

# Cool it

## Let Nature be your 'air-conditioner'

Energy conservation in the home and office not only makes good sense, but it pays off in real benefits. Congress has even voted tax incentives for homeowners who add insulation to their homes to reduce fuel consumption.

The amount of money saved in home or office utility bills from turning down the thermostat, insulating more effectively and cutting down on air conditioning can make a big difference in the family or business budget over a year's period.

Proper landscaping can also have an important impact on utility bills when you tally up all the things trees, shrubs evergreens and other green plants do to regulate the climate in and around the home. And the little side benefits they provide also help save money as well as increase property values.

**A FEW SHADE** trees, for example, properly located along the southern or western sides of your home, help reduce air conditioning needs by blocking out

the hot summer sun's rays and adding cool moisture to the air.

According to the American Association of Nurserymen, as much as eight degrees reduction in temperature has been recorded between shaded and unshaded areas in tests.

Even three or five degrees difference in the inside of a house in summer can affect how much the air conditioner will have to operate to maintain a comfortable temperature.

And because trees and other living plants help reduce noise, purify the air and produce oxygen, the windows of your home can be left open on summer days, further eliminating the need for costly air conditioning.

A few well-placed trees in the backyard are not only pleasing to the eye and fund places for kids to play, but a clothesline strung between them offers the benefit of fresh-air drying of clothes and helps cut down on the use of hot laundry dryers that use precious electricity.

**ANYONE WHO** has ever noticed the coolness of the inside of



Trees and vines are natural air conditioners.

walls covered with ivy on a hot summer day knows how much a proper planting on masonry or brick wass, or on trellises if your walls are wooden, can help cool the interior.

A whole variety of attractive ivies is available, like the popular English ivy, and can be planted and maintained easily.

When planted on the sun-bearing sides of a building, vines are effective shields from sweltering summer sun. They give off cooling moisture and set up a convection current that circu-

lates warm air away from the wall.

When planted on the northern or eastern sides of a house, they act as effective insulators from chilling winter winds, thus keeping heat loss at a minimum. **VINES ALSO** serve as a sound abater as well as an air purifier, and that helps make the home more comfortable in other ways.

When the winter winds start to beat down from the north and east, a good windbreak of hedges or evergreens can re-

duce the impact of the cold wind on your home.

Hedges, for example, not only serve as good sound barriers and privacy screens, but are also effective in reducing the damaging effects of all types of winds, especially in the winter when arctic winds in certain parts of the country are fierce and drive up heating bills.

Planted materials are much more effective windbreaks than fences or masonry wall because they are flexible and break up the wind, reduce its velocity,



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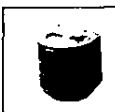
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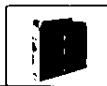
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