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AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION SERVICE - UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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Buying Citrus Fruit

(0:48)
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Buy citrus fruit by weight. University specialists say the heaviest--not the biggest fruit--gives the greatest value. Select fruits free of watery spots, mold and excessive bruising.

Store oranges and grapefruit in the refrigerator, but if they are in a plastic bag--be sure the bag has ventilation holes.

A law requires that citrus fruit be picked when mature. Maturity depends on sugar, acid and solid content as well as color. Green fruit may be as ripe as golden fruit. Sometimes fruit that is picked golden later turns green.

Florida oranges may have color added for attractiveness. Such fruit is stamped "color added." The law requires that all oranges treated must have passed very strict maturity tests. University specialists say the color added is harmless.

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Buying Furniture

(0:25)

Check doors, fasteners, finishes and hardware on furniture before buying.

University specialists say the doors should be straight and fitted properly so you can open and close them easily. Fasteners should be applied with screws rather than with nails or staples in quality furniture. Some pieces of quality furniture may have screws counter sunk and plugged with a piece of wood so they can't be seen.

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Furniture Finishes

(0:24)

Finishes help accentuate wood grain in furniture. The wood grain should be matched for pattern and appearance throughout the construction of the piece.

For an exceptionally attractive looking wood grain, look for a piece that has a highlighted satin finish accomplished by hand rubbing during the finishing process. If high quality paint or clear finish has been carefully applied, the finish will be smooth. On quality wood furniture, hardware should be suitable in design and scale for the furniture.

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Mail Fraud

(0:50)

Rackets to defraud the public illegally promoted through the mail are costing American consumers about five-hundred-million-dollars a year.

These rackets include chain letters, fake contests, searches for missing heirs, miracle cures, correspondence courses, merchandise offers and get-rich-quick schemes.

University of Minnesota specialist Edna Jordahl reminds consumers that occasionally un-ordered merchandise may come through the mails. But any person receiving it may consider the merchandise a gift and do whatever he wishes with it. It is against the law for the sender to mail bills for unordered merchandise or in any way request payment from consumers.

Persons who believe they have been victims of mail fraud should take their evidence to their local postmaster. Postal inspectors must find that promoters of a product or service have made false claims intended to defraud before they can stop a dishonest scheme.

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