

Town Gardener

Follow basic formula when caring for houseplants

By TOM CAVAN Herald Special The Flora Triangle

This time of year I become inundated with questions about indoor plants, dropping foliage, or showing signs of deterioration depending on the type of plant in question.

You simply have to look at the symptoms and think back about 2-4 weeks prior to the plants decline in health and you will be able to pin-point the time that the trouble began.

deterioration is spreading and how long the plant is actually been in misery. If there are no signs of insect or diseases which are visually obvious, the what you have is physical or conditional problem(s) with your plant.

Now, what I mean by that is when the plant is in the wrong location, and, or the plant is not being maintained to its acceptable conditions of habit in order to grow or sustain itself.

I have a basic formula which when understood will help you

know how to water a plant and help get your plants through the winter months.

Form a triangle of heat-light-water.

Quite simply, these three factors affect each other. When one changes the other two have to follow suit. So, if your plant receives more sunlight it will experience more heat and in return will need more water and if you give a plant more water there had better be enough light to the given plant so it will use that water.

can fit under the lights and decorating with plants is compromised.

The plants active factory receives a good watering but insufficient sunlight means slow activity and slower transpiration rate, the water sits in the soil and cannot be used. The end result is overwatering, lack of oxygen to the soil and anaerobic microbes, microbes that work without oxygen start to decay the warm water-logged soil.

So, what is the solution? You have to heat your home in winter, yet Mother Nature provides little

if any sunlight and what we do receive is weak. You must keep your plants in cooler locations, i.e. away from heat registers or fluctuating heat like 5 p.m. when the stove comes on.

So keep that triangle in mind and evaluate your plants for better houseplants.

Any questions should be directed to Tom Cavan at the Garden Hotline, 519-833-2117.



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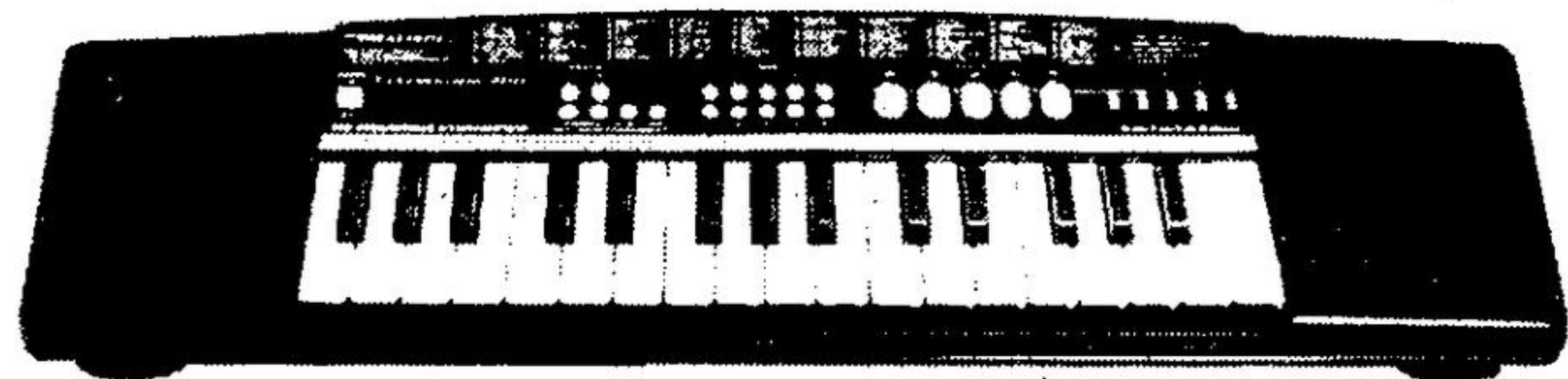
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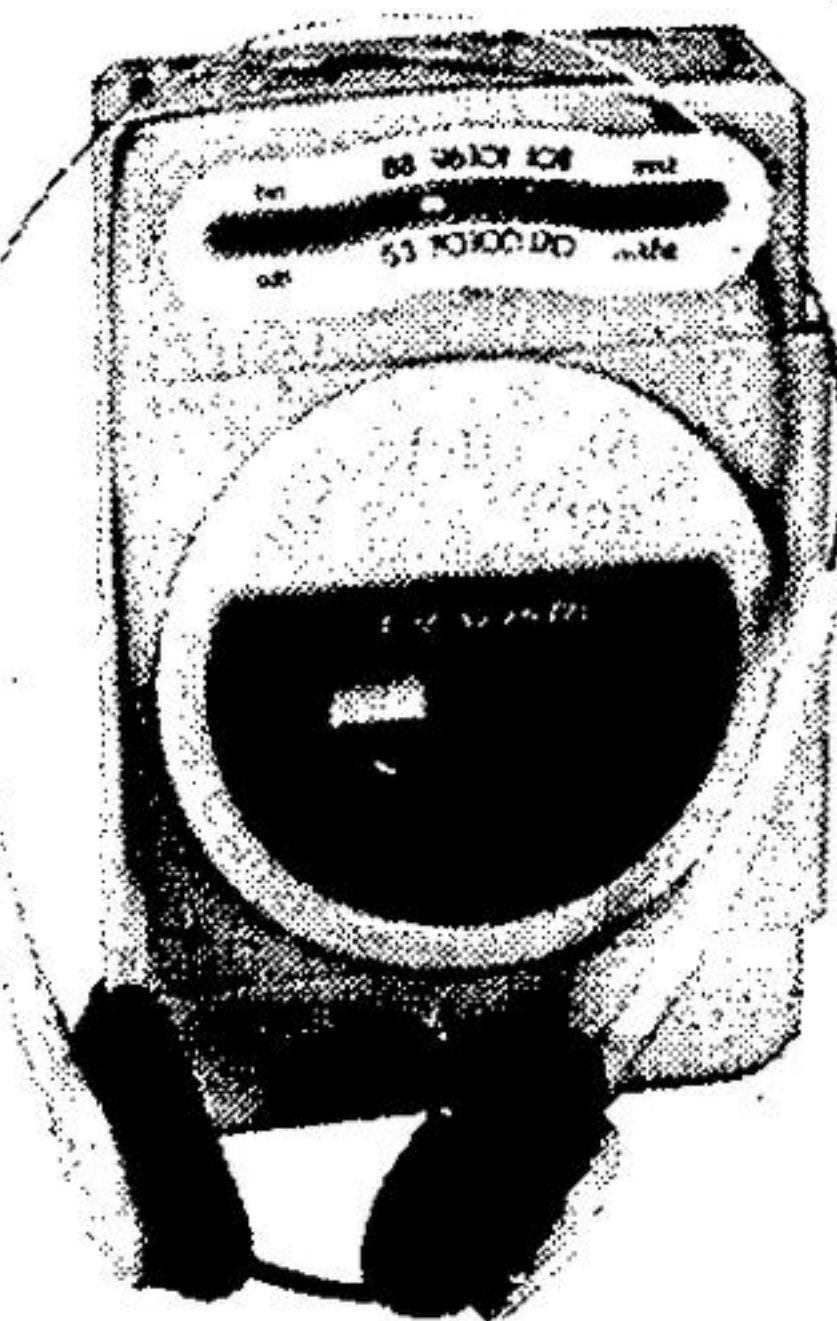
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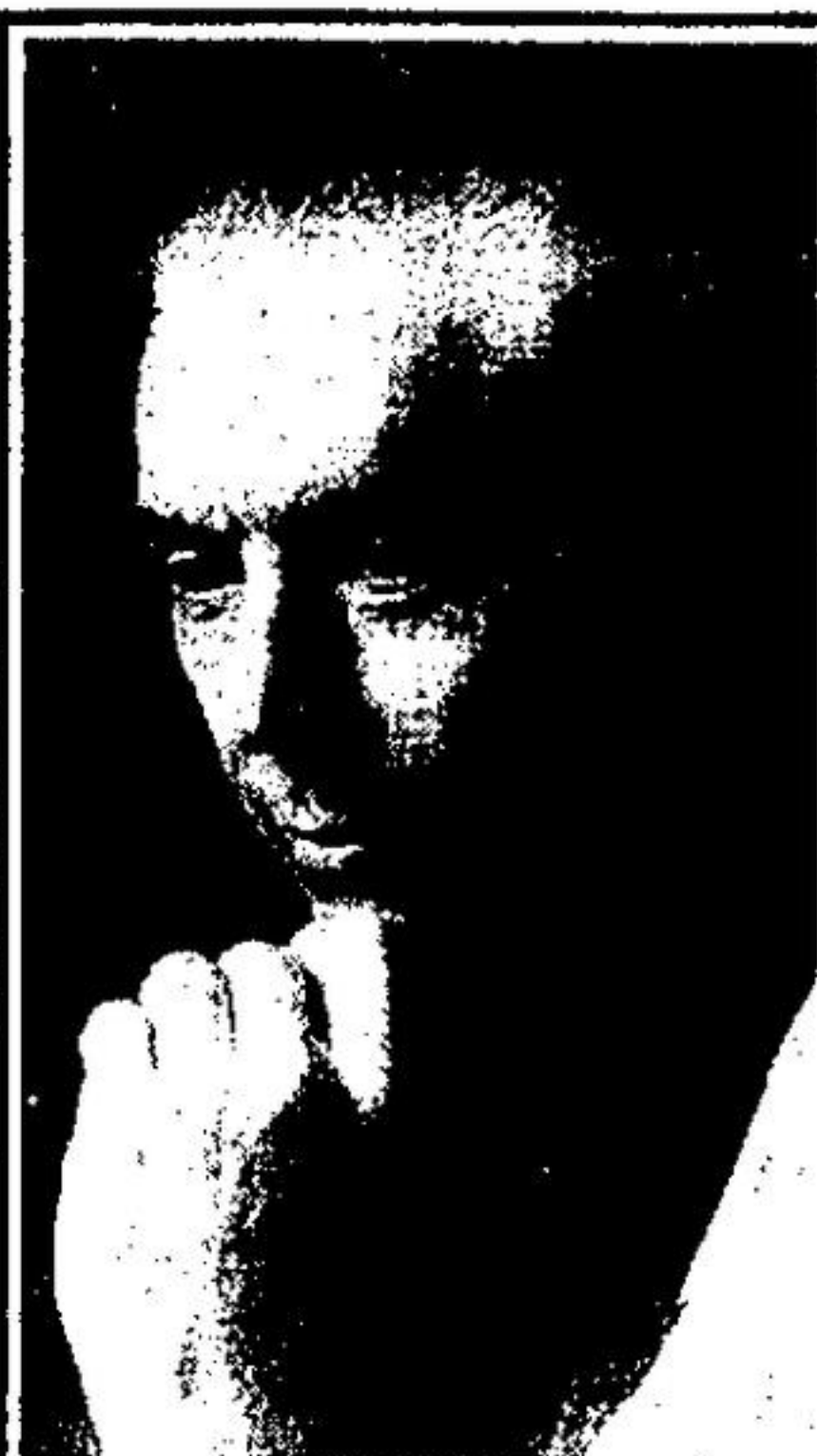
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