

### GARDEN TIME

Is it unusual for a gardenia (Cape Jasmine) to bloom in October? Yes, it is, but there is a reason for this unusual late flowering and only a few buds are involved.

I was called to a friend's home who has three fine gardenia plants in his yard. Sure enough, there was a fine, fragrant flower. The plants were vigorous and healthy, and he wanted an explanation for the late single bloom.

This bloom was formed from a latent bud. These are buds which may remain inactive for a year or more and then forced into growth by some unusual stimulus in the plant.

While we are on the subject of buds, it should be of interest to know something about the different kinds of buds. It is also essential that we understand the bearing (flowering and fruiting) habits of plants before we can prune intelligently.

I am listing some of the different kinds of buds and giving some examples of the flowering and fruiting habits of some of the fruit and ornamental plants:

Some buds produce only leaves while others produce only flowers. We have both types on the peach tree.

Mixed buds produce both leaves and flowers and are usually referred to as fruit buds - apple, pear and grape.

Collateral buds - two or more buds that form in a group. Example: peach and plum.

Adventitious buds usually form near a wound. You may have observed water sprouts formed near a large wound resulting from pruning; or sprouts from ligustrum and abelia after heavy cutting back.

Next year's peach crop will come from buds produced on wood formed in 1969. We speak of this as being one year wood. They are borne to a lesser extent on short spurs are short-lived.

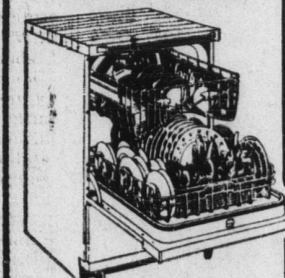
Grapes are borne on shoots of the current (present) season's growth, which come from buds formed on canes one year old.

Your burford holly berries will be produced by buds formed on wood grown in 1969. This is also true for the spring flowering shrubs such as golden bell and spirea.

You can see, then, why a basic understanding of the fruit and/or flowering habits of a plant is important. Anyone can cut a plant but very few prune with a purpose. There is a difference.



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