

FIX-IT TIP

If you plan to work on the outside of your house using a ladder, make sure the ladder is not defective. Check the rungs and side rails carefully. Check any ropes and pulleys to make sure they are securely fastened and work properly. Be sure the ladder is positioned firmly both on the ground and against the house, before ascending it. Set the foot of the ladder away from the wall one-fourth of the distance to the point of support. If you are using scaffolding, make sure it is secure.

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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Home gardeners become concerned when they see "fairy rings" in their lawns.

To ease your mind, know, fairy rings are those dark green rings of grass which get wider and wider each year. They are a mushroom growth, and several different species are involved in fairy ring formation.

Some people eat them, but I'd want to be very particular because some varieties are poisonous.

How do you get rid of fairy rings in the lawn? There's no decent chemical way that I know of.

Different methods have been suggested by readers:

(1) Mix one cup of household bleach in two quarts of water and drench the area.

(2) Mix one pound of Epsom Salts to one gallon of water and apply over the rings.

(3) Four boiling hot water on the rings to kill the fungi.

(4) Mix up some copper sulfate, one tablespoon to a gallon of water and drench.

(5) Putting a detaching machine over the area, and then removing the loose thatch.

(6) Lime applied on the rings may influence the growth of the fungus.

These are some suggestions. I've received. Actually, I know of no effective cure, but suggest you try some of the above tips, hoping they're helpful.

COVERING STEEP BANKS:

Got a bank too steep to mow? Locate a bed of vine or nifty, a useful item for sun and shade. This evergreen vine grows fast and roots down frequently. If your neighbor has a patch ask him for a few plants so you can scatter them six to 12 inches apart.

Another item worth trying is the algae, growing fast in sun or shade. In spring runners root in all directions, forming new plants to hold soil. Foliage seldom more than four inches high, but taller flower spikes are produced in May.

Pachysandra, or Japanese Spurge, is another good groundcover for short banks in deep shade. It too spreads by underground stolons to form a mat that holds the soil. Do not plant in full sun as leaves turn a pale yellow. Also do not shear these small evergreen plants as it weakens them.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "We have a dieffenbachia which has a tall stem, bare and unsightly.

What can be done to make it bushy?"

Answer: I'd cut the top out and root it in a jug of water. Then take the bare stem and cut it into four inch pieces and root each in a pot of sand and peatmoss. Bury each piece horizontally covering only lightly. Keep each section damp, not soggy, and it will root. After that pot each one and you'll have a lot of extra plants.

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Closet Converts To Home Laundry



Let's face it. Many a home just doesn't have space for a fully equipped, dream laundry. Of course, a laundry doesn't have to be big to be efficient, but time was when the most compact laundry center required four to five feet of wall space.

Well, rules change, and such is the case with a compact laundry. Four to five feet of space is still needed, for a pair of full-size laundry appliances, but a well-organized, completely automatic laundry area is possible with less.

Three steps led to this super-compact laundry.

1. Removal of a closet yielded 42 inches of wall space.
2. A sink peninsula arrangement provided the convenience of a laundry close to the kitchen, yet separate from it.

3. A portable clothes dryer was wall-hung (over-lap fashion) over the peninsula and washer, with adequate clearance for the washer lid.

SUCH A laundry arrangement can work equally well in numerous locations about the home—wherever this modest amount of space can be found. One advantage of this particular location is that it reduces plumbing expenses because of its proximity to the kitchen sink.

Detergents, bleach and other laundry aids store in cupboard above the washer, with additional space available in the corner base cupboard of peninsula unit. There's room here also for any soiled items that may need to be held over for a special-type load at a later time.

And, a step away, a tall cupboard stores an iron, ironing board and supplies, caddy for prompt hanging of freshly dried permanent press clothes, plus a small hamper for items to be ironed.

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Vegetable gardening isn't hard. The Indians grew corn centuries ago, even when they had to till the soil with a pointed stick.

Now, with modern tools, what work there is to vegetable gardening can be a pleasure—as well as providing

needed exercise and relaxation.

The chief thing to remember is not to bite off more than you can chew—not to plant more than your family will eat.

If everyone detests parsnips, don't plant any. And figure how much your family will eat of other vegetables before you plant the seeds.

Plan before you plant, for placement of crops as well as for how much of each kind. Tall crops planted south of short ones shade them, resulting in spindly plants.

If you wish to plant asparagus or rhubarb (commonly planted in the vegetable area) place them at one side or end of your garden for they come up each year from once-planted roots.

FOR INSTANCE, 25 feet planted to beets should yield half a bushel. Five feet less than that planted with turnip seeds will result in one third bushel at harvest time. Will your family consume more than these amounts?

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