MAKE arrangements for a dormant spray if you have scale insects on any plants. Check the ash trees, lilacs, cotoneaster, dogwood and willows or oystershell scale; the elms for elm scale; the maple, linden, honeylocust, im, viburnum and other shrubs for cottony-maple scale; and the pine and spruce for pine scale. Dormant spray must be applied before the leaves appear, and while the weather is well above 40 degrees.

When the ground first thaws out is time to think about planting sweet peas and such self-seeding annuals as larkspur, calendulas, sweet alyssum, snapdragon and California poppies.

As the ground becomes dry and the necessary transplanting may begin. Trees, shrubs and perennials may be moved. Most ordinary things are safely moved as soon as the ground is thawed, but very particular things like birch, arborvitae, maple, and hawthorn come more surely when moved just as the leaves begin to break from the buds.

When the soil becomes workable is time to prepare the beds for annuals and vegetables. Spade in some manure, peat or leafmold. Work it in deeply and thoroughly.

If your lawn has been planted on the usual basement soil, you will probably benefit it by an application of good fertilizer. Whatever you may think that you need of the quick-shot fertilizers later in the season, now is a better time to use the organic fertilizers which have a slower and longer lasting effect. The best assurance of getting correct quantity and quality in organic fertilizers is to deal with a known and reliable firm. People are easily fooled with these materials.

If you have rhubarb, asparagus, peonies or bleeding hearts to move they must be transplanted early.

If the grapes were not trimmed in January, it may be that they can still be done, without excessive bleeding.

Arrange to have your trees checked by a competent arborist. Elm trees especially must be carefully gone over and every bit of dead wood removed which might harbor bark beetles.

Do not depend too much on the subsoil moisture that might have accumulated during the winter. The chances are that the soil around the lower roots of your trees is dry. Prospect in a few places and find out, then if it is dry give everything a good thorough soaking.

Check again the condition of the bulbs in storage. If they are shrivelling, give them a little moisture, and if they are sprouting reduce the temperature and humidity.

If any insects came in on the Christmas plants they may have spread to all the other house plants. Check them carefully for aphids, mealy bugs and scale. If you do not know the proper treatment for each of these it might be worthwhile to dust or spray every week or ten days with an all-purpose insecticide.

When the early spring garden urge first hits you and the ground is still not fit to work, it is time to visit your neighbors' gardens and learn from them some of their successful garden tricks.

Bring in a few branches of forsythia, plums or spirea and watch the oom unfold in water indoors. It gives a little foretaste of spring.
old Roberts will show the principal characteristics of the main plant families, illustrated with their incomparable kodachromes. This will be introductory to the series of “plants of the month” to follow through the spring.

MARCH 20, Sunday. Meet at Horticulture House at 9 A.M. Trip to Daniels Park or other suitable place to find some of the first wildflowers. Led by Mrs. Katherine Kalmbach. Come dressed to walk, and bring a pocket lunch.

MARCH 25, Friday, 7:45 P.M. Horticulture House. How To Plant, by Henry Gestefield. Everyone enjoys Henry’s talks for their down-to-earth information and lively humor.

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EXECUTIVE: All officers.

INANCE: Chairman, Fred R. Johnson; Robert E. More, Scott Wilmore.

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ANNUAL DINNER

The annual meeting of the Association was held Tuesday evening, February 8 at the Cosmopolitan Hotel in connection with the Rocky Mountain Horticultural Conference.

Eight directors were elected to serve until January 1952. All but two of the retiring directors were re-elected. The two new ones were Mrs. A. L. Barbour and Mrs. Frank McLester. Later in this meeting the directors retired and elected officers for the coming year. These included Mrs. John Evans to continue as President, Mrs. A. L. Barbour, secretary; L. C. Shoemaker, treasurer; and six vice presidents, Fred R. Johnson, Mrs. Robert M. Perry, S. R. DeBoer, Mrs. George H. Garrey, Mrs. J. Churchill Owen and Robert E. More.
WOODY EXOTICS IN DENVER

A Backward and a Forward Look

By M. Walter Pesman

TWENTY years ago the voice of Denver was a choice monthly publication, called “Municipal Facts”; told of many worth while and interesting things. On May of that year 1927 it had an article by the Park Superintendent, John L. Russell, on Rare Trees and Shrubs in Denver’s Parks and Parkway. Let us listen to that he considered worth mentioning; as we check on the particular trees and then go on from there. Still as then are the two tulip trees the drive juncture in the southeast corner of City Park (“They will undoubtedly be a source of marvel, as all as pleasure, for the Western eyes are not used to their glory and even more tropical climes, where man accustomed to the opulence of nature, the tulip tree calls forth exclamations of delight”).

The tulip tree’s close relative, the Katsura Tree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum) is mentioned at the Lily Pond, together with European Firs, Veitch’s Silver Firs (probably Veitch Fir Abies Veitchi), Japanese golden junipers, the “glove-shaped Japanese Juniper, seldom found anywhere in the occidental world”, Irish and Swedish junipers, and the Calycanthus, sweet-scented shrub.

On close inspection we were able to rediscover of these, the Japanese golden junipers, the Irish and Swedish Junipers, and another Japanese Juniper which may have been the “glove-shaped one”. Gone was the Katsura Tree, gone the Calycanthus, and gone likewise the tenderly-protected Rhododendron, which used to eke out a bare existence for a number of years north of the lily-pond. We’ll have to learn more in order to know how to grow these successfully.

A number of treasures we did find however on our—what shall I call it? —our funeral plant excursion! For one thing, we saw a clean-looking shrub with bright green bark, reminding one of Siberian Pea tree. But instead of leaves with many small leaflets, it had only three, like a clover leaf. And from the bunches of seed pods still hanging in abundance, there was no doubt but we had two fine specimens of the Golden-chain Tree (Laburnum anagyroides, or L. vulgaris). What a wonderful show it must have made in early spring with its hanging flower trusses of golden sweet-pea blossoms. We have mighty few of them in Denver.

Tracing Mr. Russell’s trail of rare trees, we found his Austrian Pine, south of the superintendent’s house, in full glory. It really has “towering height and sweeping foliage”. East of the old greenhouse, — now torn down — we did discover three unusual evergreens in a group, but instead of Cedars of Lebanon, they appear to be Yews (Taxus species); Lebanon Cedars have needles in bunches, these are in neat ranks.

I asked George Kelly, who was with me on this exploration: “How do you tell a White Oak from the English Oak?” We were looking at three fine specimens near the old pool adjoining Seventeenth Avenue.

“Look at the leaves and you’ll find a couple of small flaps at their base, that is a give-away; then you’ll notice the leaf is round-lobed like a white oak, but the bark smooth like a red oak”.

In the same neighborhood, we found in a large group of Hercules Club (Aralia spinosa, which itself is far from common), a lonesome Ginkgo Tree, the last link that ties present-day trees to the pre-historic ones. Altogether I dare say there are less than a dozen specimens in Colorado.

Some “rare” trees of 1927 are now fairly commonly cultivated. Nurseries carry Austrian Pines, many hawthorns, Viburnums and native cedars (Juniperus scopulorum, and J. monosperum) some oaks, and —above all, a great many varieties of French Lilacs, so justly praised by Mr. Russell. Euonymus europaeus and its brother Euonymus-es, such as Winged Euonymus (E. alatus) now brighten many a scene in fall. Viburnum lantana, the Wayfaring Tree, likewise is among the favorite fall stand-byes.

Pearbush (Exochorda grandiflora), noted in 1927 at Forest and Seventeenth, can now be found at a few other spots as well, such as South High entrance, and at 515 Race, the home of Arthur E. Johnson.

Xanthoceras sorbifolium, called Yellowhorn by Standardized Plant Names, and often called Chinese Chestnut by many of us who should know better, since that name is reserved for Castanea mollissima,— well, anyway, this lovely shrub that adorns the entrance to the City Park Museum, and that catches the eye in Washington Park near Downing and Arizona,—it’s the mystery shrub of the nursery trade. It’s beautiful, it’s hardy, it has no diseases or insect pests, as far as known,— and yet, it’s not to be had.

I wrote to a dozen or more of the best known nurserymen in the country; “would they please let me know where Xanthoceras can be had?” And here is the result. Not a blessed one grows it, lists it or knows where it can be had. A few were kind enough to suggest other possible growers, again without result.

The only hope left is the so-called Manning’s Plant Buyers’ Guide, issued by the Massachusetts Horticultur-
THE GREEN THUMB

By E. L. Simpson

See how this bud, this breath of life
That lay so still along the bough
When vital rays were thin and slant,
Does now respond to higher rays,
To warmer breaths from dawn to dark;
Does feel its still creators call
And reaches out to do his will;
Give grace to earth, to air, to sky.

SPRING

Sycamore in City Park  Photo by Chas. J. Ott

And now let us strike out on our own in a few notes on the situation in 1948. "Trail and Timberline", the monthly publication of the Colorado Mountain Club, gave a list in June 1931 "In Quest of the Unusual among Denver's Trees". It will serve as a point of departure. Where can one go in search for such trees now?

Our City Parks are still choice hunting grounds for woody exotics. Just as a teaser one might look for European Alder and European Maple (Acer pseudoplatanus) in Highland Park,—Japanese Varnish Tree, Ohio Buckeye and White Pir in Washington Park; — Yellowwood, Kentucky Coffee Tree, Chinese Catalpa, and Bladdernut in Cheeseman Park,—Japanese Pagoda tree in the Sunken Gardens,—and for Scarlet Oak, different species of Hawthorn and a beautiful Walnut Grove in City Park.

Parkways are pleasant rambling spots for Euonymous, larches, pines and spruces. A glorious grove of White Pine is on Downing Street Parkway near Third Avenue. Marion Street Parkway is known for Hackberry, Sycamore and Oaks, as well as for its being part of the Denver Parks Flower Trail, described in The Green Thumb of September 1947.

The City Nursery on South Logan Street, south of Iliff Ave. has a number of unusual trees; every plant lover ought to visit it frequently, as long as we have not yet embarked upon our Rocky Mountain Botanical Garden. The old City Nursery, at Eighth and Elizabeth had a fine collection of Arborvitae, still on display along Eighth Avenue.

Convenient tree collections are found on many of our schoolgrounds; South High and East High particularly are very rich showgrounds of many, many trees and shrubs. Skinner and Lake Junior Highschool grounds have a number of fine specimens of many types, as does Byers Junior High, which was the old home of the tree lover-pioneer William N. Byers. As time goes on, these tree collections will be appreciated more and more, since they give our youth a chance to become acquainted with the outdoors.

The Capitol Gardens, unlike the school grounds, have had a good press agent for a long time. The fact that trees on them are labeled, has been a big help. There is a good variety and by this time the individual trees have reached a good age to show character of their later years. Even the beech has managed to continue living.

"My aunt has a hickory and a Japanese Oysternutree in her yard", remarks little Billy at this point. Which reminds me that this article cannot possibly do justice to all the rare trees in private homes and stay within a reasonable length. The list in Trail and Timberline will give a hint and a beginning, but some day "The Green Thumb" should publish as complete a compilation as can be brought together.

That should include the rare trees and shrubs that have gradually been accumulated at Fairmount Cemetery and Crown Hill Memorial Park. (And perhaps at other cemeteries in the State).

All in all it is a formidable list that can be compiled, but that is a job for more than one person. Won't you all help along in reporting to "Horticulture House" all the unusual trees and shrubs you have met in your rambling?

Even if we cannot grow oleanders, azaleas, laurals and magnolias, and even rhododendrons,—there is no need being disconsolate. Our list is fairly large and some of them are very striking trees and shrubs. As time goes on we will find new introductions that are easily grown here; moreover we'll breed new varieties, hardy in our climate, resistant to both dry air and alkaline soils.
MY EXPERIENCES WITH ROSES

MAURICE N. MARSHALL

It is easy to understand why a person buying and planting roses for the first time is confused as to what varieties to buy, where to plant them and how to care for them. Every garden magazine and every nursery catalog annually carry many articles on the subject, each differing from the other in many ways due to the varying experiences of the authors and the localities in which these experiences have taken place.

Obviously, when you read this article you will be reading just another experience. But let me preface my remarks by saying that my experiences have taken place in the Central West under conditions familiar to every reader in this area. I have believed but very little of the bugaboo on extensive and detailed soil preparation and have not cluttered up my premises with a multitude of sprays and dusts, many of which overlap in their function. I have followed a straightforward course of what I thought looked sound and practical and have refused to accept blindly the recommendations of persons who are a thousand miles away unless it is obvious that our conditions locally would submit favorably to these recommendations. I have set the following down in outline form for quicker reference.

VARIETIES TO SELECT FROM

Thirty-five Good Non-patented Hybrid Teas

RED
Ami Quinard
Grenoble
E. G. Hill
Margaret McGredy
Etoile de Hollande
Red Radiance
Glowing Camarine
Pointsettia
Christopher Stone
PINK
Briarcliff
Pink Dawn

WHITE
Picture
Dame Edith Helen
Editor McFarland
Mrs. Chas. Bell
Radiance
The Doctor
YELLOW
Golden Rapture
Mrs. E. P. Thom
Golden Dawn
Soeur Therese
Joanna Hill
Mrs. Pierre S. Dupont

SHOW GIRL
Katherine T. Marshall
Lowell Thomas
Taffeta
Mme. Chiang-Kai-Shek
Mary Margaret McBride
Mirandy

SAN FERNANDO
Gruss an Aachen
Mrs. R. M. Finch

PIECE
Peace
Will Rogers
Nocturne
Countess Vandal

RUBAIYAT
Ellen Poulsen
Eutin

WILL ROGERS
Goldilocks
Betty Prior

NOCTURNE
Floradora
Pinkie (Have not tested it yet)

SHOW GIRL
Horace McFarland

Six Good Non-patented Floribundas

SHOW GIRL
Katherine T. Marshall
Lowell Thomas
Taffeta
Mme. Chiang-Kai-Shek
Mary Margaret McBride
Mirandy

GRUSS AN AACHEN
Gruss an Aachen
Mrs. R. M. Finch

MRS. CHAS. BELL
Picture
Dame Edith Helen
Editor McFarland

SAN FERNANDO
Gruss an Aachen
Mrs. R. M. Finch

PIECE
Peace
Will Rogers
Nocturne
Countess Vandal

RUBAIYAT
Ellen Poulsen
Eutin

WILL ROGERS
Goldilocks
Betty Prior

NOCTURNE
Floradora
Pinkie (Have not tested it yet)

SHOW GIRL
Horace McFarland
VINTER PROTECTION:

The Rugosas and miscellaneous shrub roses require no winter protection. Climbers should have only very moderate protection (something to shade the stems a little) or no protection at all. Hybrid Teas and Floribundas should be protected with a mound of dirt placed about the plant to a height of six or seven inches. This should be done in December (usually about mid-December or just as late as one can wait before the ground rezees up solid.) After Christmas, a supplemental covering of evergreen boughs is also advisable. This shades the stems a little and holds the frost in. In the spring, about April 1st, remove the boughs; then during the next week gradually lower the mounds and prune the plants back to eight inches or ten lower if the live wood doesn’t stand to eight inches above the round. Climbers, Rugosas and shrub roses require no spring cutting back. Only occasional corrective pruning is that they require.

TREES AND CIVILIZATION

By E. SAM HEMMING

Reprinted from American Nurseryman

My thesis is that the presence, nurture, abuse and destruction of the forests followed a definite pattern in the rise and fall of civilizations. History indicates that forests have been one of the three key features of civilization. These three features are, first, an environmental stimulus strong enough to make people aggressive enough to struggle for a living; second, the development of a permanent agriculture and the use of the necessary six inches of topsoil to permit the parallel development of the arts and the sciences through the use of surplus food and energy; and third, the maintenance of the forests which keep the six inches of topsoil producing. The major and minor civilizations all seem to fit into this pattern, either directly or indirectly.

In America we are having our warnings not only in the dust bowl but in the abandoned farms of New England and the Finger lake region, the crooked cotton farms of the Piedmont, the corn lands of the middle west, the disastrous floods of the east or the droughts and underground water shortages of California.

We are becoming conscious of our troubles, and our civilization is certainly in a turmoil. Perhaps we can save it, but it will surely involve the retention of our forests in proper balance. Trees and forests are not luxuries in any sense; in fact, their importance extends beyond primary industrial use. The product the nurserymen grow is really one of the essentials to the development and continuation of civilization.

Send in good pictures that might be used to illustrate stories.

The 1948 Report of Lyle F. Watts, Chief of the United States Forest Service

The annual report of the Chief of the U.S. Forest Service is a lengthy description of the administrative accomplishments of his bureau for a given year. To the average layman it looks rather formidably, and, unless one is especially interested in the subject it is usually glanced at and laid aside as a task too great for the moment. That is regrettable, as it is then too often neglected and forgotten. Once in hand, the report should be read thoroughly, for it is always worth the time needed to read and digest it. As the Denver Post recently stated in an editorial headed "Must Reading for All," "it is a story which far too few Americans have ever heard.

And for some reason the 1948 report does seem breezier, and easier to read. Probably because it leads off with a snappy historical review of "The Service," which instantly catches the reader’s attention. Now celebrating its 50th year as an administrative unit, the Reserve Service was organized in 1898 to protect the timber on the Reserves from fire and insects, and it and other natural resources from over-zealous and unrestrained use by the local citizenry. Development of a forester and ranger personnel to cope with the fast-spreading national forest system has been a gigantic task. In 1903, this force became the present Forest Service and in 1907 the reserves became national forests.

Managing the national forests in the best interests of their owners, the people of the United States, has been and ever will be the foremost aim of the Forest Service. And, according to the report, Mr. Watts is using the same policy yardstick "the greatest good of the greatest number in the long run," which Secretary of Agriculture, James Wilson, handed to Gifford Pinchot, the first chief, in 1905. The multiple-use plan of managing the natural resources gives each resource due consideration and each user of the several resources equal opportunity. Timber, forage, water, wildlife, recreation, and all minor resources are handled jointly without undue friction between users of any one resource.

Of special importance in new developments is the establishment of a National Forest Board of Review, which will assist the Secretary in the solution of problems arising in connection with the use of the national forests by the public and in appeals over the decisions of the Chief of the Forest Service.

What is a tree and what is a shrub—what’s the difference? If the plant is over ten feet tall, with a single trunk or stem, from which branches extend at some distance from the ground—that is a tree. The tree’s single trunk distinguishes it from a shrub, which may have several stems from the same root. To supplement these notes, see Sargeant’s “Manual”; Mathew’s “Field-book of American Trees”; McFarland’s “Getting Acquainted with the Trees”—others, too, on the shelves at Horticulture House.

If you think it not important to learn the correct botanical names of plants, listen to this—a Bachelor-button may be the Blue Cornflower, the Double Buttercup, the Red Campanion, the Globe Amaranth or an English Daisy; Bluebells may be Scillas, Grape Hyacinths or Mertensia; Cowslip is used with equal facility for a Shootingstar, a Marsh Marigold or a Primrose.

HELEN FOWLER.
NEW CITY ENTRANCE FOR TRINIDAD

One of the interesting items in the "DeBoer" city plan for Trinidad is a proposal for an attractive city entrance. The present line along Commercial Street and Main Street is one of the worst bottlenecks in the highway system of Colorado. The new plan will create a major trance on Animas Street, taking off from the elevated U. S. 85 Highway and over a new bridge on this street. The plan proposes to improve the park area around the City Hall and Library and turn it into a small civic center. The approaches to the highway from the bridge would also be park-like. Other connections between the highway and business district are designed to lead to Commercial Street and the end of Main Street.

The new highway will be located in such a way that the business district is in full view and visitors can easily go into it from the highway over the new bridge. Even those who pass by will get a distant view of the district and a foreground view of the Civic Center and the parked banks of the Purgatory River, the new bridge, the public building group and the Trinity Church amongs: the business blocks.

Very few cities have the opportunity to build such an attractive entrance. Usually highway lines have to bypass the business district and connections between the two are along crowded streets. Trinidad has the opportunity to get this attractive arrangement as part of its highway program.

NOTES ON THE GROWING OF GRAPES IN DENVER

From a Talk by Robert E. Ewalt at Horticulture House, Nov. 16, 1948

Portland is one of the best white kinds. Has good foliage and good fruit. It ripens the latter part of August, fully a month earlier than Concord.

Ontario, white, is not good for Denver area. Beta, a hybrid of Concord and wild grapes is not worthwhile where better grapes can be grown. (In many parts of the state it is the only grape which will bear fruit consistently.—Ed.)

Seneca is a good European wine-type grape which will keep up to the first of the year in storage and not shatter. The Golden Muscat or other long-maturing grapes should not be planted in the Denver area.

The Interlocken seedless grape originated by A. B. Stout of the N. Y. Botanical Garden and introduced by the Fruit Testing Association in Geneva, N. Y., is worthy of trial here. Concord is one of the poorest of the old grapes.

In pruning grape vines, they should be trimmed longer than most of the agricultural bulletins indicate. It has been found that the fifth to the ninth nodes on the new growth of last year will produce the most grapes. Various methods of pruning and arranging the stems have been developed, but it is usually best to keep only one main stem from the ground.

NATIVE SHRUBS

By George Kroh
Remarks Made at 1948 Rocky Mountain Horticultural Conference

Of all our native shrubs I would rate the Colorado Dogwood as Number 1 from the standpoint of appearance, hardiness, habit of growth and color of stems. It remains within bounds as a medium height shrub which cannot be done with some of the Eastern types.

Then, with some qualifications, I would consider the Thimbleberry as about next. It has some weaknesses; attracts red spiders late in the summer, but if that fact is realized and a reasonable amount of caution taken by dusting and spraying, it can be kept clean. When it blossoms in June its beautiful single white flower is quite an event.

An extremely useful native shrub is the Dwarf Sumac. It fits very nicely into group plans, grows to medium height, and the color is very prominent in fall.

Another plant that is very useful in some situations is the Bush Cinquefoil. In winter the plant is rather dull, but the small yellow rose-like flowers are very attractive all summer.

Do you have ideas on the growing of spinach or snapdragon? Someone else might like to know about your experiences with these things in Colorado.
STRAWBERRIES

Notes from a talk given by Martin R. Keul at Horticulture House, Nov. 26, 1948

Of the small fruits and berries, the one that lends itself best to small home rounds is the strawberry. It is easily grown, provided one gives it the care it needs.

Strawberries need a sunny spot; they grow in any good garden soil, but prefer sandy or gravelly loam which leans somewhat toward the acid side. Do not water too heavily, especially in heavy, level soil. In well-rained soil they like frequent watering, especially when fruiting.

For best results plant in April, or earlier, if the season is favorable. Prepare the ground the fall before and have it ready for spring planting. Plant carefully with the crown just at ground level, for the plant will rot if placed too deep, and dry out if too high. Spread the roots out carefully and press into the soil, and water thoroughly.

To get robust plants the first crop of flowers should be pinched off till early summer. If plants are set out in strings they should bear fruit in the fall. Use only new plants to set out. Roots of new plants are yellow while old plants have black roots. Strawberries are successfully grown three ways: the single hill method, single hedge row, and matted row. In the single hill row set plants about a foot apart and keep all side runners pinched off. In the single hedge row low runners set to set on either side of the mother plant at spaces of about ten inches. When the mother plant is produced for a year take it out and allow the new plants to develop. This system may be continued indefinitely. In the matted row the plants are allowed to form naturally, and the hole bed is abandoned after it has suited a year or so and a new bed started with young plants. For best results avoid crowding of plants.

Strawberry plants have a shallow root system, therefore do not cultivate too close to the plant or too deeply, depending on the type of soil and how much it bakes. Use a narrow hoe or soil-stirrer. The plant likes mulching. Well dried grass clippings or straw may be used. This keeps down the weeds, holds in the moisture, keeps the berries off the ground and eliminates cultivating.

Strawberries like a fertilizer of about 4-12-4 composition at the rate of about 2-3 pounds per hundred square feet, or something like 2 pounds of Vigoro and 1 pound of superphosphate twice a year. Sprinkle the fertilizer around the plants and work it into the soil.

In autumn remove all old leaves and after a good freeze cover with 2-3 inches of straw. For a late fall crop of berries cover the bed with a roll of flexiglass. It will help the bed to a new location every two years.

There are many single crop varieties. For most home gardens however, the everbearing are the best. Old, but still good, are the Gem and Mastodon. New varieties are the Streamliner and the Twentieth Century. With these varieties one may have nice big berries through October.

O Lord provide us a new tree; a beautiful tree. A stately tree. A tree that will retain its green foliage throughout the long winter months. A hardy tree that will thrive without care after planting. A tree that will survive the abuse of all the kids and dogs of the neighborhood. A tree the like of which has never been seen. A tree that will please our most discriminating customers and one for which they will gladly pay an honest price.

For such a tree, O Lord, we will praise thee forever and ever. Amen.

TROLLIUS EUROPAEUS

By Kathleen Marriage
Colorado Springs, Colo.

Trollius is a plant of many merits. The European species, before hybridizers took to improving it, is by all odds the best for the perennial garden. Its big soft silky balls of yellow or orange are a delight in May and early June; of adequate carrying quality in the garden and excellent as cut flowers. Then as other perennials sag into September and October along it comes again with a trickle of most welcome flowers—and they keep almost as long as chrysanthemums.

Trollius makes sturdy dependable plants better when divided every two or three years. Some people find that they sulk, refusing to grow or to bloom. This may be that conditions are not to their liking. I often think of Mrs. Egon Petri's delight when she saw them in my garden. They reminded her of her beloved Poland. There they grow in very rich moist valleys. If we'll keep this in mind and give them good loam rich in humus and generously watered they'll respond cheerfully.

Seed germinates well but rather slowly and irregularly. One way to boost it along is to mix the seed with vermiculite than in soil. It retains moisture doggedly and is free from damping-off suggestions.

All members of the Association are privileged to take out books from the library for short periods.

A CHECK LIST FOR LANDSCAPE PLANNING

Shade—For the house on the southwest. For the garden area. Trees, shrubs and vines.

Background—Behind the house and garden. Trees, tall shrubs, trellises.

Foreground—In front of the house. In center of the garden. Lawns, gravel walks, ground covers, water.

Frame Views—In and out. Mountains, parks, other good gardens. Trees, tall shrubs, evergreens.

Hide Views—Ashpits, weed patches, ugly buildings, windows. Screens of shrubs, trellises with vines, hedges.

Soften Severe Lines—Foundation, property lines, drives. Foundation plantings, shrub and flower borders.

Add Beauty—All around the house. Green trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, and bulbs.

Utility—Walks, drives, clothes lines, ashpits, garbage. Planned for efficient use with no waste space.

Year-round Color—In trees, shrubs, and evergreens. By colored barks, fall color, berries.

Windbreaks—On northwest side. Evergreens, tall shrubs, trees, hedges.

Attract Birds—For their beauty, interest, and control of insects. Shrubs and trees with edible berries.

Mark Boundaries—Of property. Of garden or service area. Hedges, fences, shrub borders.

Seclusion—In pleasure garden and by windows. Shrub screens, lattices, vines and tall fences.

Hobbies—For every member of the family. Rose and flower gardens, pools, rockeries, seats, platforms, shelters.

If you have benefited from this Association you should tell your neighbors about it.
THE NEFFS' GARDEN HAD ITS FACE LIFTED

CLARE NORTON
Laporte, Colo.

Our garden is not inviting, not restful; the family does not expend its leisure hours there? would cost too much to fix it up, yet liveable, more than such an item in the future would seem warranted? Perhaps, it only needs a face lift.

Ich was the case of the Neffs' garden in Colorado Springs. Those of us recall with pleasant memories the Mrs. J. Floyd Neff, former President of the State Federation of Garden Clubs, remember, too, how charming she used to tell the story of the history of this garden from an old ten run to a consistent prize winner in garden competitions.

The Neffs had a real and deep love of plants and flowers and the knack of growing them successfully. Their desire of competing successfully for the honor of the sweepstakes prize was doomed to disappointment.

Instead of thrusting aside the whole affair with the assumed consolation, "that everybody can't win", they faced their problem squarely and honestly. When the prize winners were announced, they visited these gardens. During the next several weeks their increasing interest led them into scores of gardens considered above average. They took photographs of the good points in these gardens. They bought and borrowed books dealing with garden design. Each member of the family studied analytically to determine how charming effects were achieved in gardens classed as "good". In earnest discussion they pooled their information and derived finally the knowledge of wherein their own garden failed to measure up to standards.

They saw that their garden was not a place to relax, and failed miserably as a complement to finer home living. Without appreciation of lines and the balance of lines, they had broken up their space into a series of beds without coordination. They had no axis from which to work. Their garden existed solely for the plants, and not the plants for the garden effect.

No attempt had been made to secure harmony of color or of texture. Even the gravel paths detracted from rather than contributed to the enrichment of the flowers. Structures on neighboring lots intruded into what should have been their seclusion, since they had not screened out the objectionable or enframed the desirable into their own composition.

After months of such careful and intensive study the Neffs saw the means whereby they could convert their sad hodge-podge into a garden worthy of their labors and in which they could take pride. Nothing but a complete overhauling, face-lifting, would bring about this change.

They tore up their yard from street to alley, and from boundary line to
boundary line. By using the materials they had, by offers from enthusiastic friends, and by purchase of needed trees and shrubbery and the growing of seeds, they revamped their garden with but little expense.

Although the size of the lot with which they had to work was only 45 x 150 feet, and that space devoted to flowers approximately 45 x 45 feet square, they created an atmosphere of spaciousness, Plate II. The effect was gained by keeping the plantings in scale, by balancing mass and line, by tying in the buildings with appropriate plantings. An expanse of lawn, turf paths and formal laying out of beds and borders contributed.

The old board fence was replaced with a boundary fence of pleasing proportions, painted creamy-white and banked with shrubbery. Poplars screened out the view across the alley. The workshop was torn down and the space converted to a rock garden and pool. Vines hid the neighbor's garage. A gracefully curving flagstone walk replaced the old concrete one. The same pergola was moved to the rear of the garden and balanced with surrounding borders. The right place for the birdbath was found.

Was this investment in time, labor and money a profitable one? The Neffs' combined answer was always an emphatic affirmative. Only a few months after rebuilding their garden they won the coveted sweepstakes prize, as well as a number of smaller prizes awarded on well grown plants and various features of the garden. They continued to win the sweepstakes until this class was discontinued from the competition schedule. But above all else, the new meaning of gardening, the enjoyment and satisfaction of possessing a well planned garden in which they could find rest and beauty, was the reward of these gardeners.

GIFTS OF LOVE
By Mrs. Ira Ullom

God gave a song to the stately pine
That guards our mountain high;
A melody to the singing bird
That wings our clear blue sky.
He gave us peace in the quiet lake,
Rare beauty in the stars;
The face of Nature is God's face
In this wonderful world of ours.
His handiwork are the mountains old,
His footsteps are found by the sea,
His smile is in the sunset gold—-
He loved the world and me.

MY GARDEN
By Mrs. Ira Ullom

God kissed my little garden
with His sunshine and His showers;
His voice I heard in the Song of the bird
His smile I saw in the flowers.
At best man-made rock gardens are but a tiny miniature of those found in nature. The average individual is limited indeed as to the size of rocks they are able to use and, to a lesser degree even professionals with power equipment can never expect to even approximate the mighty rock gardens of nature, so, everyone must of necessity, show each rock up to the best possible advantage.

In order to do this a study of rock formations that particularly attract the attention is very essential. Knowing that an upheaval in nature usually leans rocks in one general direction is helpful to amateurs and professional alike. Sometimes I wonder if everyone isn’t pretty much of an amateur when it comes to rock garden construction. My quarrel with many of the supposed to be experts is their insistence that “rocks must be laid down flat” where, even small plants quickly cover them. The only time they show up thereafter is when you bang into them with a hoe, and lose your temper, your love for gardening and the edge off your hoe.

Using each rock to the best advantage can best be done by the method of trial and error repeated until the desired result is obtained. Experience greatly reduces the number of trials necessary. Placing rocks to form natural looking pockets that will hold the soil on inclines is somewhat like terracing but too much regularity should be avoided. Cracks between rocks where soil may be washed out may be partly stopped with smaller rocks and completely stopped by the use of trailing plants with fibrous roots. Different plants have different soil requirements so each pocket must be filled with the proper soil in order to obtain the best results.

A sunken rock garden in connection with an elevated bank is somewhat out of the ordinary and is easily constructed by excavating a portion of the yard below the general level. The excess soil can be used to build the hillsides and between the hills a tinkling brook may easily be created by concealed piping to which the garden hose may be attached. A pool with overhanging rock ledges so constructed that it is larger at the bottom than at the top gives gold fishes and lilies a year around home that may be kept from freezing by a light covering of boards covered with either leaves or straw. This type of pool has a naturalistic appearance far removed from the saucer shaped pools so commonly used.

By the use of an overflow pipe at the end nearest the sunken portion of the rock garden the excess water from the brook (which, by the way, may be cascaded into the pool in a series of waterfalls) may be used to form a bog and give moisture to bog and shade plants. Steps leading down and thru this sunken part of the rock garden not only adds to it’s attractiveness but also makes it easier to reach and care for the various plant pockets.

With the combination of hillsides, valleys, pool and bog it is possible to have a wide variety of extremely interesting rock garden plants that will repay you for your care with beauty and fragrance from early spring to the freezing nights of late autumn, and, if the rocks are selected carefully and are used skillfully, add beauty and interest even during the winter months.

A rock garden arranged as I have suggested is equally adaptable to the average two lot yard and to the country estate, the difference being in the size, and amount of money used.

On country estates where a greater amount of space may be used this plan may be enlarged to become a rocky dell surrounded by a thicket where a rippling brook, fed by a cir-
culating pump would make music as it made a series of plunges to a naturalistic lake. A leveled off space covered with green lawn can provide ample room for chaise lounge, table and chairs. Trees can be so planted that a choice of sunshine or shade may be made at anytime during the day. In short “The mountains can be brought to Mohammed.”

In the average back yard it can be a secluded rook where, dressed in old clothes or swimming trunks, the cares of office, of customer complaints, of the daily grind, may be forgotten, as with trowel in hand Mr. Average Man becomes fascinated with the wonders of nature. Yes, and how refreshing the sleep that comes so surely and gently after a day spent out of doors in the pure air and sunshine amid the beautiful rocks and flowers that God has so graciously given for our enjoyment.

Are you missing some of the pleasures to which you are entitled? I’m sure you are if you don’t have a rock garden. It has been said that anticipation is as great a pleasure as realization. All these pleasures may be yours, dreaming, planning, anticipating and finally realizing the thrill of having YOUR OWN ROCK GARDEN.

In growing alpines or other tiny plants at levels below the tree-line, watch out in autumn that several large dry leaves do not blow on top of them for a winter stay. Cut off from light and air, wet from the leaf cover, the poor alpine soon decays. The small Arenarias, Dianthus, or Diapensia, are not accustomed to sleeping under a big dead leaf. So, in the season of foliage falling from our trees, the little plants must be watched weekly lest they smother to death.

STEPHEN F. HAMLIN,
Lexington, (Mass.) Botanic Garden.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
HORTICULTURE
CONFERENCE

As this issue of the Green Thumb goes to press we are closing up the Second Annual Rocky Mountain Horticultural Conference. All who attended agreed that it was a very profitable meeting. The speakers were equal to those heard at the national meetings. The addition of commercial exhibits was an extra attraction, and the small fee charged these people enabled us to pay the expenses of the conference with a small surplus left to start the next year’s program.

As soon as possible the talks will all be published so that more people may benefit from them. Whether this will take the form of a special edition or will be used in the Green Thumb throughout the year will be determined later.

Much of the success of this conference is due to the fine volunteer help in the preparation and execution of plans. The planning committee had been working for about 10 months arranging the program, many people volunteered to help with such chores as registration and arranging exhibits, and the active committee worked many days previous to and during the conference to make it a success. Special credit is due Earl Sinnamon and Paul Morrow for arranging the educational exhibits and demonstrations, to Miss Lorene Smith for handling arrangements with the hotel and finances and to John Swinglc for lining up the commercial exhibits.

Around 300 people attended the day sessions and 175 the annual dinner.

Plans are now being made for a bigger and better conference in 1950.

Let us know if you like the suggestions on the back cover.

PEONIES

Report of a talk given by Wm. Lucking, Jr. at Horticulture House, November 26, 1948

Peonies are a touchy plant. They need deep soil and prefer a location away from the house or competing shrubs. They should be planted about two inches below the surface of the ground. They need plenty of water at blooming time. Once established they like to be left alone as they improve with age. They have practically no insect pests or diseases. When peonies do not bloom the most practical thing to do is dig them up, throw them away and start with new plants.

If blooms are cut, at least two lower leaves should be left to give the plant a chance to ripen up the next year’s eye.

Some of the old varieties are still among the best. These include Festiva maxima, white; Baroness Schroeder, shell pink to white; Mme. (Jules) Calot; shell pink to white; Mme. (Jules) Dessert, an early white which is susceptible to frost of the pilot buds; Edulis Superba, early pink; P. officinalis rubra and P. o. alba; Monsieur Jules Elie, best pink; Claire Du bois, violet-rose (a fine late bloomer); Livingston, late pink; Richard Carvel, early red (the best early garden type); President Roosevelt, red; and President Taft, light pink.

Keep Colorado beautiful by protecting the trees and flowers.

GREEN THUMBS

MAX BAUER

Max Bauer has made gardening both a hobby and profession. He has added to his natural ability with plants by continuous study. He is consulted by local gardeners and those from other climates, for his work shows that he knows his job. He is one of the best existing examples of the expert “private gardeners” of years ago. We hope that he will be an inspiration for many young people to train themselves in this most interesting work.

Max was born into a family of gardeners in Baden, Germany. There he grew up with vegetables and flowers all around him. In 1923 he came to America and worked in Rochester, New York, a while before coming to Denver. He worked a few years for several large estates and then came to be the gardener for the Churchill Owens, where he has been for the last 17 years.

He attended the National Shade Tree Conference last August and has been regular in his attendance of the meetings arranged by this association. He also served on the committee to arrange the Second Rocky Mountain Horticultural Conference.

He truly has a Green Thumb.

Make your garden plans now, and if you have an ordinary memory it will pay you to put these ideas down on paper. When the real routine of weed-cultivate-water begins there is little time to plan.

If you enjoy seeing seeds sprout and leaves unfold, try planting some seeds of the early vegetables and annual flowers in a flat in the house. It is lots of fun and gives extra weeks of bloom or fruit when these early plants are set out.

The house plants that have been growing all winter may be some what potbound and will benefit from regular light feedings of dry or prepared liquid fertilizers.
WHY PROTECT WOUNDS IN TREES

BY JOHN W. SWINGLE

STERILIZATION and wound dressing is a topic of considerable discussion in this area. If we consider the moment we will realize that as long as the outer tissues of a tree remain undisturbed by the elements—man, beast, insects, fungi, and bacteria—he tree might go on living for centuries; providing, of course, it had received sufficient nourishment. However, that condition is practically impossible. Trees are constantly subjected to all manner and types of injury. When the protective surface is injured we must try and provide by artificial means some manner of protection for the inner living and inactive cells from invasion by foreign organisms.

Why? Because the air is literally saturated with billions of different types of bacteria and fungus spores eagerly awaiting a suitable home to complete their life cycle. If it weren’t for some of these agents none of us would be present here—the human beings in this world would have been crowded out of existence many centuries ago. These same decay agencies cause the oxidation of material structure to make room for the coming generation. Unfortunately, the great majority of cells which make up the plant structure have ceased to function and have become inactive or lead; making them extremely vulnerable to all kinds of decay organism. Believe it or not, a common board has just as much life as the inner wood of a tree, so to preserve our trees for many years we must seek to protect them from all these minute invaders. The trees in Denver, as in every city, are growing in an unnatural environment where they haven’t the advantages of being fertilized by decayed vegetation which is usually found in the forests. This makes treatment by artificial means very important.

If we touch lightly on the structure of a tree we can better understand why the treatment of wounds is necessary. The plant itself is a mass of billions of cells, both active and inactive. The older parts are protected by a covering of many layers of tissue called bark or cork. Beneath these layers there is a layer of fatty substance called suberium which renders these cells impermeable to water and gases and external injury. Directly beneath this coating of cork lies the living and active cells, which are subject to parasitic fungi and bacteria. Beneath these lie the dead or inactive cells which are vulnerable to attack by the saprophyte fungi and bacteria—but, in this instance we must also face the fact that a usually harmless saprophyte may in turn, by vigorous growth, act as a parasite by destroying all the inactive intercellular structure. In most instances these wound parasites which cannot enter the interior portion of the host through healthy tissues, but must make entrance through wound agencies where their mycellium or roots may cause a dissolution of their cellular substances. For instance, some consume the tannins or the roots may secrete enzyme which penetrates deeply into the host first dissolving cell components such as the lignin, next the lamella, resulting in the dissolution of the tissue. These fungi spread to new hosts by spores borne in various ways—some by the wind, and some by insects and animals. An unprotected wound, because of the moisture contained in the host, is an ideal breeding place for these spores.

When a tree surgeon treats a wound in a tree he must consider these facts very seriously. He must seek to sterilize or destroy by sterilization any foreign agencies that may settle on or in a wound. He must then seek to protect these injuries from further invasion by use of a suitable wound dressing until the wound itself heals by developing a new callus. That is why I so strongly advocate these methods. They are not new, but are the results of many years of research by highly accredited scientists all over the world. It has been proven that these organisms cause the destruction of many of our nation’s finest trees.
MAKE A GARDEN SCRAPBOOK

MRS. E. R. KALMBACH

ARE you one of the folks who thinks scrapbooks are only for the children or the old folks? If so, may we tell you how we use scrapbooks as a real help in horticultural study? Having subscribed for many years to a large number of magazines which contained excellent articles and illustrations relating to gardening and related subjects, we found ourselves faced with the problem of storage for this mass of information. In spite of many and varied methods of indexing attempted, it seemed almost impossible to locate exactly what was wanted at a particular time. We became convinced that we must resort to clipping and filing. Here again we met defeat. Filing articles and folders was not entirely satisfactory. With use, the articles became dog-eared, and when loaned to some interested person were not always returned intact, if at all.

Then we tried scrapbooks, and wishing to recommend them for your serious consideration. To us there is no pleasanter way to pass a winter evening, and if never referred to after being made, the maker has undoubtedly absorbed a wealth of information thru the act of collecting, reading, and assembling the material. And what a joy it is to turn the pages of a large book devoted we’ll say to “Roses” or to “Indoor Gardening” and there see the fine articles and pictures which have appeared during many years in many periodicals. Added interest is created if each article is dated and noted. Here you have not a hook by one author, excellent as such a book may be, but the opinions and experiences of many experts or amateurs on the subject.

One need not spend exhausting effort on an artistic effect in this type of “scrapbooking”.

A shelf or cupboard, three or four feet in length, and of generous depth, accommodates some twenty to thirty books, which yield their information quickly and pleasantly. A few topics in the writer’s own collection may be suggestive to others: African Violets; Herbs; Trees; Landscape Art; Famous Gardens and Gardeners; Garden Poetry; Flower Arrangement; Garden Shrines, Sundials, etc.; Vines; Wild Flowers; Plant Names; Plant Science; Birds in the Garden; etc., etc. By all means start a scrapbook on your garden hobby, whether it be roses, iris, tulips, shrubs, or whatnot. You will never be sorry!

Here are a few hints for better scrap-books. Take out the cords with which most books are equipped and substitute metal “posts” of a size suitable to the thickness of your books, and you will never have torn leaves—your books will open as though hound.

These posts may be found at any supply or stationery store, and come in all sizes to fit hooks one-fourth inch to three or more inches in thickness. A good recipe for homemade, harmless, and inexpensive paste is as follows:

1 cup boiling water
2 level tablespoons minute tapioca
3 level tablespoons sugar
1 teaspoon lemon juice
Pinch of salt
Cinnamon

Put all ingredients in a double boiler and cook until very thick. When cool, it is ready for use. Keeps well if kept in ice box when not in use.

Happy scrapbooking!

(I wonder if Mrs. Kalmbach got a recipe for pudding by mistake. Sounds good enough to eat. Ed.)
THE FRAGRANT TIMBER PHLOX

As a child in the middle west, I welcomed spring for its woodland wildflowers — violets yellow, white, and purple, Dutchman's breeches and dogtooth violets, spring beauties, hepaticas, and a few rare trilliums. But what gave me most pleasure, I think, were the wild sweet williams, really Phlox divaricata, so thick and blue at the wood's edge that we fancied a piece of sky had covered the ground over night. We hunted among them for the occasional white one much as we hunted for four-leafed clovers and Texas children search for the wild white lupine among their fields of bluebonnets.

When I began gardening in this more austere climate at the foot of the Rockies, I secured some plants of timber phlox and discovered, when they bloomed, that I had gained possession of my childhood favorite, sweet william. It did not flourish at the foot of a lilac hedge where I first planted it though it did have plenty of moisture there. Now I am establishing a colony in moist ground in the dappled shade of an aspen tree where the plants seem happily at home.

P. divaricata is usually about a foot tall here, not so rank in growth as I remember it in the Missouri woodlands. It blooms quite early in spring and, with its delicate color and fragrance, is an asset to any garden. The white variety is in demand among gardeners who collect rarities, but it is certainly not more beautiful than the type. After all, what can be lovelier than bloom that reflects the blue of Colorado skies?

Maude McCormick.

Is the Hackberry a good street tree for Colorado?

Yes, one of the best. They are not more generally planted because they are difficult to transplant and slow to start growing. They are very drought resisting and have few serious pests.
**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**How far apart should I plant trees in my parking?**

Look at the older parts of the city and you will see that most parking trees were planted too close together. Trees which will grow very large like Elm, Maple and Honeylocust should have at least 40 feet spacing, and 50 feet would be better.

**My grapes are a mass of vines. Is it all right to trim them in March?**

It is best to trim grapes in January when the ground is frozen. At that time the sap is not active and very little is lost. I would certainly take out some of the rank growth now, and take the chance of there being a little bleeding.

**What is the best grass to use for a lawn in Colorado?**

Kentucky Blue Grass is still about the best all around kind. Some prefer to include a little Redtop, as it is a hardy grass. If in a shady place, some rough-stalked Meadow Grass would probably do better than straight blue grass. If a low dense lawn is wanted regular watering and mowing can be given it, one of the Bent grasses may be preferred. Some prefer a little white clover, and some do not like it.

**I have several Chinese elm on my place. What special care do they need?**

Do not overwater Chinese elm trees. Two or three thorough waterings a year will make better trees than more frequent waterings. They should be trimmed every year to remove dangerous V crotches and lighten up overly heavy horizontal limbs. Some bracing wires may be necessary to prevent snow damage.

**Will Arborvitae grow in Denver?**

That can not be answered with a yes or no. A great majority of the Arborvitae planted in Denver have disappeared, yet there are some specimens which have lived many years. Usually a shaded and protected spot will give them a better chance. Without doubt, there will some day be developed hardy varieties which will tolerate our hot winter sun.

**Can I grow Pyracantha in Denver?**

There are several nice plants of the Firethorn or Pyracantha now growing in Denver, though there have been many plants brought in which did not survive. An east exposure will give these plants the best chance to thrive.

**What is the best climbing rose for Colorado?**

If all rose growers would vote, I believe that they would give a good majority to the Paul’s Scarlet climbing rose. Of the older roses, Dorothy Perkins, pink; American Beauty; and American Pillar are in good favor. There are some with good possibilities among the newer climbers.

I am all confused about the value of organic or inorganic fertilizers. What are the facts?

There is no doubt that: all our western soils need more humus or organic matter, but it is foolish to say that there is no value to chemical fertilizers when intelligently applied. There is little basis to the claim that crops grown with no chemical fertilizers are healthier or more free of pests. A soil with plenty of good manure or compost will usually grow good crops. The presence of angleworms in a soil is more an indication of the presence of considerable humus rather than the lack of chemical fertilizers.
**MARCH GARDENING**

**MAKE** arrangements for a dormant spray if you have scale insects on any plants. Check the ash trees, lilacs, cotoneaster, dogwood and willows or oyster shell scale; the elms for elm scale; the maple, linden, honeylocust, lm, viburnum and other shrubs for cottony-maple scale; and the pine and pine scale. Dormant spray must be applied before the leaves appear, and while the weather is well above 40 degrees.

When the ground first thaws out is time to think about planting sweet peas and such self-seeding annuals as larkspur, calendulas, sweet alyssum, napdragon and California poppies.

As the ground becomes dried out the necessary transplanting may begin. Trees, shrubs and perennials may be moved. Most ordinary things are safely moved as soon as the ground is thawed, but very particular things like birch, ard maple, and hawthorn come more surely when moved just as the leaves begin to break from the buds.

When the soil becomes workable is time to prepare the beds for annuals and vegetables. Spade in some manure, peat or leafmold. Work it in deeply and thoroughly.

If your lawn has been planted on the usual basement soil, you will probably benefit it by an application of good fertilizer. Whatever you may think that you need of the quick-shot fertilizers later in the season, now is a better time to use the organic fertilizers which have a slower and longer lasting effect. The best assurance of getting correct quantity and quality in organic fertilizers is to deal with a known and reliable firm. People are easily fooled with these materials.

If you have rhubarb, asparagus, peonies or bleeding hearts to move they must be transplanted early.

If the grapes were not trimmed in January, it may be that they can still be done, without excessive bleeding.

Arrange to have your trees checked by a competent arborist. Elm trees specially must be carefully gone over and every bit of dead wood removed which might harbor bark beetles.

Do not depend too much on the subsoil moisture that might have accumulated during the winter. The chances are that the soil around the lower roots of your trees is dry. Prospect in a few places and find out, then if it is dry give everything a good thorough soaking.

Check again the condition of the bulbs in storage. If they are shrivelling, give them a little moisture, and if they are sprouting reduce the temperature and humidity.

If any insects came in on the Christmas plants they may have spread to all the other house plants. Check them carefully for aphids, mealy bugs and scale. If you do not know the proper treatment for each of these it might be worthwhile to dust or spray every week or ten days with an all-purpose insecticide.

When the early spring garden urge first hits you and the ground is still not fit to work, is the time to visit your neighbors' gardens and learn from them some of their successful garden tricks.

Bring in a few branches of forsythia, plums or spirea and watch the blooms unfold in water indoors. It gives a little foretaste of spring.