

Amaryllis can brighten windowsills during winter

A spectacular plant for your windowsill garden is the amaryllis (the correct botanical name is hippeastrum).

The bulbs from which these plants grow are readily obtainable from October through December. They are often promoted as Christmas plants but I prefer to start them in December so they'll bloom in January after the decorations are packed away. There are three classifications:

1. large flowered - 20 to 30 inches tall and blooms six to seven inches across.

2. small flowered (gracillis) - 12 to 18 inches tall and blooms two to three inches across.

3. double flowered - about 18 inches tall with large double flowers.

Usually the flower stalk is produced first and then the leaves follow. Each stalk produces two to four blooms. The number of flower stalks depends on the size of the bulb. A three-year-old bulb (the size sold in kits that include pot and soil) will produce one or occasionally two flower stalks but a larger bulb sold separately (you supply pot and soil) is a much better



Let's Get Growing

Marjorie Mason Hogue

choice. It will have a minimum of two, usually three stems of bloom resulting in 12 flowers from one bulb. Choose a pot (I prefer clay because its weight is a better anchor for the top heavy plant) that is just slightly wider in diameter than the bulb and deep enough to spread the roots. If the roots appear dry and shrivelled, soak them and the base of the bulb overnight in a saucer of warm water.

Using a good potting soil, position the bulb so that its roots are spread and its neck is well above the soil level. Water thoroughly with luke-warm water and place in a warm location. Do not water again until a green shoot appears. Some varieties take longer than others to break dormancy.

Begin watering thoroughly

when the soil feels dry to the touch. Place in a sunny location (away from heat vents) where nights are cool. The flower stalk grows quickly making this plant an excellent gift for children and shut-ins. It should be turned daily so the stalk will remain straight. When each flower stalk has finished blooming, cut it off cleanly at the base.

When the leaves begin to grow, give regular applications of a 20-20-20 fertilizer according to package instructions. When flowering is finished, grow it as a houseplant until September. Then stop watering and allow the leaves to turn brown. Cut them off and put the pot in a cool, dark place. After a three-month rest, repot the bulb and start the cycle again.

This week's question is from Anne Savoie of Stouffville who is renovating a 20-year-old garden. She wonders how to mix annuals with perennials until the latter grow to their mature size.

The annuals that are regularly offered for sale, such as petunias simply proclaim "I'm an annual filling a space". Instead, use unusual annuals

obtainable at specialty nurseries or grow them yourself from seed. Plant them as you do perennials in groups or drifts of three or more. Here are a few of my favorites:

- tall plants for background cleome, verbena bonariensis, nicotiana sylvestris

- for the middle of the border ageratum "Blue Horizon", any salvia horminum, farinacea or coccinea,

cosmos "Sonata"

- for the front of the border - nierembergia, Dahlberg daisy or verbena "Imagination"

You may send questions or comments to:

Let's Get Growing,
c/o The Tribune,
88 Brock St. W.,
Uxbridge, Ont. L9P 1R4
attn: Marjorie Mason Hogue

NO SOAP

CARPET CLEANING

Final clean carpets with no harsh chemicals or shampoo

- Stays cleaner longer
- Soil and stains removed, deep to the fibre base
- Gentle - no scrubbing or pile distortion

FREE DUPONT-TEFLON APPLICATION

PATENTED CONTROLLED HEAT PROCESS KILLS 96% OF BACTERIA

Truck Mounted

OVER 20 YEARS EXPERIENCE

Newmarket (905) 895-2456

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE TODAY

MONEY - BACK GUARANTEE

No Heat? NO PROBLEM!

Call:

UNIONVILLE

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING LTD.

479-1290

NORTH MARKHAM

HONDA

Get Ready For Winter

19 Point Get Ready For Winter Comprehensive Check

- | | |
|--|---|
| ✓ Check wiper operation | ✓ Check & aim washer jets |
| ✓ Check tire pressure & wear | ✓ Lube door locks & hinges |
| ✓ Check belts & hoses | ✓ Check headlights |
| ✓ Check marker lights | ✓ Check heater motor |
| ✓ Check rear defroster operation | ✓ Check shock absorbers |
| ✓ Check battery cables & terminals | ✓ Check exhaust system |
| ✓ Check brakes, wear & operation | ✓ Check anti-freeze reading & condition |
| ✓ Check horn operation | ✓ Check fluid levels |
| ✓ Check steering | ✓ Check seat belt operation |
| ✓ Check turn signals, back up lights & stop lights | |



\$29⁹⁵

plus taxes



Honda Vehicles Only - Fluids & Parts may be extra. Exp. Dec. 31/95

Courtesy Shuttle Service Available

Committed to Serving you Since 1966

North Markham Motors Ltd.

4611 Hwy. #7 (West of Kennedy Rd.)

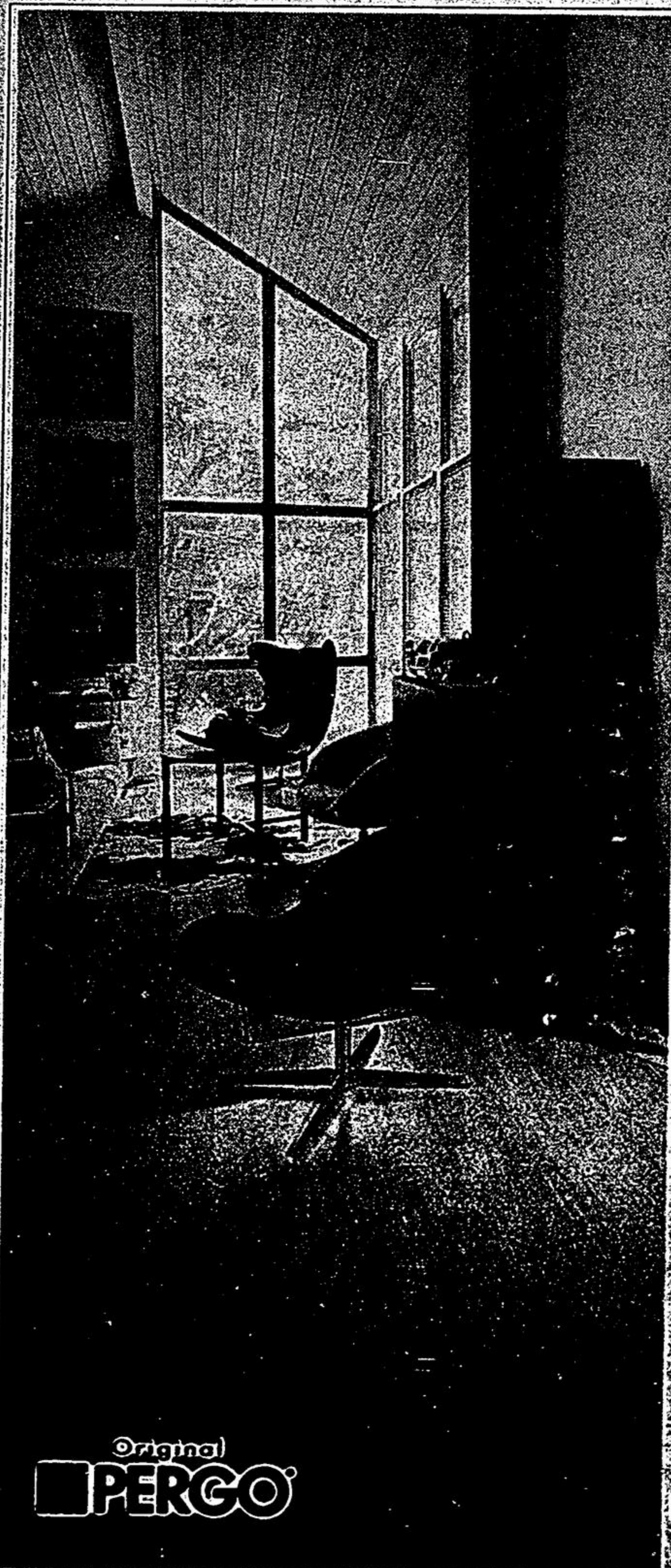
Unionville

SERVICE HOURS

Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri.
7:30 - 5:30 p.m.
Tues. 7:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Sat. 9 - 1 p.m.



477-2451



We think even santa would be floored by our new shop at home idea

At Kennedy Flooring and Decorating we have trained professional designers who take the guesswork out of choosing the right carpeting or flooring to suit your natural living space. Call us now for a free in-home consultation and we'll make sure that your floors are covered for the holidays.

...making your living space livable!

KENNEDY FLOORING AND DECORATING

To bring our showroom to you call:

(416)969-8022

