

GARDENING

This is the time of year when I have to give you a reminder about your flowering shrubs and soft fruit bushes.

I hope that you have already pruned those shrubs that bloomed in the spring, cutting out all wood that has flowered so that the new growth can develop. The same procedure should be adopted with the summer flowering species but there are exceptions: lilac and rhododendrons should not be cut back but the dead flower heads removed.

Weigelas will bloom very soon now and when flowering has finished cut back to ground level leaving the young shoots to grow on for next year.

Red and white currants fruit on old wood so the aim should be to build up a bush with five or six main branches; Short lateral growths should be spurred back to three or four buds and the leaders cut back annually to half their length. On the other hand blackcurrants produce the best fruit on the young shoots grown during the previous year, so in September remove as much old wood as is considered sufficient. Gooseberries bear the best fruit on one year old growth, so be drastic with the old wood when you prune in September.

I hope the wather is kind.

A.V. Mitchell.

Wychwood Photo Competition

We are holding a Wychwood Photographic competition, in conjunction with the Wychwood Forest Fayre which this year will take place at Leaffield on Sunday 2nd September 2001. Details of the competition are as follows.

- **Topics:** The Wychwood Landscape, Great Estates of Wychwood (ie Blenheim, Combury and Ditchley) and The Forest Floor.
 - **Format:** Prints, of a size for easy display.
 - **Purpose:** The winning three entries will be used with a credit in Wychwood Project / Friends of Wychwood publicity, eg. Christmas cards, posters and calendars. Copyright to be released to the Wychwood Project / Friends of Wychwood. The prize winners and a selection of runners up will be displayed at the Forest Fayre at Leaffield on 2nd September.
 - **Judge:** A representative of the Oxford Times. We hope the paper will publish some or all of the winning entries, as they did last year.
 - **Deadline:** Friday 10th August 2001.
- Entries to be sent to Charles Keighley, 24 Plum Lane, Shipton under Wychwood, Chipping Norton, OX7 6DZ.

Please ensure that your name and address is given for the return of entries. Whilst we will do our best to ensure the safety of submissions, please note that we cannot be responsible for entries during or after the competition.