

# Experts Provide Tips For Home Gardening

Although the passage of Spring has slowed the perennial rush to get in the family garden, there are still many things which the avid gardener can do with the advent of summer.

Among these is weeding, that old standby of the home farmer. Rather than pulling each and every weed by hand, a much easier method is to skim beneath the surface of the soil with the blade of a hoe. This method cuts the weed off from its roots and also loosens the compacted top soil layer so that rain or waterings can soak in more readily.

**HAND-IN-HAND** with cultivating goes watering, for not only is it important to have water, but it must get down to where the roots are. Generally, a vegetable or flower garden needs about one inch of water per week.

If rain does not supply it, your hose will have to. To get enough, use a sprinkler or a soil-soaking hose, either a porous or a perforated one. Above all, don't think you can apply enough by watering by hand. No one can stand in one spot long enough.

How to tell when you've applied enough? Just dig around, here and there, with a trowel.

The soil should be moist at least 4 to 6 inches deep. Another way to check how much you have applied is scatter a few coffee cans around on the surface. Then measure the amounts in the bottoms of the cans.

**NEXT COMES** feeding. Just because you mixed fertilizer into the soil at planting time don't think the need ends there. It gets used up, or leaches away in a sandy soil. Apply about 1/3 as much (pound per 100 square feet) of a good balanced vegetable fertilizer in shallow trenches alongside and a few inches away from every row—double in the case of tomatoes applied in a ring.

When crops just don't seem to get under way leaf feed, too. Mix up a dilute solution of a completely soluble fertilizer and spray it on the leaves. The effect will be almost instantaneous. But, don't depend upon this alone. Side-dress as described above, too.

Finally keep your tomatoes tied up to stakes for best results. Also, spray or dust, if necessary.

## Roof Is Vital To Home Design

The roof is one of the most important design elements of a house and is more important than ever before, according to a recent speech made in Chicago by one of the nation's leading architects.

"Take away the roof from a house and all you have left is a box," said Robert Martin Engelbrecht, AIA, who has won numerous awards for his designs, and whose firm has become well-known for development work in building products and roofing systems.

"The overhang, height, color, size and design of the roof give the exterior of the house its character, distinction and personality," he said. "Roof design is equally important in remodeling and new construction."

"Building sites in metropolitan areas and suburban communities have become scarce and costly. Lots are smaller, and houses are located closer to one another," Engelbrecht said. "While much can be done inside the house to differentiate it from the house next door, the roof architecture is the most important factor in a structure's individuality."

MORE THAN a decade ago Engelbrecht forewarned of the rising cost of land and the trend to small lots. In a national magazine article in 1958, he predicted that by 1970 land values would equal construction values. They already have in many areas of the United States.

"Because of the physical dominance of the roof, color is one of the most important factors in considering roof design criteria," Engelbrecht said. "The color of the roof should be selected before any exterior color."

"If the house is complicated and broken with various setbacks and planes, a dark roof will pull it together more effectively than a lighter colored roof. On the other hand, a lighter colored roof will tend to make a house appear longer."

"The construction quality as well as the color of the roof are important factors in heating and cooling costs. Dark colors tend to absorb solar heat while light colors reflect the hot rays of the sun."

WHILE VIRTUALLY any color or blend is available, the more popular asphalt roofing colors include white, blues, reds, greens, browns and earth tones.

Asphalt roofing offers a designer unlimited opportunities to stylize a roof because of the availability of numerous colors and blends, textures and patterns. Color allows individuality, personal choice and the opportunity for one to distinguish according to his own taste.

In choosing the roofing material, the homeowner should select a product that not only has color but the advantages of low maintenance, long-lasting durability, the UL label for fire resistance, wind resistance and insulating value.

A comprehensive new booklet which helps homeowners select the right roof for their house is available by sending 25 cents to cover mailing and handling to 3M Company, P.O. Box 3500, 3M Center, St. Paul, Minn. 55101.

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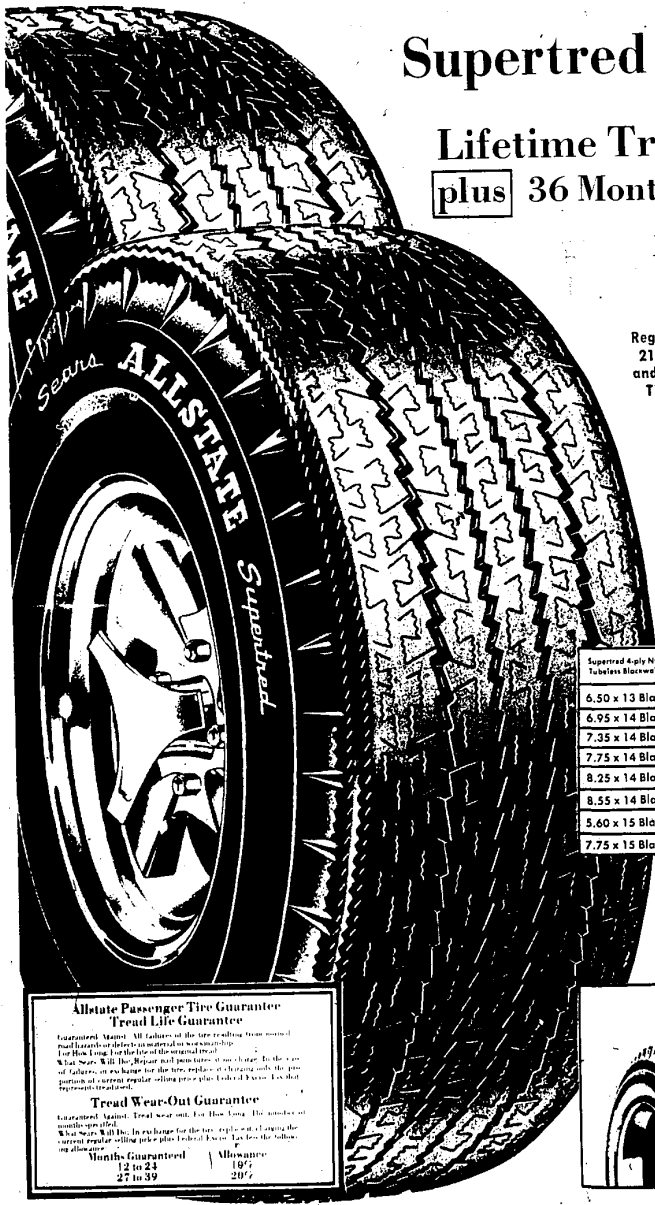


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