hillsides were planted with pines for erosion control.

IF AT YOUR home you have a college-age son who has difficulty finding summer employment you will be interested to read that the National Park Service at the Department of Interior employs young men every summer to work in the areas throughout the country. Our editors have teams of eager land promoters who are developing previous small game habitats and subdivisions. One example in S. Carolina is a development where for each acre sold, one acre was decided to become native woodland to assure the continued character of the area.

Conservation and horticulture go

Nurses To Hear Anthropology Talk

Nancy Lurie, PhD, will be the guest speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Public Health Section of the Oakland County District Nurse's Association at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday in Devron Gables. Dr. Lurie is presently assistant professor of anthropology in public health. Her topic will be "Nurses and Anthropology." All Registered Nurses are invited.

hand in hand. Don't leave the intelligent direction of your property to others.

ON MONDAY, at 8 p.m., there will be a meeting at the Birmingham Community House for all owners of greenhouses or those who plan to purchase one. It is being sponsored by this column to



MANY PEOPLE still have azaleas which they received as gifts during the Christmas holidays. These plants (which are members of the rhododendron family) are very sensitive to the acid-alkaline content of the soil, preferring theirs to be slightly acidic.

EMANCIPATION PROCLAMATION

Old Papers Record Reaction

"The name of Abraham Lincoln will be handed down to remotest generations as the Second Savior of our country."

This was the glowing reaction of the Sturgis Journal when the news of the President's Emancipation Proclamation came. A preliminary proclamation was made Sept. 22, 1862. This was followed by the final proclamation of Jan. 1, 1863.

"THE LONG looked for Proclamation has come," said the Republican paper. "We long since predicted that Old Abe was all right and that when the proper time came we would hear from him in the whole country. From this day onward we shall begin to do justice to the oppressed and to carry on the designs of our fathers that this should be the land of the free and the home of the brave."

THE HASTINGS Banner, another Republican sheet, also eulogized the Act:

"True to his promise, the President, on the first day of January issued that Proclamation of freedom to the slaves, which will make his name immortal in history.

"Whatever the test of time may decide as to its wisdom, the object and intention of its author can never be questioned, or his motives impeached. The Proclamation stands forth today a beacon light, illuminating the pathway to liberty, prosperity and national unity. It gives joy to thousands, hope to

STRICTLY FRESH

The words that should be unsaid are too often the ones people like least.

For fixing things around the house, there is nothing



quite like the man who is handy with a check book.

Keeping a secret from some women is like trying to smuggle daylight past a rooster.

Magazine teach us one thing if nothing else, models who don't need girldes are the ones who model them.

aid those who wish assistance in securing more pleasure from their growing program.

So plan to be on a committee of one to tell the under-glass growers in this area to join together for a "swap session" of ideas. There will be a program on the growing of orchids by Thomas Robertville.



Michigan State University is offering 20 and perhaps more graduate assistantships to returning Peace Corpsmen, with bachelor degrees.

Peace Corpsmen Invited to MSU

"These are highly qualified people with high motivation and many of them want to return to school," explains Dr. Ralph H. Swackler, associate dean of International Programs at MSU. "We think they should be encouraged to come here because this university has a wide range of foreign studies and a large international program which has given many faculty members experience overseas."

ALSO ENDORSING the Emancipation Proclamation, the Detroit Conference of the Methodist Church said in its report of resolution:

"We rejoice in and hereby heartily approve of the Proclamation of the President, based upon stern military necessity, in solemnly declaring the slaves of all states in rebellion on the first of January next, forever free and that we will pray that this great act of emancipation may be carried into successful operation, and finally result in the freedom of every slave on the continent."

millions. And the great concern of statesmen now is that it may not have come too late for the realization of that hope."

HOWEVER, a Democratic paper, "The Michigan Argus," published in Ann Arbor, opposed the proclamation on grounds that it was illegal:

"We do not believe the President has any legal authority even as a war measure, to do what he has attempted. Proclamations will not put down the rebellion and restore the Union. A peace is to be conquered by force of arms, and we say push on the armies, preserve the Union, and let slavery take care of itself.

"The rebels have given the institution its death blow, let not the President prolong its life by attempts to strangle it both prematurely and illegitimately."



A Bird in the Hand

A small starling fell into the chimney of the John West family at 1404 E. Lincoln Birmingham, Mich. The 7-year-old Johnnie found the slightly singed and injured bird hopping around the basement floor. Johnnie and his dad got busy and built the feathered creature a cage and have promised to keep the bird in the warm basement until spring.

The Birmingham Eccentric

Feature

NATURE NOW

By Lydia King Frehe
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

Animals Have Various Ways To Get Food

To keep alive all animals must carry on certain life activities. These center around the utilization of energy for energy is liberated by the burning of food.

There are striking differences in the ways in which animals secure their food. These ways are related to the size and complexity of the animal as well as to the nature of the food itself.

A microscope's single-celled animal like the amoeba is nothing more than a tiny bit of protoplasm of very simple structure. It lives in water and secures its food by ingestion which means that it extends itself and engulfs the small food particles upon which it feeds.

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THE TAPE worm, a more complex creature, may live within the intestinal tract of man. This is a degenerate species which has lost the power to secure its own food. It is therefore called a parasite.

Its adult life is spent attached by its head to the intestinal tract of its host where it lives on the already digested food which surrounds it.

STARFISH SWIM about on the sea bottom feeding upon oysters and clams. They fasten themselves to the shell of their victim by means of their tube-like feet, a the same time humping their body over the shell and exerting a strong pull which eventually opens it.

The starfish then turns its stomach (which is centrally located on the underside of the animal) inside out and inserts it in the shell. In this way the soft body of the victim is soon digested and the predator moves on to another meal.

INSECTS HAVE many interesting ways of securing their food. The first golden and black bumblebee of spring buzzing around the earliest blossoms gathers nectar through her long tubular tongue. This she pre-digests in her crop to make the honey she eats and stores for a very special purpose.

The only surviving member of last year's colony, she has already gathered and carried in a pocket on her hind leg a store of flower pollen. This she makes into a platform upon which she lays her eggs and here she begins a new colony by incubating them.

Nearly she makes a small pot of wax and fills it with honey. This is her food on rainy days when she is confined to her underground nest.

THE DAUBER wasp lays an egg in each cell of her carefully constructed nest of mud and then stuffs the rest of the cavity with spiders which she has paralyzed by stinging them at a crucial point in the thorax. Thus the young are provided with a constant supply of fresh meat throughout their larval life.

Boa constrictors, large snakes abundant in the tropics, have no poison fangs but provide themselves with animal food by winding their coils around their prey and "constricting" it to death.

ON HOT summer days one can sometimes see vultures circling around an already dead animal. With little effort on their part they gorge themselves on the decaying flesh which they find by means of their acute eyesight and sense of smell.

The short-tailed shrew, living his intense life in a shallow underground tunnel, uses poison from a gland under his tongue to subdue large mice which are a part of his food. He also poisons snails which are then carried to a convenient storage site for future use.

CARNIVOROUS mammals usually pursue their prey and kill it by biting the flesh of tearing it with their claws. Certain plant eating mammals are provided with special grinding molars and "second" stomachs capable of digesting tough cellulose plant fibers.

Large sea mammals like the Baleen whale, have a mouth fitted with plates of whalebone which they use to strain small marine animals from the water.

THE FIRST man we may imagine, captured his food with his bare hands or with the aid of a club. After he learned to shape stones and work with metal he made spears and bows and arrows.

He also learned to plant and reap with crude implements. Today he has found more and more ways to protect himself from the caprices of nature and to aid him in satisfying his endless need for food. If he lives on the land, he may yet toil for his bread. But the city dweller fills his cart from the shelves of his nearest supermarket simply exchanging his hard won dollars for the food without which he cannot live.

In terms of vehicles—cars and trucks—there are an average of 33 vehicles for each mile of highway in Michigan. On a county-by-county basis, the number of vehicles ranges from 178.2 per mile registered in Wayne County to 2.9 vehicles per mile registered in Kalkaska County.

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