

Special care needed

Hanging plants can survive winter

By NANCY HOSKIN
Plants that have been hanging outdoors all summer in containers will need some late season care to survive the coming winter. In anticipation, bring them indoors, continue to follow procedures that have maintained their summer health.

Generally, plants suitable for hanging containers are easy to care for. Hanging baskets exposed to the sun use moisture rapidly, and should be checked for water often during dry spells. During rainy periods, containers without drainage holes should be taken down and the excess water be drained off.

Before the first frost, bring hanging baskets of annual plants you want to grow again next spring, indoors.

First, check carefully for pest infestation, such as white fly and use the appropriate spray to eradicate it. Repot with sterilized soil to prevent unwanted insects from entering your house.

Most plants that have been outside all summer are probably overgrown and can be improved by cutting back most of the branches to 8 or 10 inches. Do this with fuchsia, ivy geranium and lantana.

Other plants, suitable for hanging baskets, include flame violet,

impatiens, Christmas cactus, bougainvillea and petunias. These need containers from 6 to 10 inches in diameter.

Suitable for a 3 to 4 inch containers are the trailing type of African violet, nasturtium and trailing lobelia. Hanging basket begonias can also be brought indoors through the fall and winter and will bounce back in the spring.

You will notice that all indoor plants go through a natural dormant stage during the cooler months. They will need less attention during this time.

Attractive foliage plants for

hanging containers include asparagus fern, coleus, wandering jew, philodendrons, pothos, spider plants and English ivy.

All are suited for 6 to 8 inch containers. If you have always maintained that these plants are only for indoors, try hanging some of these varieties on a shaded balcony or deck next summer.

Pinch vining plants occasionally. This will stimulate new growth. Make sure that these plants, now being housed inside for the winter, are continuing to draw natural sunlight, but kept away from cold drafts.

Creative space use has rewards

Creative use of existing space becomes critical in homes and apartments where every square inch counts.

If handled effectively, not only floor dimensions, but the wall area can add to the amenities that make life pleasanter. And a big price tag is often not necessary.

For example, the corner of a small bedroom can become an intimate hideaway for watching TV, listening to favorite music, reading and doing needlework, simply by adding wall units "engineered" to fulfill multi-functions.

In a modern bedroom a work corner can be created easily and at very moderate cost with assemble-yourself co-ordinated pieces. Set up to go around the corner, they fit neatly under the eave and unify two disparate size

walls, adding valuable storage capacity.

A cabinet with closed doors stores cassettes, drop-lid opening holds the TV, and the equipment is housed in the ample shelf space. Magazines which always seem to accumulate faster than they get read are stashed neatly on the lower shelves.

A closed wardrobe unit supplements limited closet space and provides room for hanging clothes as well as precious additional shelf space for flat-folded items.

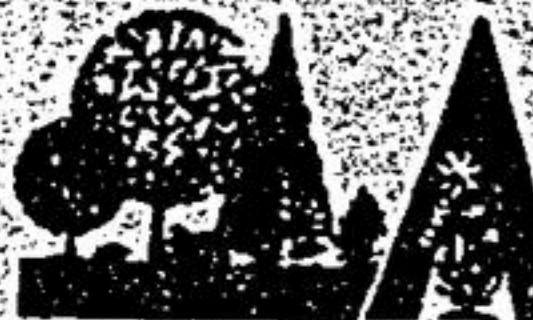
Surfaced in easy-care white laminate, the pieces, easily assembled with a dowel, screw and molly connector system, take advantage of a corner that might otherwise be wasted and add a cheery, light, bright character to the room.

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