



# The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Why tree leaves dry: Right now maples, elms (what are left), lindens, and other favorites have developed a bad case of scorching on leaves.

What causes this? I'll mention a few reasons why leaves turn brown now:

- (1) Road heat. Black tops and concrete pavement reflect

heat waves back into the air, (sodium chloride) were applied to highways in the U.S. (2) Car and truck fumes. With railroads going out and that almost 30 tons per two more trucks on the highways, lane mile (or five to six exhaust fumes are scorching pounds) of salt per foot of green, tender foliage. No live-thing can take the fumes Hampshire for deicing highways. While salt may not kill a some of which stick straight tree outright, it may pre-dispose it to other fatal problems such as borers, root rot, pollutants and leaf spots.

Symptoms from salt include marginal leaf scorch, early autumn coloration, defoliation, dying of twigs and branches. Trees tolerant to salt include birch (gray, paper, yellow and black), largetooth aspen, white ash and black locust. Very tolerant species include red and white oak, red cedar and black cherry. 4. Age of tree. Older trees lose leaves early and develop scorch, especially if they are low in vigor. (5) Dry weather. All trees need sufficient supply of water during the summer months. Moisture is essential now in those species developing leaf and flower buds for next summer's show. If you have ample water, a tree should be watered out at the dripline or outer crown limit and beyond.

This is where the feeder roots are and water is absorbed through these tiny roots. If water is scarce, no reason why you can't put your laundry water on the grass and under trees or shrubs. Don't worry about the detergents, ammonia or soaps.

Homeowners with plenty of muscle can punch holes in the ground under a tree (out to the dripline) and fill with plant food plus water. Tree specialists have found that trees respond to injections of water and nutrients into the soil, and they use a nozzle-like needle.

**GREEN THUMB CLINIC:** We have plenty of earwigs in our flower bed. They even get into the house. Any control? Answer: Earwigs are tough to get at. Best control I've ever seen is bantam hens. They can keep them cleaned out. Try spraying Sevin or Malathion around and on your plants. Meanwhile, be thinking about getting some bantam chickens for the job.



**Handy Jim's FIX-UP TIPS**  
Shelving Inside Desk  
IN THE HOME pressed for space, there's one spot usually overlooked — underneath a kneehole desk. After leaving room for knees,



install shelves to accommodate stationary supplies and books. By using Peg-Board panels and Peg-Board fixtures, the spacing can be made flexible for changing requirements. To prevent items from being pushed off the shelves accidentally, it's a good idea to close the desk opening at the back with a piece of Masonite decorative hardboard, which requires only occasional damp-wiping to keep clean.

## Cool Corn Is Best

Buy sweet corn from refrigerated displays, store it in your refrigerator and use it as quickly as possible, recommends a Michigan State University extension marketing information agent. "Even under ideal conditions, sweet corn will not maintain quality for more than a few days," cautions Miss Ada Shinabarger. As the aging process continues, the sugars that make sweet corn sweet gradually convert to starches. "As the sugars go, so goes the flavor," explains Miss Shinabarger. When buying corn with the husk on, look for bright green, snug husks with dark brown silk at the end. The silk should not be dry but shiny and moist. Prepackaged corn should have even rows of well filled kernels. "Kernels should look plump and milky. If any are dented, the corn is too old," Miss Shinabarger says.

## Batting Champ

A Tiger has won the American League batting title 22 times.

# P I N E

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C/C

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C & C

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