

Lawns Aid Ecology

A well kept lawn not only adds beauty, but does much to protect the environment from pollution. A good grass seed permits almost no soil erosion or sedimentation of streams. A lawn holds down dust, keeps air cleaner. The grass absorbs noise, and refreshes the air through oxygenation and transpiration. It may even absorb some polluting gases. A lawn has a cooling effect in summer, often keeping the ground 40 or 50 degrees cooler.

Suburban Gardener

Spring-Easter Hold Promise Of Rebirth

By BETTY FRANKEL, Special Writer

Easter and spring are inextricably tied together. Both celebrate resurrection and rebirth. In fact, the word "Easter" comes from the same root as the word "east"

which refers to the position on the horizon from which the sun rises at the time of the vernal equinox. It is the time when spring officially begins.

Also, in ancient pagan times, an Anglo-Saxon goddess of light and spring was named Eastre. Her festival was celebrated in April and that month was known as Easter - month. We have taken the name of the goddess of spring and the name of her month and endowed it with an even greater meaning.

Easter, thus, is joyously celebrated for the hope it holds for man's spiritual rebirth as well as for the promise of nature's renewal. We seek eagerly for signs of this renewal - robins returning from their southern sojourn, the first hint of green in the lawns, the brightening gold of willow trees, and the gay blossoms of crocus and other tiny early spring bulbs.

We bring potted flowers into our homes, because spring is not advanced enough to bring many flowers in the garden, but if they are in a spot that suits them they may thrive for years to come.

tail leafy stem to a cluster of nearly two dozen blossoms. These flowers are beautifully fragrant, too.

ALTHOUGH Easter lily bulbs are seldom sold for garden use, they can be planted in the garden. Keep watering the plants even after the petals have fallen. When the foliage turns yellow put the pots in the basement or garage and stop watering. When the weather is warm, plant them in a sunny spot in the garden.

To do this, pull the bulbs from the pot. Don't bother to remove the soil that clings. Just plant the bulbs, soil and all, and then cut back the tops to ground level. Soon another stalk will grow, and you may get another crop of lily flowers in late summer.

In future years the bulbs will sprout in spring and the flowers will appear in mid-summer. These plants are a little tender and may not last many years in the garden, but if they are in a spot that suits them they may thrive for years to come.



PUTTING GREEN of artificial turf is designed for do-it-yourself installation. According to the manufacturer, the home putting course can be constructed in two weekends.

Back Yard Putting Green Has 5 Holes

Along with the nursery catalogs comes a new thought for the home gardener who enjoys his golf game - a five-hole putting green designed for do-it-yourself installation.

Specially created by the Ozite Corporation for use with Lawnscape, their new artificial turf, the home putting course can be installed in two weekends. A three page

construction blueprint includes suggestions for landscaping the putting green, which is the focal point of the yard. The plans also give detailed instructions and hints on each step of the construction process.

Plans are available as part of a package offered by building supply dealers. Also included are 24 yards of Lawnscape and five professional putting cups and flags.

The package price is under \$300 excluding foundation, and dealers are prepared to advise prospective builders on the kind of foundation materials best suited to their needs and their budgets.

In addition to providing fun for the whole family, the putting green provides a focus for the yard and has the extra, added attraction of requiring very little maintenance. Ozite recommends washing the artificial turf with the garden hose and using either a broom or an outdoor vacuum to clear off leaves, twigs and other debris. Wintertime maintenance is nonexistent, as all materials will withstand both snow and freezing temperatures without extra care.

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**EASTER LILIES** are especially appropriate symbols since their white petals correspond to the use of white in the churches to represent joy and light and purity. Although the Madonna lily (Lilium candidum), a well-known garden flower, is sometimes forced for Easter, most Easter lilies are Crocus lilies or Bermuda lilies or other varieties of the oriental lily known botanically as Lilium longiflorum.

This name refers to the long flower bud and large size of the flower. Almost everyone is familiar with these large white trumpet flowers.

There can be anywhere from a single blossom atop the

Garden Reminders

Gradually loosen and remove winter mulches from garden beds. Begin spring clean-up of the garden with beds in which spring bulbs will soon be blooming. Dormant sprays of miscible oil or lime-sulfur are put on fruit trees and other trees and shrubs to control scale insects and fungus diseases. Put them on when temperatures are above 45 degrees F. and going to remain above freezing for the following 24 hours. Get the lawn mower sharpened. Prune to improve the shape of trees and shrubs and to remove broken or diseased branches. Don't prune forsythia and other early bloomers until after they have flowered, but clip off a few branches

to force into early bloom in the house. There is still time to start seeds indoors. Remember to keep off the lawn and out of the garden when the soil is wet and soggy.

Drying Rugs

You can tumble dry bath rugs or mats that have polyurethane foam, polyester or cotton backing, says Mrs. Ruth Ann Wilson, extension clothing specialist at Pennsylvania State University. But air dry any article containing foam rubber or latex. When heated, foam rubber materials can, under certain circumstances, produce fire by spontaneous combustion.

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