



GARDEN TIME
m. e. gardner
n. c. state college

It is not easy to grow house plants. Some of you with "green thumbs" may have this problem solved, but many home owners still have difficulty. A discussion of some of the general requirements may be helpful.

Temperature and humidity. Many of our modern houses are too warm for best results. A day temperature of 70 degrees and a night temperature of 60 degrees seems to give best growing conditions for most house plants. If the temperature is maintained much above 70 degrees, African violets may stop blooming, and poinsettias may lose their leaves.

A relative humidity of between 40 and 60 per cent should be maintained if possible. Usually, the higher the temperature the lower the humidity. In houses heated with hot air, keeping the humidity on the furnace filled with water will help. In houses heated with stoves or circulating furnaces, water may be kept on top of the heating unit. If neither fits your situation, large shallow galvanized pans with coarse gravel in the bottom might be tried.

You may have a better idea, but

I would suggest that the pan be about three inches deep. Put in about two and one-half inches of gravel, and keep two inches of water in the pan at all times. Set your pots on top of the gravel. This may not solve the humidity problem, but it should help. Try to prevent sharp temperature changes in the house.

Watering. The water requirements of plants will depend upon the type of plant, soil mixture, size of pot and temperature and humidity conditions. No rule of thumb can be given, so good judgment must be employed. Overwatering is as harmful as underwatering and probably more so, because conditions are more favorable for root and stem rots. Check the plants daily, and water as needed. Be sure that good drainage has been provided by a hole in the bottom of the pot, covered with coarse gravel.

Light. All green plants require but some more than others. The South window is a good place for most foliage plants, while philodendron will grow under reduced light conditions. Artificial light may be supplied where conditions justify.

THIS WEEK'S SAFETY MESSAGE

By Cameron F. McRae, M. D.

The newspapers last week carried a story of a small child climbing into a washing-machine which was running, while his mother was out of the room for a few minutes, and receiving, fatal injuries. While this is a most unusual kind of accident, it points up the need for eternal vigilance where young children are concerned—especially in the second and third years of life, "when the spirit of adventure and self-inquiry is high and self-control is slight". A common type of injury in this age group is burns, due to contact with either hot liquids or hot metal. Burns may be prevented not only by keeping these agents away from the baby but also by teaching him to stay away from the kitchen stove and other hazards; this teaching can and should start as soon as he is old enough to crawl or walk. "A series of 'don'ts' is not enough; children learn through experience, and many of the hazards around the home can be used as teaching material. In addition to telling the child that the stove is hot, the

mother should take the child's hand and place it on a warm, but not hot, stove on a number of occasions, repeating the word "hot" when she does. Similarly, learning experiences can be developed around other fixed household equipment which from time to time is a hazard. The attitude of the mother in these teaching sessions is most important; she should be affectionate and sympathetic, and the whole atmosphere must be casual and relaxed, so as not to arouse any anxiety or fear in the child". (Home Safety Review, October 1956).

ROBINSON STATIONED AT FT. EUSTIS, VA.

Fort Eustis, Va. (AHTNC) Specialist Third Class J. C. Robinson, whose wife, Anna, lives in Burnsville, N. C., is a member of the 4th Transportation Terminal Command C at Fort Eustis, Va. Specialist Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Robinson, Green Mountain, is a cargo checker in the 117th Transportation Company of the command. He entered the Army in December 1954 and received basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C. He is a 1952 graduate of Micaville High School.

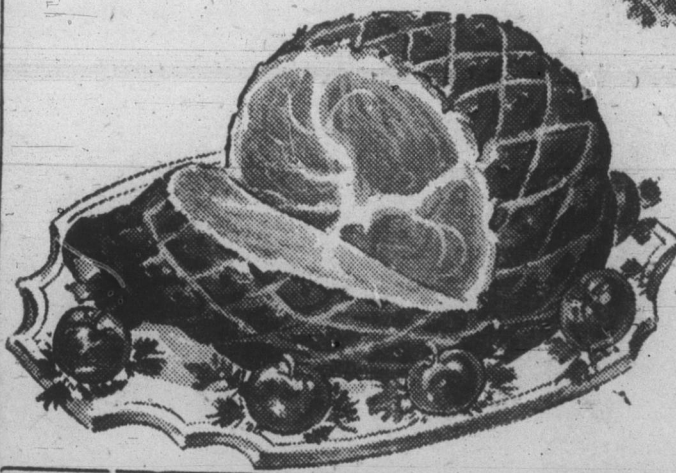
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