

Personal

How do you know it's an Oriental rug?

It must be hand-woven and also hand-tied if it has a pile. If you don't know whether or not the rug is handmade, open the nap and look for a knot at the base. These guidelines do not apply to pileless Oriental rugs known as kilims.

Carpets labeled "Oriental design" are machine-made. Generally speaking, rugs with intricate designs and numerous colors will cost more than those in simpler floral or geometric patterns. The more colors used, the more time spent on the loom.

Price guides, neatness will help sell a car

Buy a car price guide, such as the Kelley Blue Book Market Report, from a bookstore or check one at a bank that makes auto loans. The prices are usually for cars in top condition. Then see what some dealers are asking for the same car and set your price somewhat lower.

Wash and wax the body, clean the interior, buy and use a can of engine cleaner. Try to eliminate squeaks by lubricating hinges and latches.

Describe the car completely when advertising, such as "Plymouth Duster '74, 6 cyl., auto., a/c, 55,000 hwy. mi. & in top cond. Relocation requires sale. \$1,500."

Credit counselors help solve debts

About 4 percent of the families in the United States spend more than they earn, the Wall Street Journal reports. Robert Gibson, president of the National Foundation for Consumer Credit, expects the percentage to climb soon, possibly as high as 10 percent.

If you could use help, contact a credit counseling service. There usually is no charge for the initial consultation and a minimal fee, if any, is established if you sign up for a debt-repayment program.

Planning fall vacation? Try Rhode Island

Few places are prettier in autumn than this small New England state. Take a carriage ride and eat jonnycakes at the Harvest Fair in Bristol on September 17 and 18. Visit the Indian Cranberry Festival October 1 in Exeter or the Narragansett Indian Fall Festival the next day in Charlestown. The 10th annual Scituate Art Festival is on the village green in rural North Scituate October 8-10.

For the sailing enthusiast, the mini-America's Cup model yacht races are September 8-11 and the America's Cup begins September 13 in Newport. Jai-alai is also scheduled there through October 29.

Persons may obtain a vacation guide from the Rhode Island Department of Economic Development, One Weybosset Hill, Providence, RI 02903, or by calling 401/277-2601.

Fall gardens produce tastier vegetables

Lettuce, broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, carrots, collard greens, and brussel sprouts grow well during autumn, says Texas A&M horticulturist Sam Cotner.

The key to a plentiful fall garden is preparing the seedbed. Cotner says this is accomplished by furrowing one inch, watering the soil, then raising the seedbed to drain water from heavy rains. The vegetable will grow quickly if the seed is soaked the night before it is planted and covered with a light layer of compost, potting soil, or vermiculite immediately after the seed is planted.