

Christmas Plants' cont'd.

more difficult in the home where all light must be shut out at other than daylight hours. Daily shading or covering the plants, or moving them to a very dark room until the next morning is a necessity.

Once the buds appear, the plants will flower regardless of day-length and night temperature. Temperature is also important in initiating buds. With normal room temperatures, the above procedure regarding light must be followed. If the temperature is between 50-55 degrees at night, flower buds will form even if the plant does not get the prescribed long nights. No flowers will form if night temperatures are above 70 degrees. Of additional importance is bud drop. This is frequently related to extremes in water or exposure to drafts. All of the above information is appropriate for Thanksgiving Cactus, too, as long as the start of darkness begins 3-4 weeks earlier.

Requirements for reblooming Poinsettia are essentially the same as for the Christmas and Thanksgiving Cactus — the number of hours of darkness (13) in a normal day at this time of the year and cooler (60-65 degrees) night temperatures. For Poinsettias, 40 days of reduced light are usually required before the first signs of color appear on the leaf bracts. Once this coloration is visible, the plants can be returned to normally lighted rooms. As discussed for Christmas Cactus, Poinsettias must also receive direct sun during the normal daylight hours.

**James A. Fizzell, Sr. Ext. Adviser
Horticulture**

Green Grass Still Growing for Grau

Fred Grau, class of '31, writes: "The School of Agriculture (president, senior class of '21) gave me a 'feel' for higher education. Six years of farming, building highways in Nebraska, Kansas and Iowa taught me that I needed higher learning.

"My GRASS career began in 1927 when Dr. Keim gave me 25¢ an hour to care for the turf plots at the Living Plant Museum on Holdrege Street. (Ed. Note: the plots mentioned by Grau were probably those that formerly were where Regents Hall is today.) Caring for the Living Museum was a full-time job and very educational. Then I became a 'greenkeeper' on alternate days (hit the books the other days) at the Shrine C.C. (now Hillcrest) on East 'O' Street. We composted stockyard waste for topdressing the greens and thus insured a crop of weeds.

"The AZ scholarship medal in my freshman year was a high point (Elvin Frolik beat me by 1/10 of a point in '30).

"The U.S. Golf Ass'n. called me to Washington, D.C. in July of '31, with a month stopover in Chicago at the Midwest Turf Gardens."

After receiving a Master's degree in '33 and a Ph.D. in '35, "...Penn State absorbed 10 years of my life with time out to tour Europe and a stint with the Office of Engineers grassing airfields. As the first extension agronomist in turf in the U.S. there was a lot of pioneering."

Back to Golf

"The U.S. Golf Ass'n. claimed me as director of the Green Section from '45 to '53. It was challenging to help establish and organize turfgrass organizations and research projects across the U.S. and Canada.

"Organizing the Turf Committee in the American Society of Agronomy was another challenge. Today there is a turf section that has permanent status.

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