



## Make your own fertilizer

What kind of fertilizer can I use that is economical and easy to use?  
Harriet D. Bloomfield Hills

Make your own—it's easier than you think. Rather than compound the garbage problem, compost it. You can do it in your kitchen. The following is very good (and especially good for all apartment dwellers). Just cut off one side of a milk carton and staple the top shut. Put about a half inch of soil in the container. Dice all wet garbage (so far I have tried everything except meat scraps) and stir it into the soil. Sprinkle the soil with water to keep it moist at all times. Stir the mixture several times a day. About once a week add more soil (1/2 to 1 inch layer) and a sprinkling of dry fertilizer (less than 1 tsp.) to add nitrogen.

If kept moist and stirred, vegetable matter is unrecognizable in three days and there is no unpleasant odor. When the container is too full to allow easy stirring, use a cut-off one side of a milk carton and just put it out in your garden and start again. Be sure to stir and agitate thoroughly and often.

I always admire the shiny green leaves that you find in a florist's—however, I do not like to take all that much time to care for my plants. Do you have a solution?  
S.M., Southfield

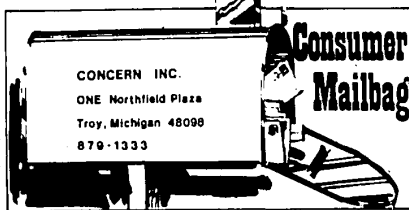
Yes, and a very simple one. When you are watering your plants, take a drop of detergent (a very small drop) and just add it to the water. I haven't worried about all the soap suds. When I first heard about that was quite skeptical but it goes back to a very basic fact—plants use phosphates and soap detergents have a small amount of phosphorus in them. It also kills the insects in your soil.

I love fresh flowers but after awhile the bottom of the vases don't come sparkling clean.  
L.H., Rochester

For those hard to reach places I found that if you soak a few tea leaves in vinegar and then wash them around and wash as usual, it's like new.

I remember that in the old country they would eat dandelions—are they any good—we think of them as a nuisance in our lawns.  
T.G., Farmington

Here are a couple of recipes for you to try. I'm sure B.J. will remember to use them in your garden and dandelion leaves. They were originally brought over to this



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country and planted by the colonists. Because they are high in protein, calcium and phosphorus, and particularly in vitamins A, C and B, they were used to prevent scurvy during the long sea voyage. But young leaves in salted water. Drain them, add butter or margarine and eat. Or mix four eggs and four tbsp. cold water. Add salt, pepper to taste. Add one cup chopped dandelion greens. Heat two tbsp. of butter in frying pan. Pour in eggs with dandelions. Stir. Eat while hot, soft and creamy.

Lady bug, lady bug, fly away home, your house is on fire—and I don't remember the rest. However, news that a lady bug or lady beetle, according to legend it is bad luck. In fact, they are of definite value in reducing pest damage. They feed on and destroy all life stages of destructive aphids as well as scales, mites and mealybugs. P.S. We now have the 1977 Living Garden Calendar available from our office. This calendar is packed full of good environmental gardening ideas. In order to obtain yours, send \$2.95 plus 33 cents for postage to Concern Inc., 1 Northfield Plaza, Troy, 48069.

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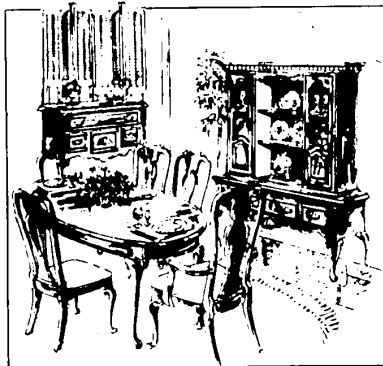


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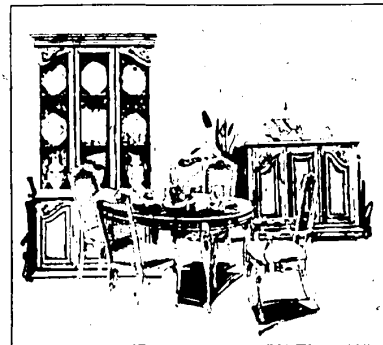
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