

# Kitchen Leftovers

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include African violets, begonias, coleus, English ivy, jade plant and pothos. Other terrarium plants are dwarf maidenhair fern, parlor palm, creeping fig, baby's tears, prayer plant and dwarf gloxinia.

Clean and dry the container. Place a thin layer of small stones or pebbles across the bottom to help drain water. Cover the stones with potting soil that drains well. Slightly wet the soil. Both layers should occupy less than a fifth of the container. Place non-plant accent items such as seashells in the terrarium first. Make holes in the soil with an unwound wire hanger to plant the largest cuttings. Finish with the shorter plants. Never place a plant so it

touches the edges of the container; it will collect moisture and decay.

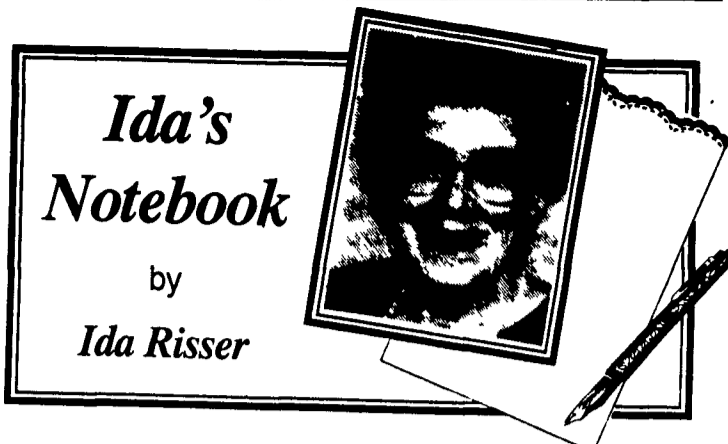
Lightly mist the plants and cover the terrarium. If water beads on the sides, moisture is about right. If the interior fogs, remove the cover for a day to allow the plant to dry. Water the terrarium when the soil feels dry. Mist just enough to barely moisten the soil. Place in a bright light, but not direct sunlight, in an area that remains about 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

- Oranges, lemons, tangerines and grapefruits. These will take about a year to grow into an attractive plant.

Remove the fattest seeds and wash them. Soak the seeds overnight in water. Plant them about a

half-inch deep in a small pot with loose, quick-draining potting soil. Water thoroughly and fasten a plastic bag over the pot only until the seeds sprout. If moisture builds up on all sides of the bag, loosen or remove it to dry it out. Transfer sprouts to larger pots once roots grow through the drainage holes.

Give plants increasingly brighter light. Feed them monthly with a balanced houseplant fertilizer. Citrus plants grow into small, bush trees with glossy, deep-green foliage that gives off a pleasant odor when bruised. After four or five years, some plants flower and produce fruit. Unfortunately, most indoor-raised citrus is hard and bitter tasting.



Days of preparation for Christmas! Our 94 cards with notes are ready the first week of December. Next comes cookie baking. Each year I make most of my 20 favorite recipes. And, I make a lot so that I can share with my Amish neighbors. Finding nice boxes to put them in is the next job. Delivering them is enjoyable if there is no snow on the ground.

I've put swags of evergreens with red ribbons on the two front doors and cut more holly with red berries to decorate inside the house. We cut a small tree from a lot in northern Lancaster County. It was an easy choice as my husband and I both walked up a hill directly to this one special tree. As we set it on a blanket chest inside

our bay window, we need only a small one to reach the ceiling. Last year the whole tree tumbled to the floor after it was decorated. Surely hope that does not happen this year.

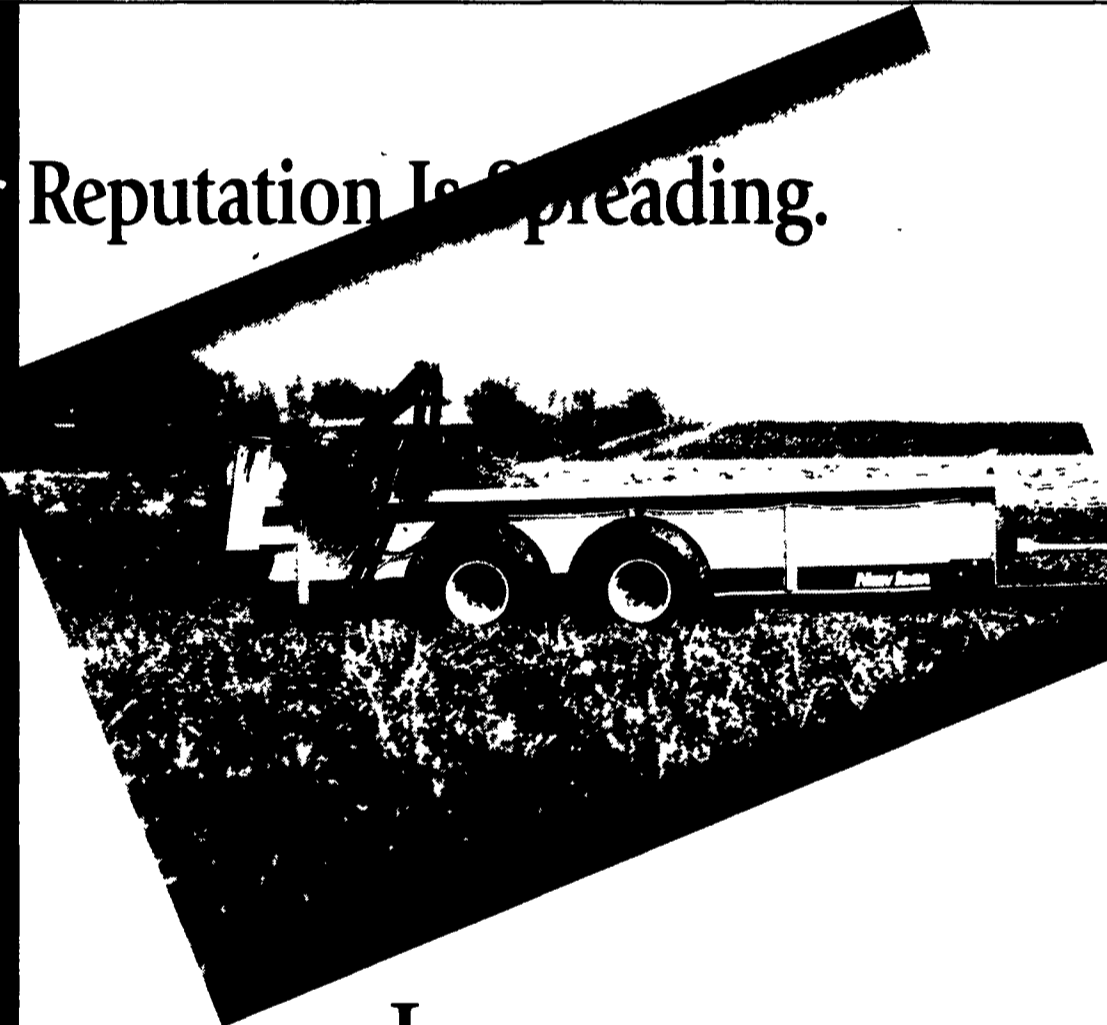
Most of our children will come home for Christmas. Some families will stay for four days and some six days. With a lot of grandchildren running around, there won't be any dull moments. Then after Christmas we will have an open house for lots and lots of relatives. Our gift to each family is a package of cheese. We used to buy a 40 pound block and then wrap individual packages.

Of course, while I'm doing all of this preparation for Christmas, my husband is hunting deer with the emphasis on "hunting." Our son went along to Snyder County one day and told me that he really enjoyed simply being up in the mountains. I do hope we have good weather for all of these activities.

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