Ms. Susan McGinn

462 Main Street

Bridgewater, MA 02324

Dear Susan:

Thank you for your letter requesting information for your science fair project in which you will test the effects of acid rain on plant life. Your project seems bot educationally sound and envrionmentally important, and we would like to help you in your research.

You requested information on the types of houseplants that would be good for your project. You need a plant that is easy to cultivate but not so harty that it would not react to the solutions you are planning to use. For example, a crassula, such as a jade plant, is not appropriate for your experiment because of its thick leaf, whereas a *maranta leuconeura erythroneura* plant, or herringbone plant, has a thinner leaf. On the other hand, we suggest you avoid delicate plants, such as the African violet. The herringbone plant is neither not too harty nor too delicate. With these attributes in mind, The Garden Company is sending you 24 herringbone plants.

You also requested a list of environmentally safe products currently on the market that are used to protect plants from common pollution. A wide range of pollution-protection products available. However, considering your age, resources, and the nature of the science fair project, we suggest that you use paraffin oil, a lubricant found in natural wax. There are many brands of this oil and prices range from $3.79 to $5.99. You can buy the oil at any retail store that carries plant and garden supplies.

Your last inquiry for information on acid rain and its effects on plant life sent us to the Internet, where we found many helpful sites. We are sending you the information that we downloaded along with a list of Web sites that we found particularly helpful. You will find the acid rain materials and list of sites in a large envelope in the carton of plants.

Because you should remove the plants from the shipping carton as soon as you receive them, we will call your home the night before the delivery. We plan to send the package by Wednesday of next week.

Thank you for thinking of The Garden Company. We are always pleased to help advance the science and ecological protection of plants. Please let us know if there is anything else we can do, and please send us a copy of your research.