By Marion Bluegrass

Christmas is almost upon us. If you're still looking for last-minute gifts for some of the hard to please, why not consider some you can get from your local nursery or garden centre?

Pots and planters for indoor plants are always items of interest. You can get them as large or small, as plain or fancy as taste and budget allow.

Tools for either indoor or outdoor gardening are always welcome. For the indoor plant buff, what about a misting set? Some come with diminutive tools for use in small pots.

For outdoors For the outdoor gardener, pruners or fertilizer hose attachments or weeding implements might bring a welcome touch of spring.

Or you can order a plant or shrub that can be delivered at the right time for planting next spring.

A plant for the indoor gardener makes an attractive and long-lasting gift. If this is your choice, make sure you keep it alive till it's time to present it.

Transport it in a plastic bag with lots of air inside so it doesn't get too cold. Starter garden

Starter gardens make a fascinating hobby for someone who's never tried out a green thumb before. Most come with everything needed and a complete set of instructions.

You can get, in these kits, herb gardens, bonsai trees, or many others. Books are a super gift

for anyone who likes to garden, indoors or out. The range is almost limitless. These can be purchased not only in garden centres but in any book or department store.

Just one precaution here - if you've decided on a book about outdoor gardening, check to make sure the book has some application to our northern climate.

I like a garden book that lists climatic zones, and tells whether things can be planted this far north or not.

Gift certificate As a last resort, if none of the above manages to tempt you, consider a gift certificate from a nursery

or garden centre. A gift like this gives the recipient the pleasure of choosing just the right thing for the home or the garden.

Send your gardening questions to Marion Bluegrass, care of The Liberal, Box 390, Richmond Hill.

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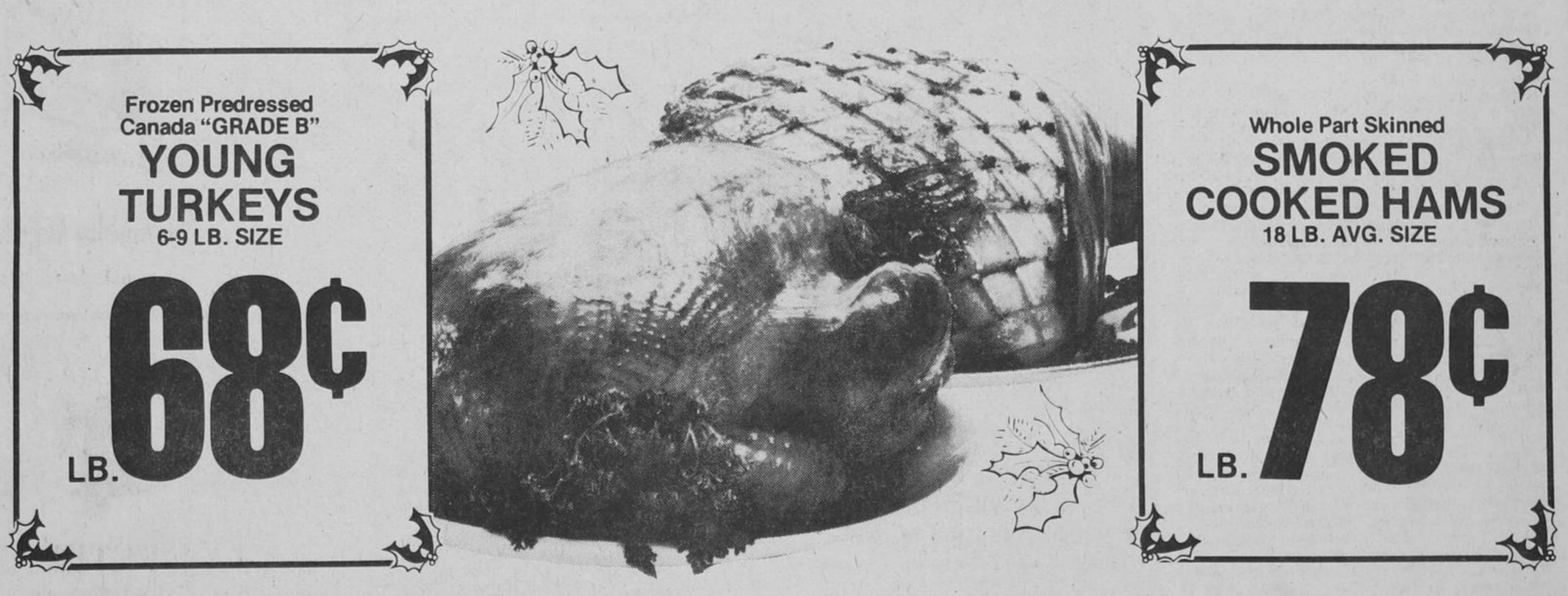
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