

**On Being a  
Farm Wife  
(and other  
hazards)**  
**Joyce Bupp**



high limbs overhead and stirred the scent of fresh pine. Heaven must smell like a pine forest.

The quiet peacefulness of the woods and the fragrance of the evergreens were exactly what I needed. It wasn't necessarily the boughs of pine or the sweet, sticky cones, but that sense of peace away from the rush that prepares some of us to celebrate Christmas. And there it was, not in the stores, or the malls, or the lines - but in the woods.

The pine cones are piled, along with some shiny red balls, in baskets around the house. (And after seeing them priced at twenty-cents-apiece at a store recently, I'd found the mother lode, pine cone wise.) A bouquet of pine fills an old nail barrel on the front porch, with more of my pine cone wealth. The old grapevine wreath has a new wrapping of cherry paper - twist ribbon. Candles glow in the living room at night - when I remember to light them.

We're getting there. For us, holiday decorations are done in few simple, seasonal, natural things.

If you're still looking for Christmas, steal a few moments away from the glitz and the gauche, the tinsel and the tinny, the high prices and the long lines.

Go to the woods. Go for a walk. It's a good way to get back in touch with the peaceful spirit of the season.

## Holiday Plants Have Hidden Dangers

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Those decorative plants that adorn your home for the holiday season are colorful and festive, but they also pose a hidden danger to small children and pets because their leaves, berries, seeds, or roots may be poisonous. Although poisonings from plants in Maryland are rare and deaths from plant poisonings are even more rare, many plants have poisonous properties. Poinsettias, mistletoe, holly and Christmas-rose are a few of the poisonous plants identified in the Cooperative Extension Service's easy-to-read bulletin, "100 Poisonous Plants of Maryland." This 55-page booklet is a handy reference tool that can help you identify quickly and easily the most

common poisonous plants found in Maryland.

This fully illustrated booklet lists the poisonous plant alphabetically by common name with a complete description. Where they are commonly found; why they are poisonous; and what symptoms they cause are explained in a nontechnical and concise manner.

You can request your copy from the Carroll Extension Office, 700 Agriculture Center, Westminster, MD 21157.

"100 Poisonous Plants of Maryland" costs \$3.75 for Maryland residents. For nonresidents, there is an additional charge for shipping. Please make your checks payable to the Carroll County EAC and send to the above address.



## Plateau Farm

(Continued from Page B2)

the trees, pruning and shaping. Janet does most of this work herself but utilizes the help from the rest of the family when necessary. She adds that her daughters have yet to develop the "trained eye" necessary to do proper "shaping."

The area's first major snowstorm came a bit early this year — Janet had only finished all of the work with the trees two weeks prior to the big storm.

All of the operations at the farm are a concerted family effort in some way or another. According to Janet, "the girls are learning basic skills when they have to take over more of the daily household responsibilities that enable me to do the necessary outdoor work." Being outdoors is an added bonus for this energetic family. Janet feels that this accounts for the lack of stress in their lives.

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