

Strawberries Need Post-Harvest Care

EAST LANSING If strawberry beds are to be kept another year, they need attention immediately after harvest. Michigan State University horticulturists offer the following tips for strawberry bed care:

Remove mulch. If necessary, cut off the leaves of the plants with a hand sickle or mower. If a mower is used, set the blades high enough to prevent injury to the plant crowns.

Narrow the matted rows with a spade or tiller, leaving the row 10 to 12 inches wide. If the operation is started mid-summer, make the rows slightly wider.

Thin the remaining plants six to eight inches apart.

Cultivate to remove all weeds.

Use a fertilizer, especially if the plants lack vigor or the berries were small. Use a complete fertilizer blend

(such as 5-10-5) at the rate of 8 pounds for every 1,000 square feet. Brush fertilizer off the plant leaves and crowns with a broom.

If it's dry and water is available, water the bed, soaking the ground to a depth of five or six inches. This after-harvest irrigation may mean the difference between a good or bad crop next year.

On larger plantings you may wish to use commercial weed controls. Use diphenyl (Dymid or Eude) for grasses, and dioxuron (Tenoran) for broadleaf weeds. If a problem exists with both grasses and broadleaf weeds use a combination of the two controls.

Be sure to read directions and cautions before purchasing and using.

For more information on growing strawberries to Michigan State University, Bulletin Michigan 4823, and ask for Extension Bulletin E-625, "Commercial Strawberry Culture in Michigan." Single copies are available free to Michigan residents.

Falls are among the chief hazards in a home and every step should be taken to prevent them. Small rugs should be fastened to the floor or slip pads; they should never be placed on a slippery surface without some kind of backing or nonslip pad. Large carpets should be tacked down. Repair holes in carpeting or throw the carpet out. Never place furniture in a normal traffic route through a room.

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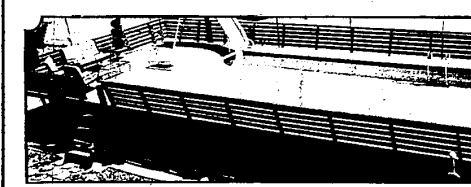
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TWO-STORY LIVING ROOM in the Casa B model living room of the new Pebble Creek project features a floor-to-ceiling natural wood-burning fireplace.

Suburban Gardener

Little Bed Of Herbs Is Charming And Useful

By BETTY FRANKEL

A pinch of herbs can change a plain dish into gourmet fare, and a small bed of herbs can add equal zest to the garden.

These plants have romantic and historic associations that stir the imagination and a carefully arranged little herb bed has a definite charm.

Although the plants are not grown especially for their herbs, the herb garden was an important feature.

Garden Reminders

Divide and transplant iris and oriental poppies. Make cuttings of rock garden plants. Make cuttings of woody trees and shrubs. Plant seeds of perennials to start new plants that will bloom next year. Pull up spent vegetable plants such as peas and re-plant for a late crop. Cut lawns higher in warm weather. Spray or dust corn with rotenone to control borers, and to protect against ear worm drop. 1/2 teaspoon of mineral oil at the base of the stalks after they have started to shivel. Spray azaleas with nicotine sulfate to control lace bug—mulch vegetable and flower beds to conserve moisture. Tidy window boxes and planter boxes and give a light feeding. Keep faded blossoms removed from annuals to keep them blooming.

attractive because of the subtle interplay of the various shades of the foliage which can range from pale silvery green through deep rich green to bright crimson and purple tones.

Herbs have been grown since earliest times. In the Middle Ages when gardens were confined behind the high walls surrounding castles and monasteries the herb garden was an important feature.

It was laid out in simple geometric patterns with narrow paths and prim edgings. During Elizabethan times in England the herb garden was still a cherished part of the grounds but the beds were intricately patterned. Because of the interlacing design made by the walks and the beds they were often known as "knot" gardens.

HERBS are divided into several categories - those grown for seasoning and culinary purposes, those grown for medicinal use, and those grown for fragrance. Among these grown for culinary use are chives, dill, lemon basil, sweet basil, lemon thyme, marjoram, mint, summer savory, and tarragon.

Some of those grown for fragrance include lavender, rose geraniums, lemon geranium, rosemary, sweet woodruff, and various mints.

Herbs are easy to grow. Most prefer full sun and a not-too-fertile sandy soil that is well drained. Only a plant or two of each kind is needed to supply a family so even a small space will accommodate many different kinds of herbs.

Mints are among the easiest to grow and are perennial. Spearmint and lemon balm are among the most popular and the two that the experts suggest for a start. There are many other kinds of mint, however. The leaves of mint are used to flavor lemon drinks, sauce for lamb, jelly, and to

add a special touch to carrots and peas.

Chives are also perennial. Their leaves snipped into tiny pieces are good flavoring in sour cream dressing for baked potatoes, in cottage cheese, sauces, salads, soups, and egg dishes. Parsley, useful as a garnish as well as a seasoning, is a biennial.

SWEET BASIL, an annual, adds zest to tomato sauces or to fresh sliced or stewed tomatoes. Oregano is another herb used in spaghetti sauce or pizza sauce.

Although one of the chief pleasures of an herb garden is to be able to snip the desired seasoning from the growing plant just when it is needed for the soup or salad, there is satisfaction, too, in drying and preserving your own herbs for winter use.

They should be cut on a sunny day when the humidity is low. Cut in the morning but when the dew has dried. Cut off sprigs and branches. Spread them out and examine them carefully for pests and imperfections.

One way to dry the herbs is to tie them into small bunches and hang the bundles along a line strung in a dry airy place out of direct sunlight. A porch, garage, attic or family room could be used. After a few days they will be crisp to the touch. Carefully strip the leaves from the stems and store them in small glass bottles tightly closed and carefully labeled with the name of the herb.

Herbs can be preserved in the freezer. Other methods include "salting down" making herb flavored butters that store well in refrigerator or freezer, and making herb vinegars. To make the latter pack a wide mouth jar with fresh herbs then pour in white wine vinegar or cider vinegar. In about three weeks, after the vinegar has absorbed the flavor of the herbs, strain it into bottles that can be tightly closed.

Pebble Creek Now Open For Preview

If your weekend activities include the great American sport of model home viewing have you ever come across a Casa Dominium?

Five models are now open for a preview showing on 14 Mile Road just west of Orchard Lake in Bloomfield Township.

On the first level there are a two-story living room, a circular staircase in the foyer, dining room, kitchen, powder room, laundry room and an attached garage.

On the second level is a balcony bedroom or library. The master bedroom suite of the Casa B model includes a separate dressing area, walk-in wardrobe closet, and an adjoining compartmented

bath that has access to still another compartmented vanity that is located off the second level foyer.

For the Herman Frankel organization, this Pebble Creek development is their first venture into the condominium field. Because of their background in building luxury homes they decided on the "Casa Dominium" — meaning home dominium, rather than condominium.

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