

# Lawn And Garden Week Observed In March

The Lawn Institute is one of the sponsors for National Lawn and Garden Week, celebrated this year March 20-26. Join in by doing what you can to beautify your surroundings.

Most lawns can be improved at this season by seeding and feeding, and some lawns may need weeding as well.

Community projects are

## Suburban Gardener

# Spring Gently Nudges Early-Bird Gardener

By BETTY FRANKEL  
Spring, that most eagerly awaited of all seasons, offi-

cially arrived on March 20.

It begins with the vernal equinox, which is the moment or point when the sun apparently crosses the celestial equator on its diurnal swing to the north. At that point, known to astronomers as the first point of Aries, the day and night are of equal length -- not only here but in all parts of the world.

The word "spring" has its roots in ancient languages, and of course means the beginning or start. It is the time of growth and rebirth.

In our latitude winter still retains an icy clutcher on the land, but gardeners rejoice when the iron grip is relaxed a bit, even if temporarily, so that vivid green narcissus tips poke above the crusty soil or a cluster of crocus buds growing in a sheltered nook explode into a burst of gold and purple blossoms.

EACH OF US has our own personal harbinger of spring -- a pussy willow lined with furry catkins, swelling buds on silver maples, a subtle golden quickening of willow twigs, the hooded blossoms of skunk cabbage in the frozen swamp or the metallic trills of redwing blackbirds.

The arrival of spring doesn't really coincide with the arrival of the gardening season, although there are some early chores that can be done.

Especially in spring the gardener is subservient to nature's moods. He must wait until the frost is out of the ground and the soil is dry and crumbly before beginning digging operations.

Impatient gardeners can begin the season by giving the yard and beds a clean-up. Remove any accumulated debris, and gradually begin to loosen and remove winter mulches.

Lawns can be given an early season feeding and if there are any bare spots or thin, worn areas they can be seeded. This can be done even on frozen ground or on top of a light covering of snow.

CHECK TREES and shrubs for winter damage and for any evidences of infestation by insects or diseases. Prune off

broken branches and prune and burn diseased branches.

This is a good time, too, to look at the form of each tree and shrub. Branches can be pruned off to improve the shape of plants. Remember, though, to keep the natural form of the plant. Also, if spring flowering trees and shrubs are pruned now, blossoms will be sacrificed. Better wait until they have finished blooming.

This is the time to apply dormant sprays to fruit trees and ornamentals to control scale insects and other pests. Many of these dormant remedies are old-fashioned remedies that have been used by farmers and gardeners for generations. It is far better to rely on these than on modern miracle pesticides that are harmful to man and wildlife.

Among these older remedies are fungicides containing copper or sulfur, lime-sulfur for scale insects, and others containing lead acetate, nicotine and other substances that are poisonous but less so than newer chemicals. Use them with care and follow directions on the labels.

SEEDS OF TENDER annuals and vegetables can be started indoors on a sunny windowsill. Some hardy flowers, such as sweet alyssum and bachelor buttons and larkspur can be seeded outdoors. Sprinkle the seeds on top of the soil where the plants are to grow. They will germinate early and get off to a head start.

For a real spring preview, bring into the house a few branches of forsythia, flowering quince or flowering crab. Arrange them in a vase of water and within a few days the buds will begin to swell and will start opening in about a week.

Try a branch of red-stem dogwood if you have this shrub in the garden. The flowers are not showy, but the tender pale green leaves make a striking combination with the shiny lacquer-red stems.

## Plush Hush Bathroom

As absurd as the whole idea may have seemed at first viewing, that TV commercial with apartment neighbors sharing a common bathroom medicine cabinet comes uncomfortably close to the truth. And the truth is that too many bathrooms -- and not only those in apartment buildings, either -- fail to provide as much privacy as they should, according to styling consultant Jeanne Norwood.

Though frost on the window and a lock on the door do make it possible to get away from the sight of other people, they do very little to keep noise from intruding -- or escaping, for that matter.

MISS NORWOOD, consultant to a leading manufacturer of deep pile bath accessories, said the very nature of the bathroom itself often tends to compound the problem.

Most bathrooms are small -- taller than they are wide in some cases -- and filled with hard surfaces, so that sound is not merely bounced back but even amplified.

That's why the man who thinks he's another Enrico Caruso when he sings in the shower isn't too far from wrong.

"ONE WAY to overcome this echo chamber effect and achieve some measure of peace and quiet is to use material that soaks up noise instead of magnifying it," the consultant suggested.

Her advice can be followed without spending a fortune. With luxurious deep-pile rugs and accessories it's now possible to put a plush hush on everything from the floor to the doorknobs -- even in a large bathroom -- for well under \$100.

## Shop As Team

Tip to wives: Take your husband along when you shop for a new mattress.

According to the Spring Air Mattress Company, Chicago, 76% of mattresses are bought by the husband and wife as a team. The wife alone makes the buying decision in 24% of cases.

Another finding is that while most shoppers start looking at mattresses priced at \$99 and under, they wind up buying units at \$69 and higher.

"Wise shoppers quickly find that you get the best value when you pay a little more," the company concludes.

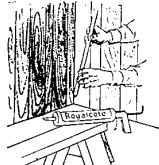


## For Easier Paneling

PANELING a room's a cinch when you can do it without nails.

The up-to-date do-it-yourselfer now uses a cartridge-type "stickum" like Royalco General-Purpose Adhesive to eliminate old-fashioned chisels and nails. The adhesive is applied to the wall, then the furring strips are pressed into it.

The new adhesive eliminates drilling into concrete, a frustrating prelude to putting up furring strips for a basement modernization. A few boards of adhesive serve instead. The adhesive permits the handyman to move the strips or panels into exact position, too, before it sets.



This exciting product, which takes most of the work out of room paneling, is made by Mastic Corporation and sold by lumber and building materials dealers. It may be used with the hardboard manufacturer's decorator paneling or with any other.

Use it for adding a decorative wood corner, base and cove moldings, too.

## Fancy Gadgets

There's a new line of gourmet-influenced kitchen gadgets designed to handle some of the more specialized tasks of fancy cooking.

They include a cherry stoner, a sardine tin opener for when the key that came with the sardines breaks, mint and parsley cutter, garnish chopper, nutmeg grater, lemon grater, cork remover and slicer-grater-shredder.

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