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No. 9

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The Green Thumb
Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association
Organized in 1884

"To preserve the natural beauty of Colorado; to protect the forests; to encourage proper maintenance and additional planting of trees, shrubs and gardens; to make available correct information regarding forestry, horticultural practices and plants best suited to the climate; and to coordinate the knowledge and experience of foresters, horticulturists and gardeners for their mutual benefit."

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The Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association
A non-profit, privately financed Association
EA 2-9566
909 YORK ST. DENVER 6, COLORADO
Heart To Heart Talk From President And Trustees
To The Membership
Of The Colorado Forestry And Horticulture Association

By Scott Wilmore
President, Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Assn.

Arithmetic is a very simple science and there is no getting away from what it teaches. In our case we must admit that you cannot subtract more from a total than there is to begin with. In words of a bank account, you cannot spend more than you put into the account. If you want to keep your self-respect, you stop spending before it is all gone. Going into debt will simply put off the evil day. It will sound strange to some of you members to learn that we have been going into the red for over a year. Let us give you the accounting.

It was not always so. In August, 1953, to pick out a representative date, the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association had $7,000 in a savings account. At that time we had better than 2,000 members. We had free quarters at Horticulture House and our overhead on personnel was $601 per month. The publication of the Green Thumb cost around $930 per month. Things seemed to go easily without any difficulties.

That situation, however, did not last. The finance committee was pointing out at times that we were spending too much on the Green Thumb, and a couple of times we had to cut down the total numbers below twelve issues per year. On two different occasions, good sized sums were taken from savings. On January 31, 1959, we had $1693 left in our savings account and $600 in the checking account; with a membership still around 2,000. Incomes for the first four months of 1959 were $1608, $1280, $2320, and $953 respectively. It jumped up to $5014 in May, due to special gifts and the Plant Auction. In the meantime, we had moved to the Botanic Gardens House at 909 York (on March 15), where we have been paying $100 per month rental; this being in addition to our other general expenses.

Now, let us jump to May, 1960. By that time our savings account was down to $593.84 and the checking account was $250.96. Savings had increased to a monthly figure of $963.33. Expenses totaled around $1700 per month with incomes from January to April of $1,329.20, $1,181.42, $1,088.94, and $1,173.52, respectively. Memberships, however, were 2800 on May, 1960, and a Plant Auction was in the making, plus Look and Learn Tours. We had hopes that we would make out all right, even though the Colorado Garden Show with an attendance of more than 22,000 was a horticultural but not a financial success.

Then came the disillusionment. In spite of the Plant Auction which netted $2,147.04, and the Look and Learn Tours, $1,182.70, and May income of $3,622.60, this was not enough to recoup our losses. We were faced with a constantly diminishing bank balance of $2,918.85 in July, $2,150.12 in August, and $1,679.94 in September. Something had to be done and done fast.

A major proposal was made; one that had been mentioned a great many times, since 909 York Street became headquarters for all horticultural activities. Why not combine our activities with those of Denver Botanic
HISTORICAL RECORDS

Among the prized possessions of the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association are old records of the Colorado State Forestry Association, which was organized in 1884. One bound volume contains a History of the Association written by the Rev. W. G. M. Stone, president from 1903-1916, and intended for publication. Following his death in 1916 no further action was taken. There are four books containing minutes of meetings from 1884 through 1947.

After looking over these records, Mrs. Agnes Wright Spring, State Historian of Colorado, said that they contain a valuable history of the forestry and conservation movement in Colorado for that period. Mrs. Spring offered the facilities of the Society for storing these records in air conditioned vaults, where they will be protected against fire, theft, moths, and deterioration. They will be available on short notice for study and as source material for writers and others interested in the conservation history of the state.

This offer was considered at a meeting of the Board of Trustees and a committee was authorized to proceed with arrangements for transfer. Mrs. Alexander L. Barbour and Fred R. Johnson went over the records on October 12, 1960 and they were deposited with the State Historical Society on October 14.

"Southwest Gardening," by Rosalie Doolittle in collaboration with Harriet Tiedebahl, is described as a book written in simple language for the garden novice residing in the Southwest—New Mexico and the states surrounding it. A copy of this was presented to the Helen Fowler Library of the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association by Mrs. Agnes Wright Spring, State Historian of Colorado, on October 14, 1960.

On November 1, we announced jointly the Denver Botanic Gardens and the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association had united forces.

This, we believe, will serve two chief aims: to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, and to give far better service — under one roof — to the people of this area.

Headquarters for the new organization are at Botanic Gardens House, 909 York St.

We are all delighted that this getting together is now completed and are confident that the combined talents and experience of the two groups will enable us to do, jointly, a more effective job than either could have done separately.

We are already moving toward increasing our services and making them more widely used and known. To do so, we must launch a membership drive, immediately. Our goal is 1,000 new members by January 1, 1961 and a total membership of 5,000 by April 30, 1961.

We know you loyal readers of the Green Thumb will be our best salesmen. If each of you only brings in ONE NEW MEMBER, we would be not only twice as large but more than twice as effective!

Cost of MEMBERSHIP has been raised to $5 a year. The increase is absolutely necessary — to cover bare cost of publication of "The Green Thumb"; and to expand the services of Botanic Gardens.

With your help in the membership drive, as well as your continuing interest in all things botanical and horticultural, we will develop the best botanic garden in the country.

Yours sincerely,

LAWRENCE A. LONG, SCOTT WILMORE
DID YOU KNOW?

Botanic Gardens House is used an average of 24 meetings per month. It is available at a nominal fee (to cover cost of lights and heat) for meetings of any group allied to the fields of botany or horticulture. Call Botanic Gardens—MA 3-1133, extension 428.

The orchid show in October, the first major flower show ever held at Botanic Gardens House, drew more than 2,000 people.

The Shelter House for the Children’s garden across York from the main garden gate is practically complete. For details of the children’s program (which proved a great success last year and we expect to expand) call Botanic Gardens House.

A series of courses are available at Botanic Gardens House—on a materials cost basis—the first of the season on indoor plants is just concluding; and on November 1st, Dr. Hildreth inaugurated a 12 part course (one each month), sponsored by the arborists of the area.

The Botanic Gardens Junior Committee, composed of a group of young women interested in gardening and The Gardens, was formed in August. Mrs. McKintosh Brown is president.

It is little known that the Park and Recreation Department of Denver raises all the flowers planted throughout the city at its greenhouses located in City Park.

Each year beginning in late summer, plants are started from seeds and cuttings for the following year’s display. This means that the plantings must be planned a year in advance. The planning of the flower displays is done through the Landscape Department in conjunction with the Supervisors of each District. When the final plans are made and the necessary number of plants determined, it is then the job of the Greenhouse Department to raise the plants.

There are 60,000 square feet of glass in this greenhouse, said to be one of the cleanest in the area. A total of about 190,000 plants are raised for the park system, Airport, Library, Hospitality Center, Botanic Gardens, State Capitol, Golf Courses, Water Department, and various other city installations.

—Mike Ulaski

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HONORING
PATRICK J. GALLAVAN

All too frequently we wait until a person’s life work is done before we give him the honor that is due him. But how much better it is to speak of our respect for and appreciation of a person’s achievements at the end of each “chapter” of the continuing biography. So now that our “Pat” is going into a new field of activity, we have the good opportunity to wish him new successes at the same time we speak of our regrets that he is leaving his present position. For by the time this is in print, Pat will have been at work in his new position with the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Denver.

Pat came to us with excellent qualifications for the type of work assigned him. He had a formal background in botany, having received both his bachelor’s degree and master’s degree from the University of Denver Department of Botany. In addition to his research experience in graduate study, he further did research on tree maladies while working in the Denver Forestry Department. There he contributed much to the study of fire blight control, treatment of chlorosis in iron-deficient trees, and in the identification of a new disease in cutleaf birch.

In addition to his education and experience, he brought with him a quality of inestimable value, his charming personality. Who can look into his friendly, smiling countenance and not be impressed by its straightforward, warm-hearted cordiality? He has done an enormous amount of good just by this radiating goodwill. Anybody would take his advice on horticulture on his honest say-so!

Pat has become known to untold thousands through his radio and television programs as the GREEN THUMB GARDENER. His accurate, “folksy” presentation of information has helped more home listeners than we shall ever know. He has been active in numerous other organizations, for example, the Denver Men’s Garden Club where he has been President and the Garden Writer’s Association of America where he has been Secretary. He has been a much sought-after speaker for garden clubs and has been one of the principal contributors to the spring gardening short-courses presented in various neighborhoods with the cooperation of the County Agent.

As Manager for the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association and Editor of the GREEN THUMB, he has done a “whale of a job.” We do not feel that we have lost him entirely, as we expect to have his continuing cooperation and assistance at our endeavors. It will take much searching and real good luck on our part to find a replacement for him!
FROM time immemorial mankind has been fascinated and inspired by the recurrent rebirth in nature. An old plant dies; its seed gives rise to an even more beautiful one. Old leaves fall off; new ones arise in due time.

The fable of the phoenix rising in youthful freshness from the ashes of the fire which consumed it, was developed in early mythology.

This number of the Green Thumb may possibly be looked upon as the full-grown phoenix just before its renewal. Or shall we say that it represents the aspen glory preliminary to the next spring growth now in the making?

We have been assured from many sources that the Green Thumb will be continued in the union now being considered between the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association and the Denver Botanic Gardens. It may even blossom out in greater glory as a result of it.

Looking at its history we see a gratifying growth from a small eight-page pamphlet published February 1944 to a high-class magazine, generally of 36 pages but at times 52 pages, well spoken of by experts in the field of horticultural publications. At times a new crop of uninformed gardeners has been giving way to fruition.

Here are a few figures to make us think. The Denver metro-area is rated as the third fastest growing area in the nation. By 1985 we may expect a population of 1,900,000, almost two million. In the meantime the average income is practically doubling and the leisure hours are certainly going to increase enormously.

What are these increased multitudes with money to spend and time to spend it in—what are they going to do with their leisure?

They can't all go to Europe or Hawaii. They can't all be expected to watch television six hours a day. They can't continue to drive around the countryside in their new cars at an increased rate and an increased speed. They'll get tired of crowded highways and of indoor time-killing.

Lord Bacon observed many centuries ago that gardening is an art of mature cultures. Since Denver is maturing, it seems most reasonable to me that more people will spend more time in the outdoors at their own home. Horticulture is one of the arts of the immediate future.

There is another angle to this forward look in horticulture. A number of us keep hammering away at the realization that "Rocky Mountain Horticulture Is Different." A gardener from New England, Virginia, California or the Northwest finds himself bewildered at the new conditions he must face here: arid conditions, alkaline soil, hot winter sun, irrigation as a "must."

The Green Thumb has been outstanding in showing these newcomers how to adjust their skill to new problems. It has given information that can be taken at full face value, not with a "grain of salt."

There is a new crop of uninformed gardeners from year to year. It is a task to keep ahead of this ignorance, an ignorance often unbeknownst to themselves.

Once we realize the need of continued and increased information in horticultural matters for this city and this region, we can prepare for it.

May I indulge in a dream for the future in gardening here? I see a growth of well-designed individualistic and beautiful home grounds, typical of our climate, typical of our mode of living and expressive of our inheritance of this great outdoors. They'll make full use of our sunshine, of the charm of running water, of the possibilities of rock-gardening, of our native plants that have hardly been recognized so far.

We'll be leaders in the culture of certain plants that thrive best in our arid, bright climate and that may give new life to old plant breeding. We have already made a beginning with iris, petunias, lilacs, hemerocallis, pentstemons, evergreens.

We'll show the world what wonders can be wrought in this new type of gardening, and what new introductions can be enjoyed.

The Green Thumb has been in the forefront of horticultural education of the region. It is my dream that it will grow in stature and significance in the same proportion as the growth of population.
HORTUS SICCUS (L.)
(hortus, a garden + siccus, dry)
By Mrs. E. R. (KATHRYN) KALMBACH

VISITORS to Botanic Gardens House have sometimes been mystified when told the closets at the head of the stairs contain the "Herbarium." To some, this awesome word suggests some kind of morgue or secret place! Hence, the following definition may serve to dispel any secrecy as to what is stored behind those six handsome doors.

The herbarium is simply a classified collection of dried and pressed plants, gathered and kept for the use of those interested in determining the correct name of a particular plant. In the days of Linnaeus, called the Father of Botany, (1707-1778), it was known as a dry garden—Hortus Siccus. Today we call it an herbarium.

The herbarium, now at Botanic Gardens House, 909 York Street, was started about 1943, when the Colorado Forestry and Horticulture Association was housed at Horticulture House, 1355 Bannock Street, in Denver. At that time George W. Kelly was horticulturist for the Association, and he inspired a group of members who were particularly interested in learning more about our Colorado flora, to start a collection of pressed plants of the state. The writer, among others, on their mountain trips, began collecting and pressing the plants, and before long it was apparent that help would be needed to mount and classify these collections.

A number of members of the Home Garden Club of Denver, and a few other interested people, responded to an appeal to help with this project. For a number of years, this group of workers met regularly once a week at Horticulture House to mount and label specimens. Several of these workers also became interested in collecting and pressing the plants.

In starting this little herbarium there was no attempt or desire to build a collection such as our Colorado and Wyoming Universities have. Its purpose from the beginning was merely to provide members of the Association a handy way to see some of the wild and garden plants of our region. However, small as was the beginning, the herbarium now numbers over 2,000 specimens.

Botanists at Colorado University at Boulder, Colorado State University at Fort Collins, and the University of Wyoming at Laramie, have always been inspired a group of amateur botanists in the naming of our specimens.

We are fortunate to include in our small collection some specimens collected by the famed Alice Eastwood and other early botanists of our region. Some of these were acquired through a gift from Mrs. William H. Crisp, who obtained them from an early collection at East High School in Denver.

The various plant families represented in the herbarium have recently been rearranged in alphabetical order, in hopes this arrangement will prove of assistance to those wishing to locate a particular specimen. We are happy to note that the Botany Club of Denver has found the collection of some use to their members. This very active group has also expressed their willingness to add to the collections as interesting plants come to their attention on their trips around the state.

The herbarium may be consulted at any time by members of the Association, by application to our office.

The writer would like to pay tribute to the Home Garden Club members and others who gave such valuable assistance in the building of this small herbarium; to the members of the Colorado Mountain Club who assisted in the collections; and to some of our Association members who helped in a financial way, as blockers, mounts, and other supplies were needed.

WHAT'S COMING UP?

Lots of projects for which many committees are currently being reorganized and new ones formed. We need all the volunteers we can get. Call Botanic Gardens House with your committee preferences.

Some of these projects which need committee workers:

- A membership drive to get 1,000 new members before January 1st and a total of 5,000 by April 30, 1961.

Invitations are being readied to invite new members to join. The association's pamphlet setting forth what you get from membership is also being prepared. Will you call Botanic Gardens House with any names of prospective members?

Letters inviting memberships are going out this week.

Gift certificates will be available for nurseriesmen who may wish to give memberships as Christmas gifts to some of their customers.

The new Botanic Gardens Vista on the east side of York, overlooking Cheesman Park, will be completed before Christmas at a cost of approximately $7,000. A dedication is planned.

Plans are underway for the annual membership subscription dinner in February.

And though it seems a long time to Spring, we are already planning the Gardens' participation in the annual Garden Show.

The plant auction this year in early summer will be bigger than ever—held in the gardens and featuring the donations of the area's generous nursery men.
RESTRAINT should be the watchword for the Christmas garden gayness. With the easy availability of bright electric bulbs and extension cords there is a temptation to use these too liberally and so create a more or less circus atmosphere instead of one more in keeping with the gentle, deep significance of the event we are commemorating.

There are many simple ways of making the garden festive at the same time maintaining a soft mellowness in the decor.

The luminaria is one of the simplest of devices. They originated in Mexico; hundreds of them are used around the homes in Santa Fe and Albuquerque. A paper bag, 12 or 14 inches deep, some dry sand and a short candle are all that one needs. Roll the top of the bag down to make it firm, put in about three inches of sand and then stick a short candle in the middle. If you are thrifty and keep the short ends that are left over from your table candles, they are just right for the purpose, but finger-size birthday candles will do nicely. Light the candle when it is dark and a soft glow is seen through the paper. Light them Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve especially. If you have gate posts they look gay on top, or place them on the steps leading to the front door and along the walk.

Small silver Christmas tree balls can be stuck on the Yucca points, or on the end of the dried twigs of the shrubs. A star is, of course, a very significant and beautiful symbol of the Christ's coming. If there is a rather remote corner in the garden, a star can be snuggled in and lighted electrically, or, better still, with reflected light.

Sometimes a window opens out on a rather untidy spot, the ugliness of which had been concealed all summer and fall by the leaves. It is not too late to press leaves and paste them to the glass in a good design, then you forget to look out at the empty shrubs, and see only the rather nice greenery are lovely here. Or pressed leaves can be arranged on a piece of plywood to fit the front of the grate to start the design; then add some smaller leaves and perhaps a pressed flower or two. It is a splendid chance for you to use your talent and imagination.

Of course there should be a Christmas wreath or other door decoration. Here, too, one may improvise and create perhaps a sheaf or rope of material to be found in garden or wilds. Seed pods, pine cones and greens—all may be combined and enjoyed in the muted tones to which they have naturally faded, or they can easily be sprayed, preferably all one color.

Arrangements can be made to enhance the fireplace, gilded pods and small tree stuck into a large flower pot and decorated with perhaps all blue Christmas balls gives a soft glow to the front door; the entrance light reflects the mistiness of the balls.

There is no end to the gracious decorations that can be used in and from the garden in this wonderful season. Keep in mind the sweetness of the occasion and the beauty to be found in the many dried materials provided by Mother Nature; you will have a memorable, as well as a Merry Christmas!

IN OUR LIBRARY


Out of a total of more than 2 hundred thousand kinds of plants which bear seeds, the grass family consists of more than 5,000 distinct kinds. Were it not for these grasses, civilization as we know it would not exist. It is also interesting that less than a dozen kinds of these 2 hundred thousand kinds of seed plants furnish the main starchy foods of man. Mrs. Moore has written about the entire grass family, but discusses each of the grains "... at length as to possible origin, methods of cultivation and use, botanical characteristics, and many very interesting facts which to most of us are new." She "... has brought together in convenient form, and from various unrelated fields of activity, a surprising amount of highly interesting matter about grains and grass that is well worth knowing." O. E. Jennings, Preface.


A practical manual on the uses, cultivation, and propagation of more than 100 species, hardy and tender, which the gardener can enjoy outdoors and in the home. The first section of the book, Bulbs For Your Garden and How To Use Them, covers why and how to use bulbs; what is a bulb? how bulbs grow; and the cultural requirements of bulbs. The second part deals with the more important groups of bulbs, dividing them into spring, summer, and autumn flowering. The final section is a catalogue of bulbs, giving descriptions and cultural requirements for over 100 species and a list of bulbs for special purposes.
Did you make pomander balls for Christmas? Or perhaps you received a pretty pomander from a friend. And perhaps you have wondered where the pomander or spice ball originated.

In the old Herbals it may be noted that the priest or pastor of the church commonly had a spicy pomander hung from a chain, which he could unpretentiously pass before his nose when the closely packed congregation contaminated the air. These early pomanders were not the ones we know today. They were little metal cases or balls with tiny perforations, in which the priceless spices and perfumes of the day were carried. They were often gems of the jewelers' art and were prized by the elegant ladies of the day. Many believed them a supposed safeguard against infection, or even bad luck.

It remained for the early settlers in America to devise a substitute which could be provided with much less cost. The early pomander balls of our great-grandmothers were also made to fill a much different need. Their pomanders, made of apples and citrus fruits stuck with cloves, were used to provide a clean spicy fragrance to the linen chest or closet. They were also believed to be a deterrent to moth damage when hung in a clothes closet, a debatable virtue today.

But enough of history—let us see how to go about making pomanders, which can provide pleasant occupation on a winter day.

Any of the smaller citrus fruits, oranges, lemons, or limes, as well as small hard perfect apples, make nice pomanders. Avoid using grapefruit, very large or naval oranges or overripe apples, as these may "cave in" during drying. Also needed will be a supply of whole cloves (buy in bulk if possible) and a sharp pointed instrument such as a small awl or even a sharp nail. A very large darning needle pushed through a cork for a handle would be good, too. Now, starting at the stem end of your fruit, punch a row of holes in a circle around the stem, about one-fourth inch apart. These punctures should pierce the skin of the fruit, but should not be so large as to allow the cloves to fall out. In these first holes, insert a whole clove. Then, proceeding with a second row of holes, alternating with those of the first row, and keeping them at least one-fourth inch apart, push a whole clove in each of these first holes and then proceed with a second row of holes, alternating with those of the first row, and keeping them at least one-fourth of an inch apart in every direction. (In drying, the cloves will be brought closer together, so it is important to allow for this shrinkage.) Having now established your pattern, proceed to place your cloves around and around your fruit, until completely covered. Your pomander ball may now be set aside to dry, a process which requires two to three weeks in our climate. Some like to dust the balls with powdered orris root, or a mixture of orris root and ground cinnamon, before setting them aside to dry.

When the fruit is dry and slightly hardened, the balls are ready to be decorated. They may be covered with net or lace and trimmed with ribbon, or similar materials. They may be criss-crossed with ribbon and hung by a ribbon loop without other covering, but the net cover serves to prevent any shedding of dry particles as the fruit continues to dry. A cluster of orange, lemon, and lime, covered with dainty pastel nets and ribbons, makes a welcome gift for a friend. Or a single ball nicely trimmed is a fragrant addition to a linen closet or lingerie drawer.

Another nice conceit is to make a number of pomander balls, and when dry, instead of trimming, place them in a tight container, or plastic bag to preserve their fragrance. Bring them out when guests are expected, heaping them in a pretty bowl or basket, and enjoy their fragrance throughout the evening. At holiday time, a few colorful Christmas balls among them will add to their beauty.

Note: A recent magazine article stated that pomander balls could be dried in a 300° oven for four hours, when speed is needed. Your author does not recommend this, and feels that slow drying is much to be preferred.
THOSE inside planters which the contractors have so obligingly worked into the house plans, are really "plant-mares"! For many years the plant situation remained unchanged—no plants, other than in the old fashioned bay-window or in pots on plant tables or stands, and of course, the window sills! Then, along with contemporary houses, contractors suddenly felt the need for growing things, and planters sprouted all over the house. Planters were put in hallways, as room dividers, under and in windows, especially those hot, west and south windows, over book cases, near fireplaces, in the darkest parts of the room—well just anywhere, and seemingly the more the merrier! In one home, there were two six-inch planters side by side, nine feet long and right beside the front door entrance, making a semi-entrance hall, which caught all the cold blasts right out of the north! There was a planter on either side of the fireplace, another dividing the kitchen area from the family area, another between the dining area and the living room, plus for good measure, two in the bathroom. Those were all I saw. There may have been more! What would you do with such an array?

I think they have calmed down a bit now, so I won't worry about those not built—or those to be built in the future. Plants are a normal decorating item and we should treat them as such. The different leaf textures and sizes are as much a part of the room as the curtains and furniture. The right plants are wonderful and should be used. They should be in scale with the rest of the house, and not little, fussy, and too many. A combination of large plants plus a few smaller ones is very good. In the dark, unlighted areas, use plants that are undemanding and will grow with little light or artificial light. Depending on the lines of the room, the much abused sansevieria is a wonderful plant. It grows slowly, increasing in size, in height, and in girth as well. Some plants bloom, also, if treated right, and are very fragrant. Try them sometime but be sure they aren't muddy and happy, not dusty, dirty and neglected! The shefflers are another group of plants that will take a lot of abuse, continuing to grow new leaves and adding a leaf to the stem as the new ones develop. They might start out with three, the next ones have four or five, then seven and so on. Again, keep them healthy and growing and there is nothing better. Try using some variegated foliage plants in these dark areas to lighten them. A nice way to keep interest is to leave a space for potted blooming plants which you will periodically receive and just leave them there until they have finished blooming and then take them out. Driftwood used with lichened rocks is another way to add interest, and in this wonderful country of beautiful weathered wood, I shudder to think of all the man-made totem poles that are being used!

Plants to be used in hallways depending on the light available could very well be the following: 1. Philodendrons, both the vining or climbing types, the trailing varieties and those called the self-heading varieties, such as Selloum. 2. Shefflera. 3. Aralia. 4. The Ficus family; mainly, Decora, Pandurata, Variegata, and Elastica (the common narrow leaf). 5. Ferns. 6. Palms. 7. Peperomias. 8. Pandanus. 9. Dracaenas. 10. Bamboo. 11. Dieffenbachia. These plants could be used in many different ways, graduating them for size or interest, in room dividers, and some window planters, depending on light; east or north windows would do nicely. The planters in south or west exposures would take an entirely different type of plant. Those which are very floriferous usually do the best, for in order to bloom well, plants must have sunlight. Geraniums, roses, both floribundas and miniatures are excellent. Most of the annuals will do very well if used as pot plants and only dwarf varieties rather than taller growing annuals. Chrysanthemums are always good in hot window planters, but be sure to provide enough water, and they would appreciate some shade in the very hottest hours of the day.

Flowers received as gifts—hot house grown, may be incorporated very nicely in most planters. The azaleas, cinerarias, hydrangeas all full of bloom and vigorous may be tucked into your planters, and be no extra care. All the potted bulbs may be used in that way also. In east or north light planters, African violets or St. Paulias may be used for a wonderful show. Just be
sure you have the right situation and care for the plants accordingly.

Many planters were built originally to be planted directly in soil, and that is about the size allowed. They were made four to six inches wide and six to seven inches deep if you were very lucky! What kind of plants were they thinking of? Some were made quite large, in rectangles, squares, triangles and free forms, but all invariably were shallow! Again, what was supposed to grow in them? Tall, trailing or climbing plants need room to establish good root systems or they will need all kinds of supports and then all you have is a number of odd sticks of various lengths instead of happy plants. The nicest way, to my way of thinking, is to provide enough room for the plants by making the planters deep enough to accommodate up to 9 inch pots depending on the area, and then just arrange the pots to best advantage, cover them with perlite or surface, or some such material which is sterile, and water retaining. This makes a much more desirable planter, and then, should some plant become too large, look sick or for any other reason become undesirable, just take it out of the planter without disturbing the root systems of all the rest of the plants. This is a much easier way of maintaining healthy plants, for sometimes, in spite of all you can do, you will have an infestation of aphids, red spider or mealy bugs, and plants may be taken out to spray or for washing. Trailing plants may be used to add interest over the side of the planter. Ivies, in various forms and colors, nephthys, hoya, grape ivies, to name a few, all trail beautifully.

In the hot, dry atmosphere in our homes, the cactus and succulent plants are a welcome addition. Some large planters in entrance halls and rooms with a transparent background are most attractive with a pattern such as only the tall cacti, agaves, ocotillo and yuccas can make. Correctly lighted, I don’t believe you could find anything more attractive, a picture at all times.

I’ve mentioned so many things which may be used in various situations, and you may well ask “what can’t be used?” You are limited only by your knowledge of plants and plant material, their care and maintenance, and the supply of plant materials. Use your imagination and have fun!

BULBS

Spring flowering bulbs can still be planted providing the ground is workable. Or, you might try forcing a few of them, such as narcissus, for winter bloom indoors. Please don’t forget the stored bulbs of glads, dahlias and begonias. They should be checked occasionally throughout the winter for signs of rot or dehydration.

A Viking legend has it that the Lord sent his three messengers, Faith, Hope, and Love to aid a missionary by seeking out a tree for lighting that was as high as faith, as eternal as hope, as wide spread as love, and which bore the sign of the cross on every branch. After due consideration, they selected the balsam fir as the tree most nearly meeting these specifications.

LEW HAMMER

Landscape Contractor
Tel. WE 5-5938
seriously interested in Glenmore's plantations.

In November 1958 there were at Glenmore 262 varieties of conifers, 83 varieties of deciduous trees and shrubs and broadleaf evergreens, and 226 different wild flowers. Glenmore's original acre of land has been fenced since 1895, and twenty-five surrounding acres have been fenced for over thirty years. Native grasses, therefore, were long protected against grazing, and twenty-six species have been identified.


I shall not enumerate the native wild flowers growing at Glenmore. Most of the types described and pictured in “Colorado Wildflowers” by Harold D. and Rhoda Roberts, and the subsequent volume by Rhoda Roberts and Ruth Ashton, both published by Denver Museum of Natural History, grow at Glenmore, and many others, besides. Harold took many flower pictures at Glenmore.

The number of varieties of conifers growing at Glenmore is quite amazing, when climatic and soil conditions there are remembered. It is in Rehders Zone III, the average minimum temperature being —20° to —35° F. In February 1951 temperature went to —50° F. The altitude is 7000 feet, annual precipitation, as has been stated, 12 inches. Hard winds blow all year, temperature changes are very rapid, and the soil, for the most part, is a very lean disintegrated granite.

It is not possible here to comment specifically upon all of the trees growing at Glenmore. A few generalizations may be appropriate, however:

*Abies concolor* and all clones of it prosper at Glenmore. *A. lasiocarpa* is happy there if given moisture and shade. (But it does not like Denver.) Other firs “struggle” in Colorado, only an occasional one surviving.

The Glenmore clone of *Chamaecyparis nootkatensis* is the only False-cypress that will probably still be alive, five years from now, at Glenmore.

Most junipers prosper any place in Colorado. *Juniperus virginiana* does not like the mountains, however.

Colorado is not too good an area for many of the spruce species. Of course *Picea pungens* is at its best here, either at Denver or in the mountains.

Many pines enjoy our conditions. Much further experimentation should be done with this group.

The Colorado variety of Douglas-fir is a splendid tree, and were it not for its being a host for the spruce-gall aphid (which disfigures most spruces) would merit more extensive use.

Two yews—*Taxus cuspidata* nana and several varieties of *T. media* are valuable in Denver (when planted where afternoon sun and prevailing winds may not strike them). A visit to the group on the north side of the Museum of Natural History will satisfy the most skeptical. And the same is true of the tougher clones of *Thuja occidentalis*. But don't expect either Japanese Yews or Eastern Arbor Vitae trees to be good mountain plants. *T. orientalis* can't “take” even Denver conditions.

**DEIDUOUS TREES**

Those of you in urban or rural areas who are growing fruit trees should protect them from rodent and rabbit damage by placing a cylinder of hardware cloth around the trunks. Now, also, is a good time to remove trees that have out-grown their location, or ones that have died this past season. This operation can be done with little or no damage to lawns and flower beds. For winter enjoyment of trees, look for difference in bark color and the identifying silhouettes presented by each species.

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GEORGE AND SUE KELLY

4849 So. Santa Fe Drive • Littleton, Colorado
Hello Everybody. Here it is another year, Federation-wise, and I am happy to continue my coffee-cup chat.

F I R S T, last year's state garden show is staging a repeat performance. But, of course, nothing new has been added—a competitive flower show. Mrs. George Kelly is the general chairman. Her steering committee: Mrs. Ed Hodgen, Mrs. Jess Gibson, Mrs. J. V. Petersen, and Lee Ashley. The show is scheduled for March 26 to April 2 inclusive. The design division will be changed several times, permitting more exhibitors to enter, assuring fresh plant materials, and offering the public a change of scene.

While in Missouri recently, I visited Shaw Gardens, which according to the St. Louis Chamber of Commerce... contains the largest collection of plant life in the western hemisphere. It is equalled only by the famous Kew Gardens of England.

I walked, penciled, and potted, for six hours. An idea for our own Denver Botanic Gardens might be the book store shelved with about every gardening publication possible from single sheets ("Hardening Off," ten cents) to books, including colored postcards. This "Information Center" was staffed with Federated Garden Club members who were happy, helpful, and hospitable.

Another attraction at Shaw Gardens was the Cactus Show. This competitive plant show had some 35 well-filled classes. The horticulture was all potted, natural. The artistic division had an entry card (about five by ten inches) beside each arrangement listing the plant materials used, and the idea, mood, feeling or story the designer hoped to express, in addition to the usual information.

Some of the classes: Cacti are Different: Growing Cacti is a Pleasant Hobby; Some Cacti are Edible; Cacti are Still New to Some People; Cacti are the Tiniest, Stinging a Nurse's Knee; Cacti Grow in the Desert—using a "desertarium" instead of a damp Do Bloom—using other flowers; Succulents are Pretty Corgages.

In the horticulture division, the collection classes for certain containers, such as animals, doll heads, doll clothes, spoons, strawberry jars, wishing-wells, brandy snifters, fish bowls, bottles, fruit and vegetables, amsies, kitchin (cups, teapots, stemware, etc.), natural (rocks, shells, woods, etc.). The public commented: "Why, I've got a 'horse' I could use like that." "I'm going right home and find that banana dish." "Wish I hadn't given my old sea-kettle to the Good Will," etc. Perhaps the underlying idea was that everyone had a container a cactus could complement. It was certainly a challenge to the grower-designer to choose a container to accent the cacti.

It re-emphasized the importance of annual shows with more or less permanent schedules, because to accomplish such spectacles takes months, not weeks.

And the 'hosts'—they were men when I was visiting. They wore large ribbon badges and stepped up as soon as a spectator entered their assigned portion of the show. If the guest had no questions, they pointed out specimens of special interest, handed out pertinent publicity (folders, etc.) and made each person feel wanted. Maybe it was just that southern hospitality, but it's cacti for me, and the rest of my house plants can go to pot.

Still on the shows, more of you should plan to enter our state show in Pueblo in 1961—open, of course. Judged by the Federation, the personnel is just perfect, at least, that's the consensus of those around-the-states who exhibited in '60. First, the exhibitors were met with a smile, and helped unload—some had box upon box of arrangement materials. Then, they were given large tables upon which to make their arrangements. Water was within reaching distance in large cans—looked like new garbage, and huge waste-buckets were nearby, too. The advance-entry tags were brought to the exhibitors—no standing in line, wasting precious time, and the placement committee was on hand to guide (and help carry, if permitted) the finished design. Everyone was soft-spoken and most cordial. All this is hard to believe, I know, but go down in '61 and see for yourself.

Furthermore, you'll meet old and new friends there from Southern District's Federated Garden Clubs: Airline, Beautifying, Broadmoor, City Park, Cloud City, Community, Corona Park, Hillside, Hobby, Park Hill, Pikes Peak, Skyway Park, South Side, Spanish Peaks, Trinidad, Ute Pass.

The Popular people, too: C. P. Fugate, Colorado State Fair's manager; Howard H. Giltner, floriculture supt., assisted by Jacquelyn Bollacher. Then, Mrs. W. M. Fleischner, the Federation's third vice-president, and many others.

And a corsage to Mrs. John Sobieila, Colorado's First Director, appointed by Mrs. Houston Reusch, Founder-Director of the National Corsage Club (better known as the Gladys Reusch Corsage Club) with headquarters at St. Petersburg, Florida. Mrs. Sobieila (366 North Windermere Ave., Littleton) is available for demonstrations and workshops. She will be glad to assist any group (minimum six members) in organizing corsage clubs, not only in Colorado but nearby states.

Mrs. Hayes Neil, widely known herbalist, would like "Fun with Horticulture" workshops patterned after our arrangement work centers. Any takers?

Whether you call them permanent plants or fakes makes little difference. Artificial flowers are in, and perhaps to stay. But I'll wager we'll never say "Come over and pick all you want!" or "Sure, you may have a slip (coleus, etc.)." One of the joys of gardening is giving.

Giving advice can be a joy, too. Quoting from Zelda Schulte's column "Ask Us Another" in Ohio's Garden Greetings is a question and answer applicable in Colorado, too:

"Q. I sometimes hear flower arranging called an art and sometimes a craft. Which is it and what is the difference?"

"A. Flower arranging as it is taught today, for the most part, is a craft. But it has the potential of being a fine art, and it will be when we can completely free it from the man-made rules that have hampered its progress as an art. Craft, skill in manual endeavor, following a set of rules and often repeated over and over as in knitting a sweater. There is a dead end in a craft—an ultimate can be reached. Art, the application of skill, taste, and sensitivity in an expression of beauty. In an art each thing you do must be new experience, if you repeat it becomes a craft. There is no ultimate in art."

Merry Christmas.

In Memoriam

At press time we were deeply saddened by the death of our beloved Helen K. Fowler on November 4. A more fitting tribute to this friend and benefactor will follow in the January-February issue.
THROUGH THE MOON GATE

By MRS. B. B. BUFFUM

Home Garden Club

I THTN'T that an intriguing title? But no more so than those beautiful flowers one would find if he were to really go through a moon gate into a Chinese or Japanese garden. Yes, you guessed it, I'm talking about the chrysanthemum.

Of course one does not need to travel to the Orient to enjoy chrysanthemums, for today there is hardly a garden in the United States where at least one of the thousands of varieties of this interesting flower could not be found. Primarily they are of Chinese origin although Japan and India have also contributed many species. The Chinese mums have large blooms somewhat resembling a peony. From India came the small pom-pom types, and from Japan came the beautiful, large, curly leaved ones that we associate with football games in the fall.

It was interesting to note that after 2000 years of cultivation, it wasn't until 1933 that the first promising hybrid, called Mercury, was introduced. We now have mums in a variety of brilliant colors, interesting shapes, and sizes ranging from the tiny button mums of one inch diameter to the huge "show" mums which are often eight inches or over. Some of the other well-known plants belonging to the same family are the feverfew, pyrethrum, marguerites, and the shasta daisy developed by the late Luther Burbank.

Although the season for indoor chrysanthemums — grown by florists — is quite short, they still rank fourth in importance in the United States as a commercial flower. Well over $500,000 worth are used annually.

The chrysanthemum has many good features which make it a desirable plant for our gardens and perennial borders. It is one of the few perennials which bloom late in the fall so is good for keeping color in the garden until frost, and many types will still be blooming long after the rest of the garden is dead. As I mentioned before, its great variety of color and size make it adaptable to most any type of garden. It makes very good cut flowers which last a long time in arrangements in the house.

Plants may be purchased in the fall and planted in full bloom. However, if planted in the early spring the roots will have more time to become established before the ground freezes and will therefore produce stronger plants the next year. It is quite simple to start new plants from cuttings. Sometime in April take tip cuttings from the best shoots of the best plants available, 4 to 5 inches is the best length. Then strip off the leaves from the lower half and insert each cutting in either sand or vermiculite. Keep them moist and in about 3 or 4 weeks you will find that they have good roots about an inch long. Your little plants are then ready to be put into pots or right out in the garden. They like sun and plenty of water, especially when first planted, and should be taken up and divided every year or two. To make strong bushy plants you should pinch off the tips when they are about 6 inches tall and continue doing this periodically until about the first of July. Pinching out some of the lateral buds will give larger blooms.

Here are a few interesting facts about the chrysanthemum which are a little more in line with my glamorous title:

The chrysanthemum is the flower for the month of November.

A drawing of a chrysanthemum is the symbol of the Japanese Emperor.

What were probably the first flower shows began in ancient China as chrysanthemum shows.

One of the most popular festivals in Japan is celebrated each year in October and is called kiku-no-sekku, or Feast of Chrysanthemums.

So, even if you don't happen to enter your garden through a moon gate, you can still get a little touch of the exotic Orient just by planting some chrysanthemums.
Instant hammock-size trees? Well, almost instantly.

It's later than you think. If a valuable tree can be salvaged from destruction, if large trees will frame a view, screen an eyewash, ensure privacy or provide immediate effect, you'll find big trees can be moved into your garden efficiently and economically. For the price of an air-conditioner, a covered patio, or a two-week vacation for the family, purchase of large trees will bring pride, comfort and satisfaction for future decades.

Dial your favorite nurseryman or tree service company now. He has select trees that give shade and can travel. With his facilities and experience he knows the proper digging depth to ensure preserving tree roots in the proper size ball of earth, how to wrap and bind the ball, and how to handle the tree so it gets into its new location in sound condition. As soon as trees are completely dormant (have lost all their leaves), preferably during the winter months, most trees can be moved safely; in fact, it's almost like sleep-walking, in many instances the tree doesn't know it's being done — it's just moving from one bed to another.

Almost any tree can be moved when dormant except birch. Any birch more than 1 inch in diameter must be balled and moved between the time its buds start swelling and its leaves are one-third ultimate size. Birch should be dug and replanted immediately. Although big trees that move advantageously are hard to define, honeylocust, elm and maple move readily. Oaks larger than 8 inch caliper are very difficult to move. Pine, spruce, walnut, Kentucky coffee, large hawthornes and multiple-trunked hawthornes are difficult, among the difficult and very difficult trees, those 2½ to 4 inch caliper and the hawthornes 2 to 3 inch caliper move easily with a ball of earth. Flowering crabs less than ½ inch in diameter may be easily moved bare root in spring. Crabs and the other small ornamentals as golden-rain, mountain ash should be balled if more than 2 inches in diameter. A tree 12 inches in diameter that moves easily will need a 9 foot ball of earth.

Due to their fine root system coniferous evergreens must be moved balled and burlapped. Evergreens with 14 to 16 inch caliper trunks may be moved and involve some risk. Incidentally, in our climate tree roots seeking moisture grow much deeper than in other localities where they have greater surface root action, hence the need for deeper balls. In other areas balls are formed wider and more shallow.

A frozen ball is necessary only if soil will not adhere to the tree roots. If the tree is growing in very sandy, gravelly, or extremely dry soil the tree is balled, thoroughly soaked, and if weather conditions are unsuitable, dry ice is used to freeze the ball.

In transplanting a big tree dig the hole at least two feet in circumference beyond the perimeter of the ball. Then back-fill with good loam mixed with peat. Plant big trees four inches below the original ground level; smaller trees, two inches lower. Water well, mulch with leaves, straw or peat. If the winter is dry, water so the roots will not dry out. It is not necessary to root feed for at least a year after transplanting; let the tree form fibrous roots first.

Cut back and shape deciduous trees to compensate for loss of roots. Wrap trunks and first lateral limbs with tree wrap, burlap or old army surplus camouflage screen. In pruning remove some branches entirely and trim some tips. Evergreens need no pruning. Trees need not be set as they grow in the nursery with north to north; plant the tree to conform with the landscaping — when planting next to a house, turn the sparse side of the tree toward the house. (Want to argue?)

Trees should be guyed as soon as planted to protect against strong winds. Some use eyes screwed into the trunk of large trees. In guying smaller trees, the use of hose with wire running through the hose is preferable since the use of eyes sometimes can be detrimental to the trunk. Guy wire may be removed after the first year on smaller trees; the wires should be left two years on large trees and evergreens. Evergreens are slower in establishing their fine root system, too; their density offers more wind resistance.

Incidentally, often a 2 inch tree moved bare root will soon catch up with the same variety if moved bare root with a 3 to 4 inch trunk.

Once in a while a large tree must be moved in late fall after the tree is in leaf. By spraying with Wiltproof, a milky protective substance that seals out desiccation, a balled tree may be moved safely. The process is expensive but worthwhile in some instances.

This information is presented to improve the homeowner's knowledge of moving small trees or his own; to increase his understanding of the relative economy in moving large trees despite the hazards and immense equipment involved; to augment his recognizing competency and reliability in tree service.

EVERGREENS

Use twin to tie together the branches of upright evergreens in order to prevent them from spreading and breaking under heavy snows. If you are trying some of the less hardy evergreens, a screening of burlap will cut down on wind desiccation and will screen off burning winter sun. Although we have been blessed with ample moisture so far this year, you may need to water your evergreens if December turns out to be a dry and open month.
APPENDIX

CONIFERS AT GLENMORE

ABIES
A. concolor (any seeding or any clone rates at least 2.1)
A. concolor clones: Blue, Buffalo, Dense, Glenmore (1), Green, Hill Blue, Hill Pyramid, Marshall (1), New Mexico, Peavine, Virginia.
A. holophylla, A. homolepis, A. koreana, A. lasiocarpa, A. lasiocarpa clone Dwarf, A. l. arizonicas clones Rochester (3) and Hill (2)

CHAEMAECYPARIS
C. nootkatensis clone Glenmore (3), C. obtusa nana, C. pisifera.

JUNIPERUS
J. chinensis clones: Ames (2), aurea, bemauii, Expans, globosa (2), Heiti (3), Hillbrush, Iowy, Maney (1), Pfitzeriana (1), Pfitzeria aurea, Pfitzeria Blue (1), Pfitzeria Compact, Pfitzeria Silver Blue, Robusta, Sargentii Blue (2), Sargentii Green (1), Shooshim, Storey, Teas, variegata.
J. communis cracivia, J. c. clone Koshan-kie, J. c. saxatilis.
J. c. satailis clones: Dense, Glenmore, Holly, Will.
J. Deppeana padypylaea, J. horizontalis.
J. horizontalis clones: Admirabilis, alpina, Bar Harbor, Blue (1), Blue Willow (1), Com pact Andorra, Douglassii (2), Filicinium (3), Glauc, gomera, Glenmore, Green Bar Harbor, McCoy No. 1, Wj, McCoy No. 2 (2), Marshall (Black Hills) (2), Pe traes, plumosa (3), Pulchellus (1), Sub glaulea, Subglauca, Tamariscifolia, W. dani, W. glauca, W. glauca compacta, W. glauca conica (1), P. g. nana (2), Mariana, P. omorika, P. orientalis aurea, P. pungens (most well-formed seedlings or clones rate at least 3.1), P. pungens clones: argenteus (Kosteri) (1), Arnold Dwarf (Hunnewellana?) (1), Buffalo, Conifer Weeping, Glenmore, Glenmore Golden, Green, Hoss Dwarf (1), Moer hrini (1), Turkey Creek.
P. Wilsoni.

PINUS
P. aristata (2), P. Bungeana, p. cembra (1), P. cembroides, P. clausa (3), P. r. conica clone Fort Collins, P. contorta, P. con torna larchifolia and P. c. l. clone Dwarf, P. densiflora umbratilis, P. flexilis (2) and P. flexilis clones Glenmore Pyramid (often called Glenmore Dwarf) and Glenmore Silver (1), P. flexilis repens, P. Griffithii, P. Hildebrandii, P. koreana, P. peuce (1), P. ponderosa pendula, P. ponderosa scoulouricum (3) and clone P.s. Dwarf, P. resinosa, P. sylvestris and P.s. clones argentea, fastigata (2) and W. ter teri (3).

J. scopulorum clone: Alba, Big Blue, Blue Bush, Blue Hoven (2), Chandler Silver, Cologreen, Communis Type (1), Compact Dendro, Compact Pathfinder, Cone, Crawford, Cupressifolia erecta, Dredwood (3) Emerald, Ereda glauca, Fain, Fain variegatus (2), Funalis, Garee, Glauc pacma, Glauc Erecta, Glenmore Globe, Glenmore Green, Glenmore Queen, Glenmore Weeping, Globe, Gracilis, Gray Gleam (Pat. No. 848) (1), Green King, Hall Special, Hall Sport (1), Hilloborn Globe (3), Hilman Blue, Holman Green, Horizantialis (Hill Silver), Kenyon, Lake wood, MacFarland (2), Madarra (3), Marshall, McCoy, Moffet (2), Montana, Monument, Northern Beauty, Park, Path finder (2), P. P. Silver Blue, Select Blue, Silver Beauty, Silver Cord (3), Silver Glow (3), Snedi, Ster ling Dwarf, Sutherland (3), Tabletop (2), Terpe, Tollesson Weeping, Victory, Weiri, Welchi, Whites Silver King (1), Wyoming.
J. shepardii torulosa aureo-variegata (J. chinensis torulosa aurea variegata), J. sphaerica Kerstelli (2), J. squamata Meyeri, J. squamata clones Parsons and Variegata (1), J. u. clones Buffalo and Glenmore.
J. virginiana clones: Bluecoat, Burkii, Cana certi (1), DeForest Green (3), elegantis sima, globosa (1), Hill (1), Hydrogreen, Kosteri, Nevin Blue, Nova, Plate River (a natural hybrid, not a clone), Plume Koster, Schotti, Triomphe D’Angers.

PICEA
Picea abies clones: Abies and Sherwood, P. asperta, P. engelmanni, P. engelmanni clones Blue, Loveland Dwarf and microphylla, P. glauca, P. glauca albertiana, P. glauca conica (1), P. g. nana (2), Mariana, P. omorika, P. orientalis aurea, P. pungens (most well-formed seedlings or clones rate at least 3.1), P. pungens clones: argentes (Kosteri) (1), Arnold Dwarf (Hunnewellana?) (1), Buffalo, Conifer Weeping, Glenmore, Glenmore Golden, Green, Hoss Dwarf (1), Moerhrimi (1), Turkey Creek.
P. Wilsoni.

THUJA (Shade Only)
Thuja occidentalis clones Dark Green (3), Fairfax, Glenmore Dwarf, Glenmore Pyramid, Hetz Midget (2), robusta (Waranna) (3).

TSUGA CANADENSIS (Shade Only)
DECIDUOUS TREES AND SHRUBS AND BROADLEAF EVERGREENS AT GLENMORE


While many of our birds have gone south for the winter, we find that many have taken up winter quarters here. When the weather is warm, they seem to take on the beauty of their colors for themselves, but when snow covers the ground they are often hard pressed for food. Set up a bird feeding station in your yard and enjoy the antics of the different feathered personalities who come to take advantage of your winter hospitality. Some of the foods recommended for such a feeding station are: suet and fatty trimmings from meat; seeds of sunflower, pumpkin, millet, rye, barley, wheat, and numerous weed seeds. Most of the garden shops now carry mixed seeds for wild birds. In addition bread crumbs, popcorn, and nuts are welcome tidbits for the birds. Once you start a feeding station it fills very quickly. Birds learn to rely on finding food there and will suffer when you neglect it.

One word in regard to the weather, if it should stay dry for any long period of time, 3 to 4 weeks, get out the hose and give everything, particularly the evergreens, a good soaking.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year—

-PAT.
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