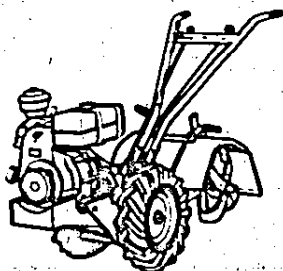


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Stranger's eye spots problems

By ALICE WESSELS BURUNGAME

This is the time to turn your property into a real garden spot, to give your home a new look and to put some extra zest in your own life by creating beauty with nature's living things.

A good way to start is by taking a walk across the street from your home to view the edifice like a stranger.

What does it look? A good trimming may be needed. If you have evergreens, now is the time to act, as the cuts will be covered by new growth in short order.

With your stranger's viewpoint, look at tree placement. You may place trees to frame a house or to afford more privacy within the house for a specific room.

If you have beautiful architecture, frame the total picture with trees, but don't hide an asset of the home's design.

Now, how does the lawn look? Have you done your spring house-keeping: raking, weed control and fertilization, seeding the open spots a couple weeks later?

What about the driveway? You may have to fill in those ruts where Aunt Emmie slipped off the surface last winter. Go to your compost pile where you can always come away

with a bushel of soil, and fill the the grooves and top dress adjacent to the drive as needed—then seed.

Now, there is the back door—bless it. It welcomes the dead tired wage earner, the frustrated mother who is trying to cover ten bases at once, the children and all of our friends. Here is a place for lots of TLC.

Can't you place some patio blocks to aid in traffic control and keeping the entrance neater? If the space will allow, how about planning a bench adjacent to the rear entrance? Is there space for a vine? Can you widen the steps and have pots of flowers at the base of the steps or elsewhere space allows?

Plan some interesting plantings not far from the end of the driveway and near the rear exit. Beauty seen has a way of cheering the homebound.

You might adopt a Japanese technique in garden design. You can borrow a good view from your neighbor's garden without destroying privacy with a little judicious pruning. My neighbor has a planting at the top of a wall of ledge rock, and I recently opened my shrubbery a bit so that I enjoy another dimension of beauty from my window.

Step back and take a look. You may see a whole new look develop around your home.

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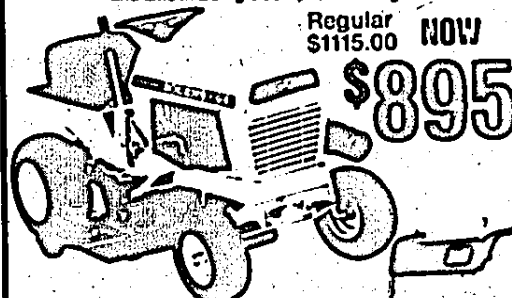
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