

TOTEM POLE FOLIAGE PLANTS

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Heating costs have prohibited the carrying of many foliage plants through the winter for cuttings. However, if they are grown as totem poles, similar to geraniums, it can be done with a minimum of cost.

To make a totem pole, the following materials are needed: Bushel basket or large tub, very light or artificial soil mix, poultry wire and a sheet of polyethylene.

The poultry wire, 4' high, is cut long enough to make a cylinder about 8-10" in diameter. The polyethylene is cut the same size and a cylinder is made with the poly inside. A small amount of the mix is placed in the bottom of the container. The cylinder is then placed in the container and filled with the mix. The mix is also placed around the bottom of the container until filled. Holes are then cut through the plastic and rooted cuttings are planted (similar to a strawberry barrel). Water well after planting and fertilize as needed.

The totem pole can be started in the late summer and grown out-of-doors until cold weather. Spray with an insecticide before bringing into the greenhouse.

Plants that can be grown in this manner include Swedish Ivy, Wandering Jew, Coleus and others.

AN EDITORIAL NOTE FROM THE CONNECTICUT GREENHOUSE CROP PRODUCTION TASK FORCE

Scientific journals are often called "juried journals" because articles must be reviewed by several experts on the subject. The Connecticut Greenhouse Newsletter is written in a similar fashion.

Articles are suggested (often by our readers) to the editors and guest authors as much as a year ahead of time. Two months before publication, the manuscript is submitted to a "round table" consisting of the editors and guest authors submitting papers.

A critique of a paper has ranged from a simple reading and acceptance (or rejection) to a three-hour rewrite and debate whereupon it was handed back to the author for further revision and then reviewed by mail.

This is a learning experience for us and, we hope, improves the accuracy and readability of the Connecticut Greenhouse Newsletter. This may not be a "juried journal" but we do have a jury that reviews the articles--even those with mistakes.

NEW TEXT

Dr. John W. Mastalerz, Professor of Floriculture at Pennsylvania State University has written the most extensive book on greenhouse management since Post or Laurie, Kiplinger and Nelson. THE GREENHOUSE ENVIRONMENT may be overly detailed for some readers, but for anyone who is responsible for the management of a greenhouse it should be required reading.

It is published by John Wiley & Sons, New York and costs \$18.95.

POINSETTIA MANUAL

A new manual on the commercial production of poinsettias has been published by North Carolina State University.

Edited by Dr. Roy Larson, many experts have contributed chapters according to their expertise. The manual contains several pictures in color among the 45 pages.

It is available from:

Publications Office
318 Ricks
North Carolina State University
Raleigh, North Carolina 27650

\$2.00 each (checks payable to N.C. State Univ.)

This manual will be a valuable addition to the library of any poinsettia grower.