

Do-It-Yourselfers Install Parquet Floor

With the popularity of Oriental rugs at an all-time high, and the current craze for area rugs of all designs in full swing, the importance of handsome floors is greater than ever before.

Happily, handsome hardwood floors can now be in-

stalled by the handy do-it-yourselfer, in intricate parquet patterns either as a new floor or over an old one.

Hardwood tiles are available in all the beautiful woods that have given hardwood floors their traditional reputation for good looks:

red and white oak, or a blend of pecan, beech, hickory, elm, ash, sycamore, and hackberry.

(They come in squares that

range in size from 6 1/4 inches to 9 inches but can be ordered up to 11 1/4 inches square.

You can get them unfinished,

light and dark finishes. Either way, you can devise your own intricate parquet designs.

The tiles are designed tongue and groove for easy installation, and can be laid over any type of even sub-flooring.

One important factor to remember is the swell/shrink element when installing wood floors in an area that is either excessively damp or dry.

To allow for this, you can install cork expansion material around the entire room to be floored.

This strip should be at least one inch wide, and glued or nailed to the floor at the walls.

Any future expansion of the wood will be against this cork which will absorb the expansion and prevent floor tile buckling.

Where you plan to install the floor is another important factor since this will determine what kind of mastic (or glue) you have to use.

The deciding factor is whether the floor will be above or below the level of the outdoor soil (i.e., in the basement or on the second story).

If you are installing the floor over a concrete slab which is in contact with the ground, or, is below ground level, a damp-proofing membrane of asphalt or polyethylene film is required on top of the concrete.

Start from the center of the room and work outward. First, dry lay a row of tiles, in each direction from the center to eliminate the half tiles at the walls. (1/4" can adjust the center of the room until your tiles work out evenly, or without cutting too many in half.)

For best results, spread the mastic no farther than you can reach without getting up, then carefully lay your tiles in the pattern you have chosen.



Do it yourself-gardeners wonder if it's permissible to mix flowering shrubs with evergreens in the foundation planting.

We think it's a good idea to mix them. In fact, a solid planting of evergreens can often be monotonous or too much of the same. Although flowering shrubs may lose their foliage in winter, certain types create real interest in their branch formation, color of branches, and berries.

Try using Eucalyptus alatus or Compacta, some varieties of viburnum and broad leaf blooming varieties such as rhododendron, pieris, azaleas.

Avoid turning your foundation into a botanical collection or a jungle. Ask your nurseryman for ideas on planting your foundation. If you can't afford to do the job all in one year, it's possible to plant a few each year.

FREE: Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for a copy of our guide, "How to Landscape Your Home!" It should help you save money, time and labor.

SUMMER SQUASH: If you want a good substitute for high priced meat dishes, try squash. Zucchini squash is easy to grow, and cooked right can be a real money saver. Even if you don't have much space, you can grow the bush types which don't take up much room.

Or you can train them to grow on a wire fence. Seneca Butterbar is a bushy type, fruiting in about 30 days. Aristocrat is a 1973 All America winner, zucchini type with deep green color.

Summer squash will yield heavily all summer, if picked frequently. Production is reduced if fruit is left on to grow oversized.

Squash like a well fed soil. Plant seed in groups or hills three or four feet apart in a row, then thin them to one foot apart. Best eating is when fruit is four to five inches long.

If borers have been a problem, dust the vines with Sevin or methoxychlor.

SUMMER MULCHES: Peat moss and cocoa bean shells have been the main mulch items sold in some areas.

However, pine and fir bark of several different grades are appearing more and more in garden stores. Peat and cocoa mulch have a bad fault of blowing away in the wind.

Bark mulch stays put, but may wash in heavy water. Fir bark is screened so it's all nice and small pieces, up to an inch or so in size, and in color is a clean brown-gold for garden paths also.

Pine bark nuggets make a good mulch in among ever-

greens and around trees.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "Please tell us if globe artichoke is the same as Jerusalem artichoke. Can either be raised at home?"

Answer: Globe artichoke (Cyanura) is different from Jerusalem artichoke (Helianthus tuberosus). Both are edible. Globe artichoke has edible flower bud, while the other has a tuber and is in the sunflower family.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "We have some plants in our yard which look like marijuana. They'll soon be in blossom. Do you think it's marijuana?"

Answer: I doubt it. Marijuana plants flower around July. Many plants are commonly confused with this "weed," and two outstanding ones are giant ragweed (which has a different leaf-shape) and cinquefoil, a much smaller plant with quarter size yellow flowers.



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