Garden Time

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Pinching Growing Tips Can Give Plants Shape

By M. E. GARDNER N. C. State University

Ventilation, temperature and light all play a very important part in the successful production of house plants. However, since plants vary so widely in their requirements, it is not practical to give detailed instructions concerning these factors of total plant environment. We have to take some chances.

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additional information concerning specific require-ments of plants for light, temperature and ventilation, let me know and I will be happy to supply it. Identify the plants in which you are interested.

Pinching of the growing tip of many plants at the proper time will make them stockier and more shapely. Such plants as geranium, coleus, begonia and the ivies will respond to this treatment.

Training of vines and trailing foliage plants will

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add interest to your collec-tion. Some of the materials commonly used for training include fernwood, driftwood, cork, pecky cypress slabs and plastic poles.

Repotting is important but no rule can be given as plants will vary in their requirements. Probably the better plan would be to gently tap the soil mass from the pot and examine the root system. If the roots have formed a solid mat against the rim of the pot, shift to a larger container.

It might be of interest to suggest some plants that are better adapted for average house conditions than others and will tolerate some abuse -- Arrowhead, Australian Umbrella Tree, Chinese Evergreens, Devil's Ivy, Fiddleleaf Fig, Grape Ivy, Heartleaf Philodendron, India Rubber Plant, Jade Plant, Ovalleaf Peperomia, Snake Plant; Veitch Screw

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Specimen plants for large tubs would include Australian Umbrella Dracenas, Fatshedera, Fiddleleaf Fig, India Rubber Plant, Palms Philodendrons and Veitch Screw Pine.

For south or west windows these plants might do best: Amaryllis, Azalea, Coleus, Cyclamen, Geranium, Oxalis and Poinsettia.

For north windows: African Violet (in summer), Dracaena, Fern, Ivy, Dumb Cane (Deffenbachia), Ivy, Peperomia, Philodendron, Rubber Plant, Snake Plant and Wandering Jew.

For east windows: African Violet, Caladium, Fatshedera, Dracaena, Gloxinia, Peperomia, Philodendron, Rubber Plant, Veitch Screw Pine, Wandering Jew and Wax Plant.

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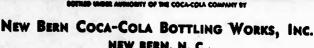
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