House Plants Need Rest Period

According to horticultural experts winter should be a season of rest for house plants. It should be a period of relaxation and an opportunity to store up energy for later activity.

The resting period is naturally induced by the shortened days and lowered temperatures. With many plants this slowing process may be imperceptible, with others it is distinct and unmistakable. Bulbous plants are an instance of complete rest. Many house plants will cease to bloom and others will do so feebly. Most of those which will flower at this season have been conditioned or prepared for blooming during the preceding months of summer or autumn.

Recognition of the above facts indicates the winter treatment. All practices which tend to stimulate growth should be held in check. Less water is needed, potting and root disturbance of any kind should be suspended. Fairly low temperatures are desirable, but may be difficult to obtain.

The temperature of the home must of necessity be maintained at a point favouring the comfort of the human rather than the plant inmates. It is a conservative statement that places a winter dwelling house temperature at 70 degrees. This is much too high for a great many plants. It is a good growing temperature for warm - loving plants under conditions of spring daylight aand ample humidity. But the combined efforts of high temperature, comparative darkness and a dry atmosphere are not favourable to general plant health.

Perhaps the reasonable attitude to take in this respect is to maintain a day temperature around 70 degrees with a drop to about 60 degrees after retiring. To promote humidity, the usual evaporating pans on radiators and metal trays of gravel on window shelves to hold the plants will be helpful.

Atomic Polka Dots

It's amazing how idle chatter can lead to fascinating discoveries. Take, for instance, the case of the Atomic Bomb and Polka-dot Dresses, writes Napier Moore.

A neighbor of ours is an eminent skin specialist. The other day, watching him vigorously fork some elegant-looking manure into his vegetable garden, we commented on his energy. This led to a discussion of other forms of energy. Finally we got to atomic energy.

We said we supposed that by this time reports covering the effects on humans of the atomic bombs dropped on Japan had been correlated, and that no doubt, professionally, he had received much information. The doctor said he had. We asked if there was any crumb he could bestow upon us.

"Well," he said casually, "there was the matter of the polka-dot dresses."

Our eyes popped at that. He went on to explain. Examination of victims of flash burns revealed that the skins of women wearing polka-dot garments were marked according to the pattern. That is, on the skin there were circles matching the white dots. And those circles were not burned as were the areas covered by colored cloth.

"That was interesting," said the doctor, "but, of course, fundamentally there was nothing new about it. You were taught at school that dark clothing absorbs more heat rays than does white clothing. That's why X-ray operators wear white. The structure of the X-ray and the atomic ray are basically the same."

He wasn't willing to guess what might have happened if the victims had been completely enveloped in white. Distance of the person from the flash point meant much. But he must have noticed us fingering our polka-dot tie, for he added, "It is not impossible that science will find for humans some form of partial protection against atomic rays. However, if ever you are in immediate proximity to an atomic bomb flash, polka-dot or no polka-dot, white pants or no white pants, you'll be dead mutton in a very short time."

Wanted Santa to Bring Her a New Hubby—All Mrs. Beatrice de Molet wanted from the Christmas tree was a new husband—the only stipulations being that he must have from $3000 to $5000 in the bank, a big heart, good character and a steady job—also be a "good provider". Twice divorced, she claimed to be a good cook and housekeeper. The small boy is one of two sons by previous matrimonial ventures.

TEST YOUR I. Q.

SPORTS QUIZ

Here's a little quiz that should be easy for you sport fans. However, you might find one or two surprises when you check up the answers—printed upside down to make "peeking" harder.

1. Gene Tunney and Jack Dempsey fought two famous prize-fights. Was it the first or the second which took place in New York?
2. What well known big league baseball manager never played in either of the big leagues?
3. How long is a round of professional boxing?
4. Give within one ounce the weight of an official baseball?
5. Who won the World's Heavyweight Championship by beating Bob Fitzsimmons?
6. What are the periods of a polo game called?
7. What is known as the keystone sack?
8. Which player has the first move in a chess game?
9. Should a tennis court be laid out with the service ends east or west, or north and south?
10. By what name is Cornelius McGillicuddy better known?
11. One of these is NOT a famous name in lawn tennis. Jack Kramar; Samuel Tilden; Donald Budge. Which is it?
12. What are the three most commonly used WOOD clubs in golf?

ANSWERS

1. Neither. (They were in Chicago and Philadelphia); 2. Joe McCarthy; 3. Three-minutes; 4. Five seconds; 6. Chukkers; 7. Second base; 8. The player with the white men; 9. North and south; 10. Connie Mack; 11 Samuel Tilden (it was Bill); 12; Driver, brassie spoon.

No Shine on Pants - If You Don't Wear 'Em

Textile experts have made a serious study of what puts shine on the seat of a fellow's wool trousers. And the results of their research will probably not surprise anyone. Just plain old wear is the answer—rubbing, bending, and creasing.

But at least it's comforting to know that the dry cleaner is not the one to blame nor is it only because the trousers are old. Hang your trousers up in the closet as long as you want and send them to the cleaner's often as you like and they'll never get that semi-gloss look. But if you wear them, well . . . that's the rub.

The textile experts failed to say so—but they might have also reported that, if you don't wear 'em, they last longer too.

Baby Bootees That Stay On

When I was accumulating my "daughter-to-come's" layette some years ago, a fond auntie knit me some very simple but useful bootees. I well remember what she said to me as I unwrapped them enthusiastically, "Here are some bootees that WILL stay on; even the liveliest baby can't kick these off!" writes Josephine Holbrook in The Christian Science Monitor.

Through the years this auntie has "booteed" scores of babies here in the North, and now that she lives in the South, she finds a market for her bootees in the shops there. When I found out what truly grand staying-one qualities they had and how easy they were to make, I too learned to knit them. Here are the directions:

Choice of Needles

Use a pair of No. 2 or No. 3 needles (according to whether you knit tightly or loosely) and Saxony weight yarn.

Cast on 40 stitches.

First row—knit one, purl one all the way across the row; knit garter stitch for 9 ridges; knit one, purl one, for 1 inch.

Next row—knit one, put thread over, and knit two stitches together and repeat across the row. (This is the beading.)

Next row — knit one, purl one all the way across the row.

Next row — knit 26 stitches, turn and knit back 12 stitches. Knit JUST these 12 stitches for 11 ridges (instep). Then pick up the stitches on one side of the instep and knit to the end of that row.

Knit back and pick up the stitches on the other side of the instep. With all of the stitches now on the needle knit 9 ridges.

Color Offers Variety

10th ridge — knit together two stitches at each end of the row and two stitches each side of the middle stitch.

11th and 12th ridges — narrow the sames as the 10th ridge.

Bind off loosely. Sew up the seam and run ribbon through the beading.

I usually keep both pink and blue yarn on hand because I have found that a pair of each color boxed together with a sprinkle of sachet, makes an inexpensive yet lovely gift for a baby shower.

TABLE TALKS

by Jane Andrews.

By the time you read this, I imagine most of your Holiday cooking and preparations will be finished and done with; but a good recipe is a good recipe any old time, and here's one for a tasty beverage which is especially suitable for 'teen-age celebrations. It is:

Hot Spiced Cider

3 oranges
3 lemons
1½ teaspoons whole allspice
½ ounce stick cinnamon
1½ quarts cold water
1 cup sugar
1 gallon cider

Method

Squeeze the fruit. Reserve the juice and put the rinds only in a kettle.

Add the spices to the rinds. Cover with cold water. Cover snugly and simmer for two and a half hours. Strain the liquid and pour over the sugar.

Add the fruit juice and the cider. Heat to boiling and serve hot. Yield; about five and a half quarts, or twenty-five to thirty portions.

* * *

Frozen chicken salad may sound a little inappropriate for this time of year; but after you've tasted this kind I'm sure you won't even think of what the calendar says. The recipe I give is supposed to serve six—but I know a family of four that didn't leave a morsel of it.

Frozen Chicken Salad

1½ cups diced cooked chicken
¾ cup drained crushed pineapple
½ cup chopped nuts
cup heavy cream, whipped
1 cup mayonnaise

Method

Toss chicken, pineapple and nuts together. Fold cream into mayonnaise, add to chicken mixture, and freeze from two to three hours, or until it is firm.

* * *

It may be that sometime in the past I've given you a recipe for Banana Upside Down cake—but not this one, as I only ran across it recently. Mighty tasty, I say—and so will you and your family, I'm sure, after you've given it a sampling.

1½ cups sifted flour
1½ teaspoons baking powder
¼ teaspoon salt
¾ cup sugar
4 tablespoons softened shortening
1 egg, well beaten
½ cup milk
1 teaspoon vanilla
4 tablespoons butter
½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 firm bananas

Method

Sift together flour, baking powder, sugar and salt. Add shortening. Mix together egg, milk and vanilla. Add to flour mixture, stirring until all flour is dampened. Beat vigorously one minute. Melt butter in an 8x8x2 pan and add brown sugar; stir until melted and syrup formed. Peel and slice bananas and arrange in syrup. Pour batter over bananas. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 50 minutes or until cake is done. Loosen cake from sides of pan with knife or spatula. Turn out onto serving plate and serve hot, with bananas on top.

Which will have to be about all for today, I'm afraid—except to wish to you and yours, most sincerely, the Compliments of the Season.

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DOES INDIGESTION WALLOP YOU BELOW THE BELT?

Help Your Forgotten "28" For The Kind Of Relief That Helps Make You Rarin' To Go

More than half of your digestion is done below the belt—in your 28 feet of bowels. So when indigestion strikes, try something that helps digestion in the stomach AND below the belt.

What you may need is Carter's Little Liver Pills to give needed help to that "forgotten 28 feet" of bowels.

Take one Carter's Little Liver Pill before and one after meals. Take them according to directions. They help wake up a larger flow of the 3 main digestive juices in your stomach AND bowels—help you digest what you have eaten in Nature's own way.

Then most folks get the kind of relief that makes you feel better from your head to your toes. Just be sure you get the genuine Carter's Little Liver Pills from your druggist—35c.

New — And All Of Them Useful

Prevents Car Accidents. Many accidents, caused by fogging of car or truck windshields, might be prevented by the use of a soft, absorbent cloth treated with a special chemical solution. One wiping keeps the glass clear for hours. The solution used in the cloth consists of a synthetic detergent, tannic acid, glycerine, water and dye. It is claimed that the cloth can be used indefinitely.

Glass Heating Wall. A new type of radiant glass heat wall panel designed especially for the heating of single rooms is being introduced. This panel may be placed anywhere and attached to existing 110 volt AC or DC wiring. Unlike regular panels of this type, which are thermostatically controlled, these can be switched on and off.

Repels Rats. A laminated board designed to be used as an inside wall in poultry coops, grain bins and farm-produce store rooms. It is a combination of hardwood veneer plus an asphalt impregnated fiber face. It repels rats—in a recent test the rodents barely scratched the surface with their teeth.

Easy Car Washing. Sponge for attachment to garden hose is said to simplify car washing and outdoor house cleaning. Sponge is gripped in bakelite holder and scrubs away dirt and grit without marring surfaces. Water, flowing through, prevents clogging of sponge pores with grime and dirt.

Winterizes Tires. A process for winterizing auto tires that's claimed to reduce winter driving dangers involves use of a twin-roller tractionizer which punches many holes in the tread. This is claimed to increase traction and give greater resistance on ice-covered highways.

One Man Mixer. A utility mixer which can be moved and operated by one man and is designed for mixing concrete, mortar, etc. Weight is distributed so as to be in almost perfect balance in towing or handling.

Four-in-one Cultivator. New type farm and garden power cultivator which discs, harrows and pulverizes soil in one operation. Has no wheels or tracks for support, power being transmitted direct to actual soil agitators which carry the 84-pound machine. Spikelike prongs are said to dig ten inches into the soil.

7-in-1 Nursery Furniture — Convertible unit of nursery furniture, marketed by Winnipeg firm, can be adapted to seven uses: as a feeding and airing chair, rocker, walker-playpen, end table, tea wagon, bassinette. Has tuck-away wheels, can be put on sleigh runners.

Apartment Clothesline — Indoor clothesline reel for use in bathroom, kitchen, laundry and trailer which, makers claim, eliminates constant setting up and taking down of line, can be permanently installed and folds against wall when not in use. Line may be pulled to desired length and automatically rewinds.

Auto Safety Flare — Highway safety flare that acts either as emergency parking light or as a blinker flashing a warning 100 times a minute is offered by auto lighting firm. Light can be seen in all directions over a distance of 600 ft., makers claim. Batteries last 20-28 hrs.; two bulbs are incorporated.

More Freeze Space — Home freezers incorporating new insulating material are said to have twice the storage space usually found in kitchen-size models. Conventional apartment size model which used to hold 4.5 cu. ft. now holds 8 cu. ft. storage capacity.

Wire Recorder — New magnetic wire recorder weighing only 23 lb., which fits into an overnight case. Main features are: recordings and playback up to one hour; ability to record from phonograph, radio or microphone; record player for 10- and 12-inch records. Recording wire is available in 15-minute, half-hour, and one-hour spools.

EASILY STARTED

A youngster asked his father how wars started. "Well," said his father, "Suppose Canada quarrelled with the United States and—

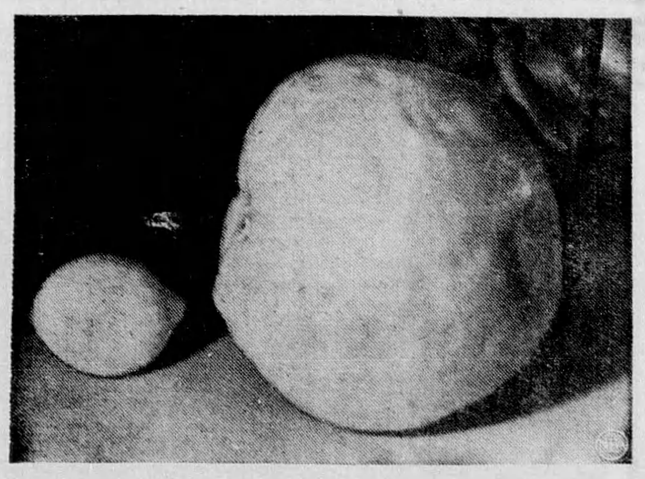
"But," interrupted the mother, "Canada must never quarrel with the United States."

"I know," agreed the father, "but I am only taking a hypothetical instance."

"You are misleading the child," she protested.

"No, I am not," shouted the father.

"Never mind, Dad," put in the boy. "I think I know how wars start."



Away Out West in Kansas—One hardly thinks of Kansas being in the "citrus belt". But inhabitants of that region proudly point to this monstrous lemon, grown right in that state, which fairly dwarfs the normal-sized fruit beside it.

HOW TO FIX IT

By Tom Gregory

Hello, Folks— Looks as though Mutt will be smoking a corn-cob next season. BUD FISHER.