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For the avid gardener

### Deck the Halls with Home-Grown Greens

Your own evergreens may provide all the fresh greenery necessary to decorate your home this Christmas. And with a little artistic flair, they can look as good or better than commercially available greens, says University of Delaware Extension Horticulturist David Tatnall.

Many common evergreen trees and shrubs can be effectively fashioned into wreaths, ropes, swags and garlands, Tatnall says. Small boughs will also dress up outdoor windowboxes and planters.

Pruning evergreens in December does not harm them if done carefully, Tatnall says. It's best to use the prunings immediately, but greens will store well in closed plastic bags or containers of water. Keep them in a cool place such as an unheated garage, away from direct sun.

Almost any evergreen can be used for decorations, although some are more attractive and easier to handle than others. You are indeed fortunate if you have a large well-berried American or English holly, Tatnall says, or perhaps the beautiful hybrid holly, "Nellie Stevens." These

traditional greens can highlight your Christmas decor in a variety of ways.

Pines are popular, especially the white pine, which is particularly useful for roping. Sometimes, however, the sticky sap makes handling pine greens annoying.

Fir, spruce and hemlock are also used for greens. But Tatnall doesn't recommend using spruce or hemlock indoors because they will quickly drop their needles.

Yews and junipers are common evergreen shrubs that are important sources of greens. Junipers are especially desirable because of their feathery blue-green or grey-green foliage, waxy, blue berries and pleasing fragrance.

Homeowners often have a good choice of broadleaf evergreen shrubs suitable for holiday decorating. Among the best are Japanese and Burford hollies, cherry-laurel, holly osmanthus and boxwood. If you object to the odor of boxwood, Japanese holly, which looks similar, is a good substitute, Tatnall says.

Don't overlook the decorative possibilities of deciduous plants with colorful winter berries.

## Del. College of Ag Host Students

NEWARK, Del. — Ten years from now, will you be able to find an entomologist when you need one? The University of Delaware College of Agricultural Sciences is taking steps to make sure you will.

University officials are very much aware that when young people plan careers, they consider jobs they know best - mostly those they're exposed to at home, school, or on television. So almost all the youngsters who love animals want to become veterinarians, while the science enthusiasts think about becoming doctors or astronauts.

The problem is, many good jobs in lesser-known fields like entomology are going begging because not enough young people prepare for them. The situation is worsening now that high school graduating classes are getting smaller, and there are fewer young people to go around.

To solve the problem, faculty members and extension 4-H agents are working together to introduce youngsters to different career possibilities within the College of Agricultural Sciences. This year they're concentrating on entomology and dairy science.

On a recent Tuesday morning, about 40 seventh and eighth graders from St. Thomas School in Wilmington took a field trip to Townsend Hall, formerly known as Agricultural Hall, on the university campus in Newark. They were greeted by Dewey Caron, chair-

Examples include the winterberry holly (bright red berries), bayberry (waxy grey berries) and autumn elaeagnus (silvery-red berries).

So bring in some of your outdoor greenery during this holiday season, Tatnall suggests, and deck the halls of your home for Christmas!



Students from St. Thomas School in Wilmington learned about agricultural careers on a recent visit to the University of Delaware.

person of the entomology department.

Caron explained that science-minded students could find many interesting career possibilities in the entomology field, from pest control specialist to agricultural chemical company representative to university food production researcher.

The students were impressed as Tom Wood and Judith Hough-Goldstein explained the significance - and sheer joy - of their work. He told how his insect specialty, the treehopper, uses biological mechanisms to protect its young from harm, and to hide from predators. She explained how her insect research helps keep crops from being eaten before they leave the fields.

Doug Tallamy was just as enthusiastic about beetles, his favorite insect. He described how they became the most numerous creatures on earth because of their extraordinary adaptability to diverse environments.

Later in the day, Extension 4-H Agent Mark Manno quizzed the young students about their future plans. Many were considering the

same kinds of jobs as their parents. He asked what they thought about college, and they weren't sure.

Asked to guess how much one year of study at the University of Delaware might cost, they came up with figures many times larger than the actual amount. He let them in on the fact that in-state tuition is only \$1,600 per year, and explained some of the scholarships that are available. He also made them aware of other jobs an agricultural degree would open up to them.

Before the day ended, animal science professor George Haenlein told the students about dairy farming, an alternative to the veterinary field for the animal lovers among them. A film on the subject made clear that such a life isn't for everyone, but it's perfect for independent types who like to get up early. For those who prefer to sleep later, there are related jobs in the feeding and breeding industries. The visitors learned something about different dairy breeds, and, best of all, they were allowed to milk a gentle Guernsey cow from the university herd.

### Herpetology 4-H Club

Two members of the Herpetology 4-H Club gave presentations at their November meeting. Jimmy Talbot spoke on "How to Raise Meal Worms," and Kevin McFall told the group how to raise mice. The club chose a

committee to design their new club T-shirts. A Christmas party was held Dec. 14 at the Extension Center. Their next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 11 at the Extension Center, Route 31, Flemington.

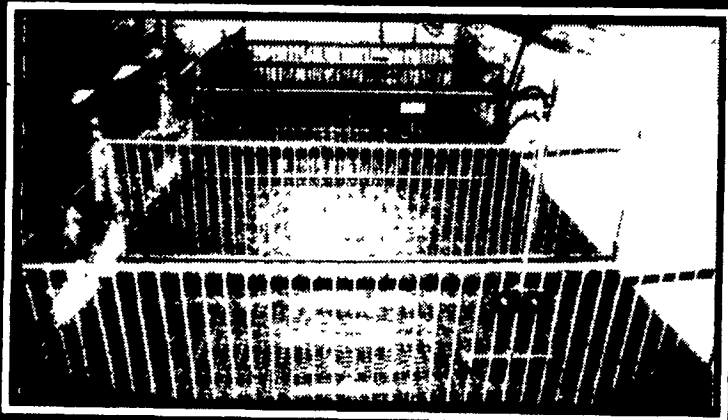


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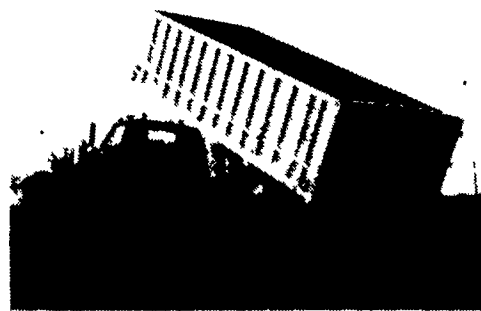
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