

Gardeners can relax in August

While August is the month when we can sit back and reap the rewards of our gardening efforts, there is still some housekeeping that needs to be done.

Removing seed heads from annuals such as snapdragons, marigolds and petunias is necessary so that they will continue to bloom for a longer season. The foliage of perennials will need to be cut back as they finish blooming and those devilish weeds still need our attention.

If your petunias are getting a little long and straggly, may I suggest you cut them back so they will send out auxiliary shoots and form a more compact plant. You will then see a spurt of new growth and blooming to carry the color to the end of the season.

If you need some color in a space where vegetables have been grown, quick growing annuals such as zinnias and marigolds may be just what you need. Since annuals are hard to

find in the garden centers at this time of year, search your existing flower beds. Perhaps you will find some small plants that should be thinned out anyway that will fill in. If the roses are bare of leaves, gray artemesias, with pink or red blooms, could improve the look.

Now is the time to take cuttings from wax begonias, geraniums, impatiens, fuchsias and coleus to grow indoors this winter. All cuttings may not form roots, so take more than you think you will need. If you are very successful, these plants will make a wonderful gift for a friend on a cold, snowy day.

If you have noticed fairy rings in your lawn, don't despair. From MSU's Cooperative Extension Service we learn that they are caused by a fungus that stimulates lawn grasses to grow at an accelerated pace. Unless your lawn is severely affected, no particular action may



down to earth

Marty Figley

be needed, but some nitrogen applied around the ring will help the grass in that area grow and subsequently mask the ring area. However, some fungi are stimulated by nitrogen and more fairy rings may be produced. Another method to control this ring is to super-saturate the area with water for 48 hours or more, although there is a possibility that the ring will occur later in the season.

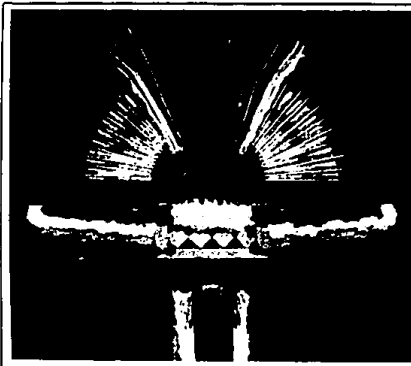
If you simply cannot tolerate such a condition, the best way to manage fairy ring is to dig it out. Dig a foot beyond the ring and remove the sod and the soil to a depth of one foot. Fill the hole with new soil and reseed or resod. I recently discovered that fairy rings are considered good luck and are somewhat of a status symbol in lawns of the British Isles.

Chicago trip announced

Paint Creek Center for the Arts of Rochester is sponsoring a weekend trip, Oct. 7-9, to the Art Institute of Chicago to see "The Art of Paul Gauguin."

This exhibit of Gauguin's paint-

ings, sculpture, ceramics and prints is the most complete collection of the artist's work ever assembled. Deadline for reservations is Friday, Aug. 26. For information, call the Center, 651-4110.



The summer connection

Joppich's Bay Street Gallery of Northport, at the tip of the Leelanau Peninsula, run by the Joppich family of Farmington Hills, is celebrating its eighth birthday this summer. Each year it has been open, gallery director Edee Joppich has been "pushing Michigan art." Among this year's selections is this handmade paper collage construction, "Mythic Manitou," by John Hubbard of Marquette. He is on the art faculty of Northern Michigan University. The gallery is open 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. every day in August and weekends in September.

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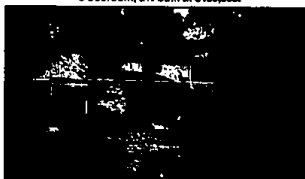
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