

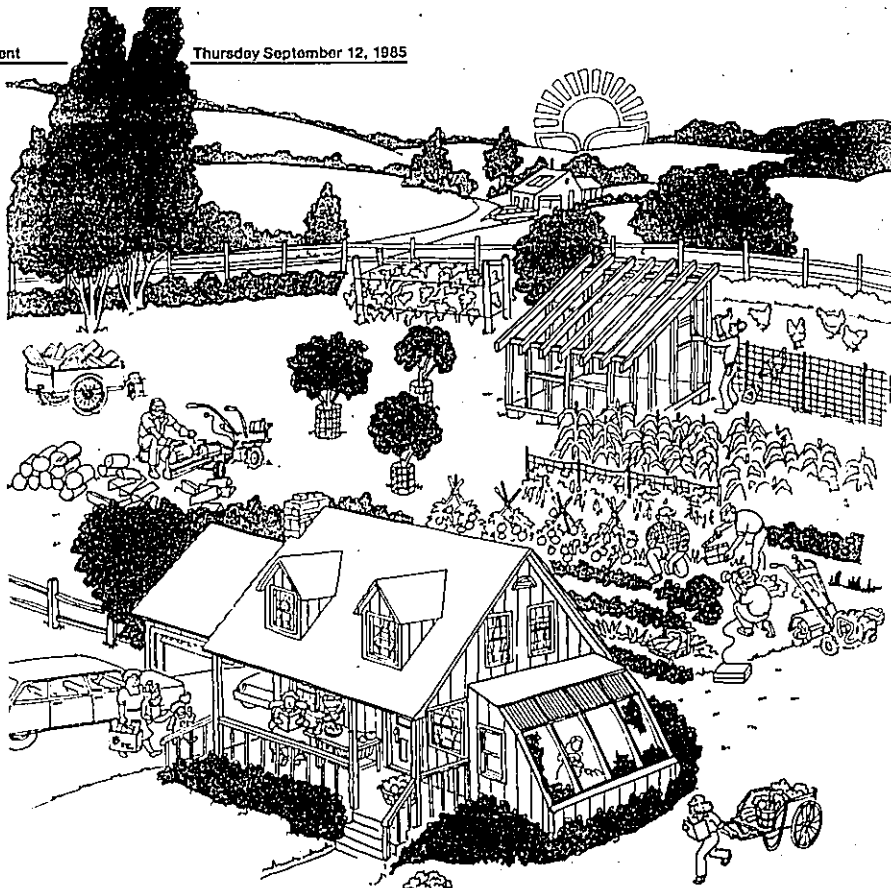
Green thumb wrapup

That autumn nip in the air can't be denied. Timely lawn and garden tasks listed by Michigan State University Extension specialists have a decidedly fall flavor:

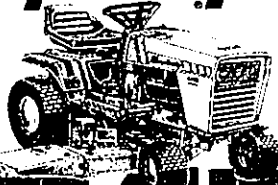
- After frost has killed the tops, dig and store corns, bulbs and tubers of tuberous begonias, cannas, gladioli, dahlias and caladiums. Let them dry for a few days before storing in dry sand, peat or vermiculite. A cool (45-50° F), dry storage place is best.

- Winterize roses after the first killing frost. Pile 8 to 10 inches of soil around the canes. Then cut canes back or tie them so the wind can't whip them, and cover with straw or hay. Top with rose cones or additional soil or chicken wire to hold the mulch in place.

- Remove and destroy all iris foliage and any iris tubers showing signs of iris borer infestation. Borers are plump, pink caterpillars that tunnel in the iris rhizome, which usually becomes soft and mushy with bacterial rot. Eggs are laid on foliage in late summer and early fall, so removing foliage eliminates the eggs that would hatch to become next year's pests.



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