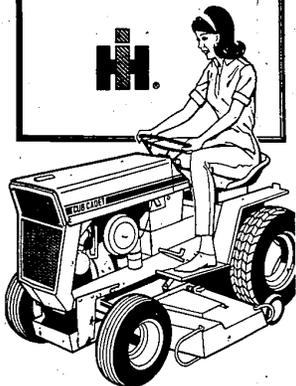


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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Why roses change colors: Actually, roses do not change colors. When they revert back to a different bloom, it means that the true bud has died (usually from winter cold) and suckers from the understock have come up. Sometimes suckers will crowd out the desirable plant, and that's one good reason why you should keep the suckers off the base of the plant.

Usually when a rosebush has grown tall and gangly, without blooming, you can be pretty sure that the cultivated bud has died out and the understock has

taken over. There is nothing you can do to prevent a sucker from coming up from below the surface of the soil. Keep on cutting them off as they appear.

Many ask why rose foliage has different colors during different seasons. Rose leaves in early summer are nice and green, some reddish and bronzy. As the season advances many leaves lose their luster and it's nothing to worry about. Usually, the more foliage you can leave on the plant in spring the brighter and more intense the flower coloring. Even cool,

cloudy weather may increase the color since less of the food is used up.

FREE: Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope (9 by 4 1/2 inches or thereabouts) and ask for a copy of our booklet, A Handbook For Rose Growing prepared by the All-America Rose Selections. This guide has some good information for growers of all types of roses.

SALVIA NOTES: Don't forget there are different types of salvias, some early and some late. If you live in an area where frosts come early, better stick to the dwarf, or earlier types. Probably the best dwarf salvia is Red Pillar, one of the earliest to bloom.

Tall salvias such as Bonfire are fine for background use, but they are later blooming than dwarf varieties. Another good one to try is the St. John's Fire, one of the earliest and dwarfest of them all. It blooms in early August and continues until frost. If you live in a short season area, you might try St. John's Fire. Salvias like full sun, but surprisingly, they'll take a little shade.

Sometimes salvias will self-sow and come up again, but don't count on this. And don't forget the blue salvia, a real favorite. It has long graceful spikes of soft blue, and these can be used for indoor arrangements, or for dried flowers. Plants are bug-free and will flower way into late fall. If you want something different, put in a few blue salvias.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "We planted some evergreens around our house recently. Should these be trimmed now or left alone?"

Answer: Leave them alone for a couple of years, then you can start to trim them. Bare-rooted flowering shrubs should be cut back if you plant them this season. Cut back to about 1/2, and keep them watered during the summer. Hedges should be trimmed back also, to within eight inches, if recently planted.



DETROIT'S RECENTLY appointed Housing Commission Director, Conrad L. Mallett, will speak before a luncheon meeting of the United Northwestern Realty Association - Western Wayne - Oakland Board of Realtors on Thursday, June 12, at Cregar's Restaurant in Detroit. Mallett is expected to reveal to members of the Realtor organization details of the government's program for participation in Detroit housing.

Landscaping Tips Offered In Booklet

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The special offer will be kept open until Aug. 1. Weedone type weed chemicals may or may not harm your clover. But the loss is minor compared to ridding your lawn of weeds. Clover is most sensitive to weed killers in spring and fall according to turf experts.

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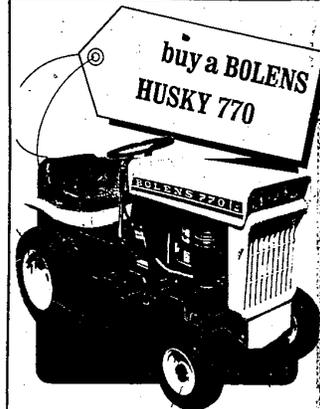
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