

Seamless Floor System Is Practical, Colorful

Seamless floor systems are the new way to add that extra spark of color to your floors—whether in the kitchen, bathroom, foyer, recreation room, laundry, family room or basement.

Why are they called seamless? Because the flooring is applied in continuous coats of liquid which dry to a hard, shiny finish.

Here's how it's done: brightly colored chips or other decorative materials are scat-

tered over a neutral or colored liquid coat.

THEN TOP COATS of clear abrasion-resistant coatings are applied. The result: a continuous flooring that is long wear and short on maintenance.

Color is the keynote of this flooring. Colors range from pale beige to vivid oranges, bright lemon yellows and vivid reds.

You can even make your own color combinations by buying the chips and mixing them yourself. Color suits them to a favorite piece of furniture or wall or to your present decor.

The bright, random pattern hides dirt and the hard finish resists scuffing. Even waxing is optional. To clean: just wash the surface with a mild soap or detergent and water solution.

And should the floor ever show wear, it can be easily renewed by a light sanding of the surface and another application of the clear coating.

FOR THE homeowner who wants to apply seamless floor-

ing, the systems now on the market offer a wide choice of colors and compositions. They should be applied to clean substrate and can be applied over properly prepared concrete, kitchen tile and similar flooring surfaces.

Ordinary wood strip flooring is not a suitable substrate. It may absorb moisture and warp, causing the seamless flooring to crack. In this instance, plywood should be used as a substrate. Nail it down so that it is firmly anchored to place and will not bend or slip.

Be sure to read the manufacturer's directions carefully and follow them exactly. Always ventilate the work area well.

One word of warning: many seamless systems contain solvents, so be sure to turn off pilot lights on stoves and furnaces and avoid using electrical equipment unless it has been checked for non-sparking ignitions.

A little care during application will produce satisfactory results. But even more important, seamless coatings retain their beauty and sparkle with little care. They resist scratches and stains—add new color excitement to foyers, counter-tops, mud-rooms and similar areas where ease of maintenance and color are important.



Florists hydrangea: How can you make this holiday plant blossom year after year? The gardeners who live in a region where winters are rugged beat the cold by bringing the plant indoors in fall and keeping it in a tub in the basement.

It's given just enough water to keep it alive during the winter months. Then in spring, the potted plant is brought up, planted outdoors where it blossoms handsomely. The buds on the florist's hydrangea are not hardy, except in mild winters, and that's why you have to give the plant winter storage.

If you haven't brought your azalea indoors, better do so before it gets nipped by fall frosts. Keep the azalea in a cool window until about Christmas, then move it to a bright, warmer room. The azalea needs cool window in fall for bud formation.

The poinsettia is frost-tough and should be indoors now. Don't worry if the leaves turn yellow and drop after you bring the plant in. You've disturbed the roots and this causes the plants to shed the leaves. New leaves will form. FREE: Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my bulletin. "How to Grow

Poinsettias, Gardenias and Camellias."

SAVE YOUR GERANIUMS: No reason why you can't keep your geraniums over for another year. One way is to start new plants from cuttings. Just cut the tops off, three or four inches long, and root them in sand, peat or just plain tap water.

They'll root in three weeks and can be potted up in four-inch pots, using a soil mixture of one part each sand, peat and loam. Loam is ordinary garden soil.

Or you can try digging up the plants and hanging them upside down in the basement. Place them in plastic bags (with a few air holes in) and add a little amount of moisture—just enough to keep the plants alive during the winter months.

In March, take the plants down, soak them in a pail of water, cut tops back and pot them up. Or you can store your plants in tubs filled with moist peat moss. Pots are set in and kept slightly moistened to prevent drying out. In spring tall plants are cut back. You'll be surprised to see what new growth they'll make.

Incidentally, in February, why not sow seed of geranium and have flowering plants by mid-July, or earlier. You can do this!

A Giant Bean Stalk Just Grows And Grows

By BETTY FRANKEL

The nine-foot high plant growing in Harvey Musselman's yard on 10 Mile Road in Farmington certainly looks as though it must be Jack's legendary bean-stalk.

It is really a castor bean (Ricinus), that for some unknown reason grew nearly twice as tall as other castor beans grown by Musselman. They normally are four to six feet in height.

These plants from tropical Africa are grown here for their handsome foliage. Seeds are sown in spring after the weather has become warm. They shoot up so fast you can almost see them grow. They are killed by frost and must be replanted every spring.

Musselman began growing castor beans several years ago when he heard that they might keep away the "moles" that were digging up his lawn. He claims that they have been effective and that the moles are gone.

The plants are toxic and the seeds are poisonous. To overcome this hazard Musselman removes the small red blossoms so no seeds are formed on his plants.



JACK'S BEAN STALK?—Harvey Musselman of 10 Mile Road, Farmington, holds a six-foot rule beside his nine-foot castor bean plant. (Evert photo)

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Cancer Society Makes Citations

Seven businesses, a college, a church group and 21 individuals from the Observer area were honored recently in an appreciation dinner for volunteers of the Wayne County Unit of the American Cancer Society.

Two members of the Observer Newspapers group, the Redford Observer and the Livonia Observer, were among the business thanked. Others included the Harry Will Funeral Home in Redford Township, The Caldwell-Mulligan Funeral home and the John Santoro & Son Funeral Home in Garden City, and two Livonia funeral homes, R. G. & G. R. Harris and Manns-Ferguson.

Madonna College and the Women of Peace Lutheran Church, Livonia, also received citations. Individuals receiving awards or certificates were Mrs. Herbert Rosen and Mrs. Richard Sider of Farmington, Mrs. William Shaw, Anne Pike and Mrs. Freda Nieldson of

Southfield, and Mrs. George Eggenberger, Mrs. Alan Finney, Mrs. Jay Finch and Mrs. Lyle Whipple of Plymouth. Others were Pat Woodcock, Betty Kennedy, Doris Roller, Marge Obneck, Connie Williams, Barbara Deschamps and Florence Reamer, all of Garden City.

Livonia residents honored included Mrs. Richard Davier, Wayne Walker, Mrs. Dirk Oltman and Mrs. Crystal Day. Mrs. Juanita Sisson of Redford Township also was cited.

How To Stop Annual Pest

Pre-emergence chemicals used for crabgrass help halt weedy annual blugrass (don't confuse it with Kentucky blugrass). Annual blugrass sprouts in the cool moist weather of autumn and early spring. It is especially a pest in benign turf.

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