

# Lawn care starts with a good base

Last week's column had tips for lawn care. Now, this week there are additional hints to upgrade your lawn.

You can grow a new lawn area under a polyethylene hot bed. First you prepare the seed bed, fertilize and sow seed. Water lightly but thoroughly, until the soil is soaked. Spread a 1/2 mil polyethylene sheet over the area. You can use two inch roofing nails or stones to hold it in place. Seed will germinate quickly because the plastic is translucent and keeps out some of the infra-red rays. Moisture condenses each night and drips on the seedlings—an automatic watering device.

If you have an old lawn which needs renewing, mow the lawn low, and then rake over the surface with an iron rake. The average lawn grows 36 inches per year and therefore can use fertilizer spring and fall. Think of your lawn as being a bank account, you have to replace what you withdraw.

Your lawn may seem quite bumpy. You can top dress it with a mix of 50 per cent loam and 50 per cent peat moss. If you have lots of moss in the shady areas you can feed the spots with lime to relieve the situation.

Some of you are tackling an area to establish a lawn where the base is clay. Sharp sand and bush-knot gravel will help open up the "hard pan." Then apply two inches of top humus.

Most people use twice as much seed as they should. Prepare a good base and you will come up with a good lawn.

Marybeth West, garden editor of

Home and Garden, shared some ideas at a meeting of the American Horticultural Society for those who enjoy private home gardens. Among her suggestions were to plant eggplants in a patio container. I assume they would need support. You could stabilize a large tree branch in a large juice can with plaster of paris. When thoroughly stable, insert the can in a large pot, fill around its perimeter with good soil and then plant the eggplant to climb up the tree for a vertical line.

This well known writer also suggested planting dwarf fruit trees in a container with good drainage. For a small intimate garden she likes to have a carpet of forget-me-nots follow a planting of bulbs.

Many local gardeners incorporate photography with their interest. They will find reflectors aid in bringing out the texture of a plant rather than using lights outdoors.

After our local gardeners have their "surface work" done in the garden, their zeal may turn toward the pleasure of having many hanging baskets.

Here are a couple of suggestions. Kalanchoe Pumila which has grey-green foliage and pink flowers makes a fine basket. Another idea is to use yellow mums with white sweet alyssum. If you follow through with the idea of having mums in your hanging basket, keep the ends clipped until it is time to set buds.

If you have a brick fireplace wall at your house, consider espaliered magnolia for an accent against the brick, but not on a north wall.

# Israeli statement here for reception

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Shenkman hosted a reception in their Farmington Hills home Thursday honoring Ambassador Josef Tekoah, on behalf of the Ambassador's Society of Trustees (AST) of State of Israel Bonds.

The event was geared to raise membership in AST, an honor society founded in 1976 in response to Israel's need of support of her economic development program.

Tekoah assumed the presidency of Ben-Gurion University after serving as Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations.

Shenkman, who lives at 31430 Stone-wood, is a former president of Beth Aaron Synagogue (now merged with Beth Achim) and is a member of AST. He was instrumental in building the new United Hebrew School, in Southfield, and is a past president of United Hebrew School.

Mrs. Shenkman is a past president of the Michigan Branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism and currently serves on the national board of that organization.

The Shenkmans recently planted trees in the American Bicentennial Forest in Israel; have donated a



JOSEF TEKOAH

library-audio-visual room to Shaary Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem, and donated a recreation room at Youth Aliyah Village.

## Liturgy to include 70 area groups

Representatives of more than 70 Catholic Charismatic Renewal prayer groups from the archdiocese of Detroit will take part in the annual Eucharistic Liturgy of Pentecost at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral at 1 p.m., May 14.

John Cardinal Dearden, Archbishop of Detroit, will celebrate the liturgy and deliver the homily.

Music by volunteers from the music ministries of the prayer groups will range from the traditional Latin and English hymns to modern folk.



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