

The shamrock — featured plant for the week

•Full moon on the 17th, St. Patrick's Day.



BEYOND THE WEEDS

by Jean Winslow

•Spring begins on the 20th at 5:25 in the morning. Be there.

•Plant dahlias, glads, caladiums, tuberose, cannas.

•Start spraying and dusting roses.

Shamrock — Plant of the Week
A little history: Shamrocks were used by St. Patrick as his symbol to illustrate the Trinity because of its three leaves. Now on the 17th, "drowning the shamrock" has become somewhat of a drinking celebration, whether you're Irish or not. You figure it out.

A shamrock appears with the thistle and rose on the British coat of arms as representatives of the national flowers of Ireland, Scotland and England.

Several plants have been given this name, says Wyman. Most common is White Clover (*Trifolium repens*),

Medicago lupulina and Wood Sorrell (*Oxalis acetosella*). Another oxalis (*O. brasiiliensis*) is often sold by florists as "shamrocks."

Flowers are one inch in diameter, rosy colored and bloom in winter and spring.

All plants of this family tend to fold their compound leaves at night and open them during the day.

Shamrocks can be grown in a cool greenhouse (45-60 degrees). Corms are planted in fall in loam, humus and coarse sand. These popular houseplants even have a designated pot for planting, about 2 1/4 inches in

diameter. Called a thimble pot, its other use is for cacti.

While growing, water consistently but not too much. Full sun is best.

Towards summer the leaves start dying back. Reduce watering and allow to rest. Eventually top growth

will commence and you should return to normal watering.

Fertilize with a weak liquid all purpose fertilizer.

This all sounds so serious. This is, after all, a plant for good times. So, as my favorite limerist L. P. says:

"Let's all honor the lowly shamrocks
And unlike zucchini spare all knocks
Since it's really a clover
Shall we all move over
It's St. Patrick's Day in the box."
Cheers.

Extension Service hosts meeting

Bring the whole family and take time to attend!

Mark your calendar for March 29, call 426-7697 to pre-register.

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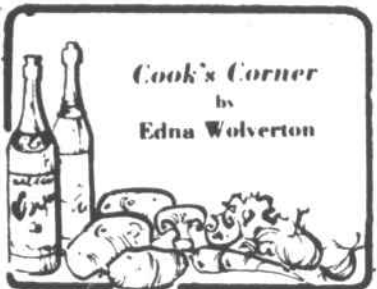
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Try this tasty corned beef dish

With St. Patrick's Day at hand, why not serve a corned beef surrounded by potatoes, cabbage and



Cook's Corner

by Edna Wolverton

carrots? Add thick slices of corn bread to round out a delicious one pot

meal.

Corned Beef with Vegetables

- 1 Corned Beef Round
- 1 tsp. peppercorns
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 head cabbage
- 6-8 carrots
- 6-8 potatoes (medium white)
- brown sugar, 1/2 cup
- 1 tsp. dry mustard

Cover corned beef round with water. Add peppercorns and bay leaves. Bring to a boil and then simmer 3-4 hours until tender. Remove from pan. Add potatoes and carrots and cook until tender. Add

cabbage and cook.

Place beef round in a baking pan. Cover with a mixture of brown sugar and mustard. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes or until glaze has melted and set.

Remove beef to a serving platter. Cool slightly and slice diagonally across the grain of the meat. Surround with vegetables. Serves four.

(Note: I usually thicken the stock with a little cornstarch to make a transparent "gravy" to serve with the meal. Potatoes can be mashed with butter and combined with one cup of chopped cooked kale for a true Irish dish!)

Buttermilk Corn Bread

- 2 Tbsp. bacon drippings
- 1 1/2 cup milk
- 1 egg
- 2 cup Aunt Jemima Buttermilk Cornmeal Mix

Heat oven to 425 degrees. Place drippings in a 10" iron skillet. Place skillet in hot oven to melt drippings. Tip skillet to coat bottom evenly.

Add milk, egg and melted drippings to corn meal mix in a bowl. Mix until blended. Pour back into skillet. Bake at 425 for 20-25 minutes. Serves 6-8.

Block extends farm programs sign-up

Secretary of Agriculture John R. Block extended the sign-up period for 1984 cotton, feed grain, rice and wheat programs by three weeks, through March 16.

Block said he took this actions to clear away some of the obstacles which made it difficult for farmers to make sound decisions about the programs.

Also, many farmers have not been able to finalize crop operating plans including financing and lease

arrangements. Since producers must sign a binding contract in the 1984 acreage reduction programs, which liquidated damages for failure to comply, they are reluctant to sign up until their operating plans are more complete, he said.

"Both USDA and private sector analysts say that when most farmers compare these programs with their own operating plans, they will find participation is to their advantage," Block said.

"This extension will give producers the time needed to weigh the benefits of participation against the risks of no price protection which they would otherwise face."

Block encouraged farmers to avoid a last-minute rush to USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Services county offices so that they can better serve each farmer.



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Senior news

The following is a list of activities being planned for the Senior Center located on Grubb St. in Hertford.

March

15 — Exercise class, 10-11; District 1-B Meeting at Knobbs Creek Recreation Center in Elizabeth City, 2 o'clock; Bible study class, 1:30-3:30.

16 — Income tax assistance, call the Center for an appointment, 9-12; Blood pressures checked for free 9-12 & 2-5.

19 — Exercise class, 10-11; Memory Lane Club Meeting, guest speaker, Dr. Marshall Redding 2:00; croquet class, 1-4.

20 — Basket-weaving class, 10-12.
21 — Bingo, 2-4.
22 — Exercise class, 10-11; Bible study class, 1:30-3:30.

Last week's bingo winners were Mrs. Rosa B. Gibbs and Mrs. Lillian Michael.

The Perquimans County Senior Center is sponsoring a trip to Washington, D.C. on May 18-20 (three days and two nights).

This trip is sure to be a sell out so call now to reserve your seat, or for more information call 426-5404.

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

COST OF YOUR RESIDENCE

It is necessary to keep track of the cost of your personal residence. This cost includes the original purchase price plus the money spent on improvements.

Even though the gain on the sale of your residence may be "deferred" because you buy a new home, a future sale of the replacement residence could be taxable. The cost of the property sold may be determined, in part, by the cost of a prior residence on which gain was deferred.

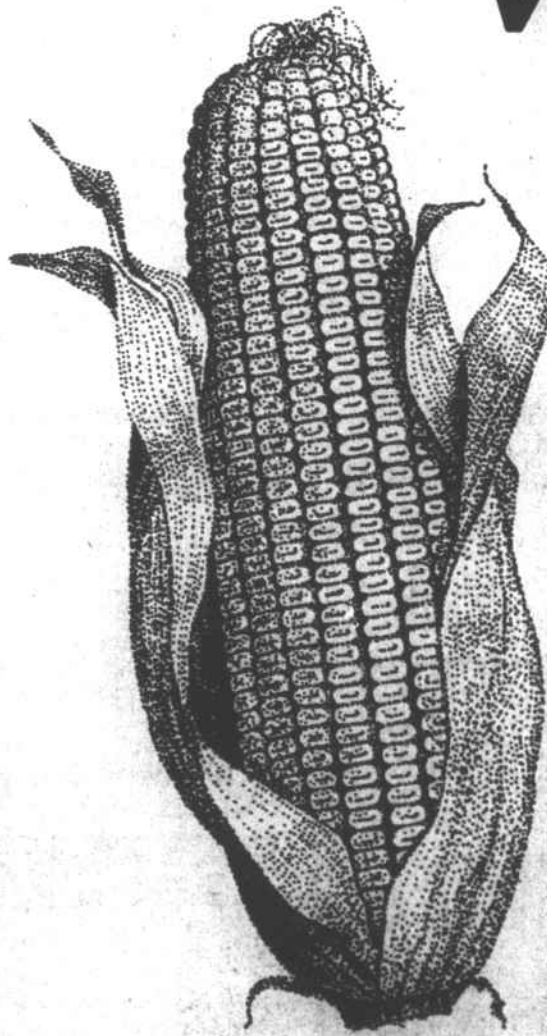
Many of the expenses on your home will be regular repairs and maintenance and cannot be added to the cost of the home. Expenditures for additions to the property such as patios, garages, sidewalks or landscaping do qualify as additional costs of the property and should be recorded. A log book used specifically for expenditures on your home is advisable. You are not entitled to include the value of your own labor, but you can include the cost of all material and labor for which you have a cash outlay.

Here is an example of the gain one may have on a sale. You purchase a home for \$50,000 and over a period of years spend \$20,000 for a garage, sidewalks, and a family room. You also put in 300 hours of your time. You sell the property for \$100,000. Your cost in the property for income tax purposes is \$70,000. Your gain on the sale is \$30,000 minus selling expenses for realtor fee, etc.

If you are buying a fixer-upper or if you are planning a major renovation of your residence, consider opening a separate checking account which is used strictly for property improvements. Since all expenditures, even those which are normally repairs and maintenance, are includable if the work is done within 90 days of the date the property is sold, keep track of all expenditures and let your accountant determine which expenditures qualify as additional house costs.

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North Carolina winner
Third Place **Clifford L. Toler, Jr.**
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