

# HOME & GARDEN

## Handcrafted items provide joy of creating, de

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What do you do with 25 handcrafted pillows, 75 afghans and assorted stuffed animals? What do you do when needlework is a great love, you don't own a retail store, and there are three of you to share your ideas and enthusiasm?

For Helen Beck, her mother, Mary Forbes, 81, and her daughter, Karen, 16, of Adams Road in Greenfield, the joy of creating often results in a surplus. Like many needle artists, they give away much of their work. Another outlet has been craft fairs and Christmas bazaars.

But for the most part, the three women display their work in their own home. Knitted and crocheted afghans are thrown over couches, beds and chairs — their bright colors providing the decorating scheme for each room. Matching and contrasting pillows are casually tossed about, and you may see one of the small stuffed animals made by Karen's younger sister, Pamela, 11, peeking around a plant or pillow. With so much variety to choose from, and more being produced each week, the colors in a room can be changed with a

won first prize, they have all been enthusiastic exhibitors. Last year they entered nine items and won nine prizes, including a first for Karen's pastel appliqued crib quilt. Karen hopes to exhibit the quilt, which she designed by herself and completely hand-sewed, at Eastern States Exposition this year.

Mrs. Beck and her mother are originally from Long Island, N.Y. Mrs. Forbes started knitting and crocheting on sweaters and baby things when she was very young. "My first afghan was a big square in red and blue," she said. "I ripped apart a skirt and sweater that I had made poorly and reused the yarn. From that time I loved afghans."

Her next venture was 11 afghans from variegated wool. "I used every color they made," she said. Having gained confidence and experience, Mrs. Forbes started designing her own and has done so ever since.

Surprisingly, Mrs. Beck didn't learn to knit from her mother. "I'm left-handed so I couldn't follow my mother's stitch," she said. "I learned from a left-handed neighbor who taught me to knit and cable stitch at the same time. When Karen

County Fair. She enters them in both knitted and crochet categories.

A white, knitted afghan was made by Mrs. Beck with fisherman's wool from a pattern called Dutch Tile sent by a friend from Atlanta, Ga. Very intricate and textured, it won first prize at the fair in 1978.

Last year, Mrs. Beck and Karen took a course in quilting from Mary Merriman and discovered a new art and a new love.

"We made 25 pillows in four months," said Mrs. Beck. "I said to my daughter, 'what are we going to do with all these pillows?'"

Deciding to try craft fairs, they used the business name, "Pastimes," and with high hopes went to a show in Brattleboro. "We each sold a pillow and were very excited," said Mrs. Beck. "Next we traveled to Middleburg, N.Y. and didn't sell a thing. We were somewhat deflated."

By the fall they had decided that the church Christmas fairs were the best opportunity. They did sell most of the pillows and some other small craft items made by Karen and Pamela.

"We never really considered our business," said Mrs. Beck. "I

me backwards."

"Since 1972, Mrs. Forbes has won prizes for 11 afghans at the Franklin

it's nice to get back the money for materials. We sew mainly because we love to make beautiful things."



Karen Beck displays her prizewinning quilt for her grandmother at home.

Since 1972, when Mrs. Beck entered an afghan of her mother's (unknown to her) at the Franklin County Fair and

## Should you grow potatoes?

By DICK L. BOYCE  
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Fresh from the garden, potatoes are delicious! The early or "new" potatoes can be dug as soon as they are large enough to use. Also, those you store for winter somehow taste better than the purchased ones. Recently there seems to be a great deal of interest in growing them in the home garden. They are the number-one vegetable in the United States in terms of dollar value and number of acres planted.

So should you plant potatoes in your garden? If you have a small garden, I say "no." As compared to tomatoes or string beans, their yield per square foot is not justified on a cost basis. I would hasten to say that it is a qualified "no," for you may feel that the potatoes you grow more than make up in taste for the space they occupy. I'm merely pointing out that they do require considerable room in a small garden.

A 100-foot row planted with 10 pounds of seed potatoes should yield between one and two bushels of potatoes. Like everything we grow, these vegetables are subject to various pests and diseases. The Colorado potato beetle is the major reason I don't grow potatoes. It's a real uphill battle to control these colorful insects.

If you decide you want to try your hand at raising a few potatoes, here are some tips on growing. Like most vegetables, the potato should be grown in full sunlight on a fertile, well-drained soil. Unlike most of the vegetables in the home garden, potatoes need a more acid soil pH than the others. The reason for this requirement is to control a soil borne disease called scab. Therefore, lime or wood ashes should not be used in most areas assigned to potatoes.

It is always wise to use certified seed potatoes each year. These can be purchased from garden supply centers and seed companies. These seed potatoes have been inspected to be sure they are disease-free when you purchase them. The potatoes that you purchase from the food market may have a virus disease or may have been treated with a sprouting inhibitor. Some growers use their own potatoes, which they have grown the previous year. These are okay if they are disease-free.

If this is your first year of planting potatoes, you may

## Bring the dazzle of daisies into your perennial gardens

By PAT LEUCHTMAN  
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### BETWEEN THE ROWS

Daisies are a common flower, cheerfully appearing along the roadsides and in meadows early in the summer. I am fortunate that my own fields are dotted with daisies as I am partial to their simplicity. However, they do not make a good cut flower, and they cannot be transplanted very well to the perennial garden, so last night I sat down to make a list of some daisy-like flowers that could be put in a flower bed.

This spring I am embarking on a four-year plan to establish an extended garden area that will include not only my vegetable garden, but also fruit and nut trees, berry bushes and perennial crops like asparagus and rhubarb. (1985 is the Heath bicentennial and if we have a garden tour I want to be one of the stops.) This is such a major undertaking for me that I called upon the expertise of the Hilltop Gardener, Elsa Bakalar, to help me with the basic plan.

Elsa came over to get the lay of the land, and we worked out a general layout for a garden that would be as beautiful as it was protective. She even brought my attention to a corner that could perfectly accommodate a perennial border. Naturally that border will have to include some daisies because they are such a favorite of mine. I like them in the bright sun and at dusk shimmering in their whiteness. They are lovely in the garden, and they are a versatile cut flower for the house.

After Elsa left yesterday with her graph paper and some rough measurements to make more specific plans,

I sat down to see what "daisies" might go in the flower bed.

The Shasta daisy (*chrysanthemum maximum*) certainly comes to mind first. It blooms profusely and makes an excellent cutting flower. Alaska is a standard; a hardy and vigorous variety that reaches a height of about 2 feet. Polaris is another tall Shasta blooming in June and July. If it is cut back after it blooms, there is a good chance you will get another period of bloom late in the season.

Little Miss Muffett is a dwarf Shasta growing just over a foot high. It blooms all through July and August.

Wirral Pride is white with a yellow center, but it has many petals and is more easily recognized as a chrysanthemum. It forms a neat bushy plant about 2 feet tall and the blooms are long lasting on the plant and when brought indoors as a cut flower.

Like most chrysanthemums, Shasta daisies like a lot of sun and a rich, humusy soil. They will need to be divided every other year, but from these divisions you'll be able to provide your whole neighborhood with plants.

I already have some anthemus or false chamomile in my garden. The flowers are daisy-like, but the whole flower is golden, not only the center. There is one variety of anthemus, E.C. Buxton, that has stubby white petals surrounding a fat yellow center, producing the effect of a happy, plump daisy. This plant is not demanding at all. It just requires lots of sun to thrive.

Hardy asters bloom late in the season and are valuable in the garden for that very reason. Many asters, with their golden centers and double rows of rayed petals, resemble the daisy, but Mount Everest is one of the prettiest white asters. Boningale White is a very tall and sturdy white aster that reaches a height of 3 feet and blooms towards the end of September. Having a "daisy" in the garden so late lets me hold onto summer for just a little longer.

Asters also come in dwarf forms, and Snow Cushion is certainly a descriptive name. It produces such an abundance of white and yellow flowers that the foliage on the foot-high mounds is all but hidden. Snowball is another dwarf, only about 10 inches high, spreading 15 inches, that will bloom in September.

And then, of course, there is the painted daisy that is actually a pyrethrum. They come in many shades, including red and pink, but p. album is a pyrethrum that is painted white. Ordinary soil and full sun are all it needs to blossom in June and into July. As an added benefit, painted daisies are rarely bothered by insect pests.

With all the plants I have mentioned it is important to snip off the dead blossom heads as the season progresses so new flowers will keep coming.

It's easy to see that everyone can have daisies in the garden; you don't need a meadow.

All of these plants (and more) are available from: Bluestone Perennials, 7211 Middle Ridge Road, Madison, Ohio 44057; Wayside Gardens, Hodges, S.C. 29695, and White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Conn. 06759.

Flowers induce hummingbirds to the garden