Berks Society 4

The Berks County Society of Farm Women Group #4 met on November 4, at the home of Virginia Taylor-Sloan, Hereford.

During the social hour the group made reindeer pins and magnets to be distributed as favors with Meals on Wheels.

President Elsie Rothenberger conducted the business meeting. Ways and Means committee reported a total of \$341.15 in sales of Stanley products for the fall fund raiser.

The State Farm Women pamphlet was distributed to assist in our quest for new active members. Bingo at Berks Heim Main building will be held. Gifts are needed for Berks Heim Santas corner. Virginia Taylor-Sloan volunteered to get these and see



DECORATIONS FROM THE GARDEN

Decorate your home with holiday greens from your garden

Greens from your garden often remain fresh or longer and provide variety for wreaths and holiday table arrangements.

that they are delivered. The Farm Women State Convention is January 12, at the Forum. Harrisburg, banquet at the Penn Harris. The cost for the banquet is \$19. join the fun.

The next meeting is Dec. 2 at the home of Mary Fizz, Boyertown for the annual Christmas party and gift exchange. All are welcome to

Choose evergreens with berries, pruning off branches from yew, Japanese and American holly, juniper, falsecypress, arborvitae or red cedar. This pruning during the holiday season won't stop new growth from the tips, but it will give you a more compact plant next year.'

White pine, Douglas fir, and Norway spruce are also sources of greenery. However, use only the inside branches. Select and remove them carefully to avoid spoiling the shape of the tree. Pine and spruce do not produce new growth from the cut tips.

Cones are a big holiday-decorating plus. Your older pine, spruce and fir trees will supply cones to decorate wreaths and arrangements.

Fruited shrubs provide a beautiful trim for holiday decoration, but many of the berryproducing shrubs have soft fruit which is eaten by birds or frozen before Christmas.

However several American holly (Ilex opaca) varieties have beautiful berries and foliage at Christmas time. The winterberry holly (Ilex verticillata) is a native shrub which drops its leaves in autumn, leaving beautiful berries along the twigs. Ilex v. "Compacta" reaches three to four feet tall when it gets four years old, is good for foundation plantings and low compact shrubs.

Plants these shrubs in groups with at lease one male plant included. They grow well near ponds or in poorly drained soil.

Other plant stems used for decorating include ornamental grasses and herbs, like rosemary, lavender, rue, thyme and bed straw are traditional holiday fare.

> Rosemary (Rosemarinus officinalis) often is used along with holly, ivy,

> and mistletoe for decorating. Rue (Ruta

> named 'the herb of grace' has unusual blue-green foliage and

> > distinctive fra-

Thyme (Thymus sp.) invigorates the senses with a faint clove after-taste and the white flowers of

verum) bloom in mid summer. The common English name is "our

• Use the bluish

berries on a silvery

junipers. Add box-

accents to decorations.

Use a antitranspirat

spray to prevent

broadleaf plants from

• Pines have a soft

Pines do not drop their

needles as fast as spruce and hemlock.

Use nuts and acorns

wreaths. Barberry,

sweet, periwinkle, and

even deciduous shrubs provide interesting

stems, large spines or

bright leaves or fruit.

cerning this article

can be directed to Tom

7408, at Penn State Cooperative

Extension, York

Becker. (717)

County.

All questions con-

wired

oregon-holly

English ivy,

on

lady's bedstraw."

Hers;

'bloom'

decorating tips.

wood, holly,

rhododendrons

drying out.

feathery

on

(gallium

additional

some

and

texture.

fresh

grape,

bitter-

for

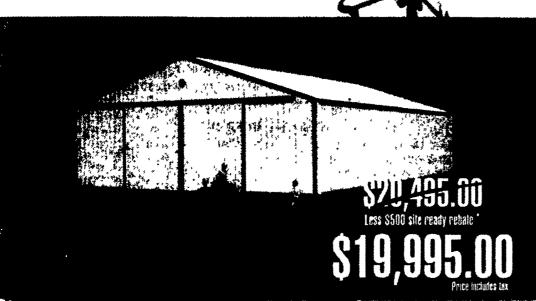
nick-

graucolins)

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bedstraw





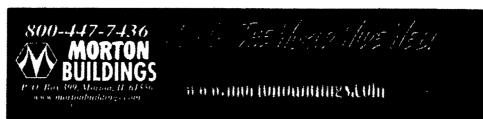
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