

## Plants For Christmas

The Christmas season can be warmed with the special touch of joy that green, growing plants bring. Perfect for gifts, for decorating and for year around and years-to-come enjoyment, plants are a special part of Christmas.

Decorate around the house inside and out with boughs of holly and pine branches from your own yard. If you don't have holly bushes or trees, or pine trees to prune this year, then it's time to think about

putting some in for next year. Christmas time just happens to be the best time of year to prune holly and a number of other Christmas plants.

Holly bushes are delightful all seasons. In most areas container grown hollies can be planted any time the ground isn't frozen, according to the growing authorities at the American Association of Nurserymen. Just follow the planting instructions for the particular variety you buy and

much the area thoroughly to keep cold out and moisture in. Next year and for years after you will have your own holly to cut and use for holiday decorating.

The perfect Christmas tree is a living tree. When the season is over you get the added joy of being able to plant it afterward both for the enjoyment of its beauty as well as little special reminders of cheer of the Christmas season. Next year, it will be there to perk up the outside with a string of lights and some outdoor ornaments if you like.

A living tree is also a great way of taking the edge off the after-Christmas blues for children when the tree comes down. There's the special fun they can share planting their tree.

A living Christmas tree, with all of its advantages, requires a little care while you have it in the house. The ball should be placed in a saucer or shallow container, just deep enough so moisture and loose soil or burlap won't get on floors or rugs. The tree should be placed in a cool part of the room - away from heat outlets or fireplaces. The ball should be kept moist, but not soaked. Good circulation and abundant light will also help keep the tree healthy and happy until planting. Be sure to

observe all normal safety precautions with living trees as you would with cut trees. While they are safer and generally don't drop as many needles, it's smart to be safe.

When the holiday is over, remove tinsel, ornaments and other decorations. Pick the perfect outdoor spot for your tree to grow healthy and strong. Don't plant too close to a house or other structure or under overhead wires because your Christmas tree will spread out and grow tall over the years and wants some elbow room. Dig a hole twice the size of the ball and slightly deeper. The soil can be prepared by mixing in a little organic material such as peat moss or compost if available.

Backfill the bottom of the hole so the tree will sit with the ball top slightly exposed. Never plant it deeper than the top of the ball. Place the tree with the burlap intact around the ball into the center of the hole. Be sure it is standing straight up. Backfill the hole firmly packing soil around the ball. Mulch the area to protect the roots from cold and keep moisture in.

Giving plants is about the best way to say "Merry Christmas," because there is a perfect plant for every person on your gift list. From fun little plants for children that help them learn to care

for and grow plants, to exotic plants like Christmas roses which love cold weather and bloom at the holiday time. A traditional poinsettia is always a treat. Trees and shrubs make a super gift for a terrific neighbor or new homeowner. A big broadleaf plant is perfect for the person who needs something to pick up a dull office. No matter who the gift is for, there's a living plant that will cheer both the giver and the receiver. And they go on giving after Christmas as a reminder of your thoughtfulness. There's also a whole assortment of pots and decorative fixtures to fit any need and any pocketbook.

The best part is you never have to worry about sizes or color; plants always fit and they never get tucked away in drawers.

If you choose a living tree or plant for your use or for a gift, be sure to take measures to protect it before planting or giving. Most houseplants need plenty of light, air, warmth. Watering requirements vary, but generally plants should be watered when the surface soil appears dry to the touch.

If you buy plants for outside use, be sure they are balled or containerized. Protect them from cold before planting by covering the ball or container with pine branches, burlap or other materials. Keep them away from cold winds. The soil should have some moisture, but never wet to the point that it could freeze and cause root damage. Most plants need some sunlight during the day.

## N.C.'s Talent Winners Announced

The winners of the N.C. State Talent Pageant were announced Saturday night Nov. 6 at South French Broad School.

N.C.'s Teen Miss Talent is Vickie Lee Allen, Petite Miss Talent, Donna Soesbee, and Tiny Miss Talent, Kimberly Kristen Shope.

Vickie Allen is the 15 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Allen of Riceville Road. She is a sophomore at Charles D. Owen High School. She studies voice under Mr. Julian Brookshire of Asheville. For her talent presentation in the pageant she sang a medley of "Blues."

N.C.'s Petite Miss Talent, Donna Marie Soesbee is the 11 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Soesbee of Candler. Donna studies both tap and ballet at the Fletcher School of Dance, and is also a voice student of Mr. Julian

Brookshire. For her talent presentation she did a tap dance to the "Happy Penquin."

N.C.'s Tiny Miss Talent, Kimberly Shope is the eight year old daughter of Peggy Shope of Asheville. She attends Vance School and is also a tap and ballet student at the Fletcher School of Dance. For her talent presentation she did a tap dance to "12th Street Rag", with choreography by her uncle, Joey Miller.

The girls were judged on suitability of routine, precision, audience reaction, costume and appearance. In mid July the winners will be advancing to the national competition held in Louisville, Kentucky.

The girls would be grateful to perform for any interested local or civic groups. For information contact Mrs. Peggy Shope at 254-6705.



N.C. TALENT WINNERS are shown above L-R N.C.'s Tiny Miss Talent, Kimberly Shope; N.C.'s Petite Miss Talent Donna Marie Soesbee and N.C.'s Miss Teen Talent Vickie Lee Allen.

## Unlikley N.C. Will Give Up Mt. Mitchell Holshouser Says

Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr. has told federal officials North Carolina is not interested in the government taking over Mt. Mitchell State Park as a national park.

A feasibility study of making a national park out of Mt. Mitchell was one of the last proposals of U.S. Rep. Roy Taylor, who is retiring at the end of the current term of Congress.

Holshouser told U.S. Secretary of the Interior Thomas Kleppe in a letter Friday that the state has no objection to the study to consider the "feasibility and suitability" of the area for a national park, "but it is considered unlikely," he said, "that the State of North Carolina will cede its right, title and interest in Mount Mitchell State Park to the

federal government. "Mount Mitchell became our first state park, and precipitated significant activity by the State of North Carolina in preserving significant natural features and providing public open space," Holshouser said.

"We have been assured that the National Park Service will work closely with us, as required by the act, in carrying out this study," he added. "I felt you should know, however, of our interest in maintaining ownership and operation of Mount Mitchell State Park."

When Taylor introduced the study proposal, he said, "Mt. Mitchell is surrounded by a large mountain area of unspoiled wilderness land providing superb mountain views. It could be operated as a national park in connection with the operation of the nearby Blue Ridge Parkway." Taylor's bill directed the secretary of the interior, in consultation with the governor and the secretary of agriculture, to prepare and transmit to Congress within three years a feasibility-suitability study of the proposal.

Chewing gum was invented by William F. Semple of Mount Vernon, Ohio in 1869!

## Mailing Dates For Licenses Are Announced

Edward Powell, Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, announced today an early mailing of renewal application cards needed to obtain 1977 North Carolina motor vehicle license plates and stickers. The renewal cards will be mailed on two separate dates, Dec. 10 and Dec. 20, 1976. A total of approximately four million cards will be distributed.

Private passenger automobiles will again be renewed by stickers. The 1977 renewal stickers are more distinct, featuring a white outline of the State of North Carolina on a dark red background. Other vehicles will receive a 1977 red on white license plate. Stickers and plates will go on sale January 3, 1977 at 102 locations throughout North Carolina.

The license plate stickers must be placed on the upper right hand corner of the 1975 license plate directly over the blue sticker. Powell urged the public to follow the directions carefully on the back of the sticker wrapper before affixing it to the license plate. Motor Vehicle owners who do not receive their license plate renewal card by Jan. 3 should notify the Division of Motor Vehicles, Registration Section, Raleigh, N.C., 27611. The renewal card must be presented when applying for a new plate or sticker. Vehicle owners are asked to read the instructions and complete the application before presenting it for purchase of license stickers or plates.

Commissioner Powell stated "The use of the stickers for the year 1976 saved the State of North Carolina approximately \$774,000 the first year alone. We feel the continued use of the sticker is imperative due to the tremendous cost advantages. We are asking the 1977 General Assembly to provide the funds necessary to implement a staggered registration system in North Carolina. This system can eliminate the long lines by spreading out annual renewals on a monthly basis. This year, however, the renewal period ends by law on Feb. 15, 1977 at midnight. If everyone will come in early during the month of January and early Feb., we can avoid the crowded conditions of past years."

**Classified Ads Call 669-2478 or 669-6848**

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Hoping your holiday will be warm and wonderful.

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**NOEL**

Wonderful wishes to our wonderful customers.

GRAHIC ASSOCIATES Black Mountain

**Joy TO ALL!**

Tidings of joy and best wishes to everyone this Christmas season. We are so happy to count you as one of our many satisfied customers and we hope that we can continue to serve you.

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**GREETINGS**

To wish you a truly joyous Christmas.

LILLI-BETTS COUNTRY BASKET Black Mountain

**Rejoice!**

This Christmas season gives us a special opportunity to extend our greetings to everyone and express appreciation to our valued friends.

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**NOEL**

May the joy of Christmas Stay with you always.

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As we approach the holiday season, we are thankful for your patronage. You have made the year bright for us. We hope to see you in the future. We are here to serve.

**Garland Tire Co.**

SWANNANOA

**Tidings of Joy**

A warm and friendly wish of cheer for Christmas to all our wonderful friends.

HOL-N-ONE DO-NUT SHOP AND GRILL

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**Christmas Carol**

We are singing with joy this holiday season as we extend our best wishes to all of our friends for a happy Christmas.

**SINGER**

THE KEARFOTT DIVISION

Black Mountain