gardening

INDOOR BLOOMS

You needn't do without flowers just because it's winter.

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leisure Columnist

Flowers are so welcome in the spring, the appearance of the first crocus and daffodil is occasion for rejoicing. Summer brings an infinite variety of bloom from the common daisy to the carefully nurtured rose and the abundance can be overwhelming. But in the winter flowers are so rare that it is no wonder people carefully tend and fuss over blooming houseplants during the long dull days.

Fewer plants will bloom in winter than during the summer months but there is still a variety. There is the spare beauty of the spathiphyllum

Other than that, fertilize it every two months and after it has stopped blooming, cut off the entire flower stalk and wait for it to bloom again. When the plant outgrows its pot, it can be divided by knocking it out and cutting it in half with a sharp knife. Repot each half in a crocked pot filled with rich soil.

I don't have an abutilon (flowering sample) right now, but I did own one for several years and found it a lovely plant. Its leaves resembled maple leaves dappled with sunlight and its pendulous flowers were soft coral and reminded me of single hollyhock blooms.

The abutilon needs at least a strong indirect light and will enjoy a

The following information is provided by the Franklin County Extension Service:

Now is the time to:

• learn about the life cycle of the gypsy moth.
• grow herbs on your windowsill.

Note:

• Still time to plant perennial seeds.
• Plan to try wide row planting this year, especially peas.
• Don't place cut flowers over a radiator or in a draft and change water daily.
• Hotbeds, coldframes, cloches and hotcaps are great for extending your growing season.

is prized for its bright midwinter bloom. It has thick fleshy leaves of dark green and holds up its clusters of bright flowers above the foliage. The variety with red flowers is the most common but it can be gotten with other colors as well.

This plant should have full sun, but it will tolerate temperatures as low as 50 degrees at night. Don't fertilize while it is in flower, but when it is done, cut off the faded blossoms, water when the soil is dry

and fertilize every two to four weeks as new growth begins. Keeping it trimmed will encourage a habit of bushy, handsome growth.

You needn't do without flowers just because snow is on the ground and the wind is from the north. At a florist like Yetter's you can find a wide variety of plants to suit every situation. If you are a novice, David Yetter is knowledgeable and helpful to customers and browsers alike who have questions.

or the delicate and abundantly flowering wax begonia. Some of these flowers don't even need the proverbial sunny window.

One such flower is the spathiphyllum. A strong indirect light is all it needs to send up its distinctive calla-lily-like blooms all year long. It is quite an easy plant to grow as many businesses have found. When I was working in New York, visits to other offices showed that the spathiphyllum was almost as common as the split leaf philodendron and a lot more interesting to look at.

The main thing to remember about the spathiphyllum is that you must let the soil dry out or the plant will wilt perceptibly. However, it will revive quickly if watered in time. For this reason it is best to plant it in a plastic pot. This will cut down on evaporation.

sunny window. With adequate light it will bloom at any time of the year. Fertilize it every month in the spring and summer and every two or three months when it is not growing rapidly. This is another plant that likes its roots kept moist.

There are many varieties in different colors of the wax begonia (begonia semperflorens), a spritely plant that will give you almost continual bloom. In winter it demands a sunny window but less strong light during the rest of the year. Fertilize it monthly and let it dry slightly between waterings.

Because its roots shouldn't be kept wet, pot it in a soil mix that has extra peat moss added and crock the pot carefully to make sure it has good drainage.

The kalanchoe is a succulent that

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