



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Here are a few hints on getting more mileage from the flowers you cut from your garden: Cut plants when they are crisp and firm. Never pick wilted flowers. Early morning or evening are best times for cutting. When cutting blooms, carry a bucket of moderately warm water (110 degrees) with you. Place stems into the water immediately after cutting. If

you cannot do this, cut off the lower half-inch of each stem before placing it in water later. Blooms cut and not placed immediately in water pull air into the stem. Failure to cut off the end of the stem permits an air bubble to move up the stem and often blocks the flow of water. You can prevent this by recutting the stems held under

water. Keep freshly cut flowers out of direct sun and out of breezes. Strip off the lower foliage before arranging the flowers. Cutting flowers at the right development stage helps them last longer. Cut most annuals as soon as the flower has opened fully. Perennials are cut just as the flower is freshly opened. Submerge plants should be cut

when blooms are only half open. Cut roses in bud stage, just as the outer petals begin to unfold. Spike flowers such as snapdragon or delphinium can be cut when the lower flowers are freshly opened. MOST flowers are best "hardened" off by placing them in warm water (100 to 110 degrees) in a cool place for

several hours before arranging. Florists do this and believe it helps the cells fill up with water. One reason why flowers wilt or do not last long after cutting is bacterial activity. It causes them to rot and foul the water. Frequent water change will help reduce this problem. Also, commercial preservatives are helpful in prolonging the life of cut

flowers. If not available, you can use boric acid in the water to retard bacterial action. Use 1/2 teaspoon per quart of water.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC:
A reader writes: "We would like to put in a lawn soon and wonder if we can use some rye grass in the mixture. Is it annual or perennial rye?"

ANSWER: No reason why you cannot use up to 20 per cent perennial ryegrass in a seeding mixture to provide quick cover that bluegrass will not. Stay away from annual rye grass as it does not completely die out in winter, and in the second year some of the plants turn into coarse clumps almost as unsightly as tall fescue.

Perennial ryegrass is a different species and does not behave like the annual. Incidentally, Manhattan ryegrass is a distinctive new variety of grass that is hardy, low-growing and dark green. Some of the newer ryegrasses are hard to tell from Kentucky Bluegrass lawns.

Bond Wall Panels Save Time, Work

Face-nailing of paneling has become passe with the development of cartridge-type adhesives that cut modernizing work, time in half.

Clean, quick-drying, easily handled, general purpose panel adhesive adheres firmly to all wood, gypsum board, hardboard, plywood, acoustical tile and concrete surfaces.

Yet, it gives the craftsman time to position the furring strips or panels exactly.

Applied directly to studing, furring strips or solid backing, it eliminates the need for face-nailing, making the job easier, neater and quicker. One cartridge bonds four to six 4x8-foot panels.

After the adhesive has dried two or three minutes, the paneling may be pressed firmly into position.

Screens Extend Living Area

Despite control measures, mosquitoes and other flying pests still are a problem in many areas, spoiling complete enjoyment of outdoor living.

A screened patio or deck can be the least expensive and one of the most enjoyable "rooms" in the home with just a little time and effort.

Simply frame the walls and roof with 2x4-inch Douglas fir or pine and 4x4-inch corner posts. Cover the ceiling with translucent plastic and the walls with any of a wide variety of metal or fiber screening.



Decorator Peg-Board

Using a new Decorator Peg-Board, the homeowner can dress up kitchen areas and, at the same time, put their work. The grasscloth texture of the dual-purpose hardboard comes in a neutral beige tone, suitable for other locations in the home as well.

The upper two-thirds of the



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Decorator Peg-Board was designed by Masonite Corporation as a versatile paneling in such locations as the kitchen, recreation room, child's bedroom, utility room or garage. The panels are made functional through use of metal fixtures fitting the perforations.

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