



# The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Don't forget to make successive sowings of corn so it won't all come on at once. Or you can plant early, mid-season and late varieties at the same time for a succession.

Then make more plantings of your favorite type every 10 days or two weeks. Be sure to plant corn in blocks of at least three rows side by side, rather than a single long row, to insure pollination and a full set of kernels.

When it comes to varieties, home gardeners have a great choice. The extra sweet "bi-colors" are good. Try Sprites, with white and gold kernels on the same ear. Sweet Sue is another white and gold worth trying.

Butter and Sugar has white and golden kernels with a creamy texture. Plant seed in rows, three feet apart (depending on how you plan to work the soil) and space seeds four to six inches apart.

You can thin early varieties to 10 inches apart and later kinds to 15 to 18 inches apart. Some gardeners like to plant three seeds in a cluster (called a "hill") and this works out fine.

Got your pumpkin seeds yet? We're hoping you will join our "fat pumpkin" contest and put in some pumpkin seeds. This makes a good project for the kids and we hope parents will get their children to raise giant pumpkins. If you'd like a free package of seed, send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for your seeds.


If you're putting water into a sprayer tank, here's a word of warning. If the hose end gets below the water level and the water pressure happens to drop, back-siphoning may occur.

This will suck the pesticide-water mixture into the plumbing, contaminating it. The hose end should not extend into the tank. An air gap should be present, that is, water from the hose should always fall through air before it reaches whatever is in the sprayer tank.

**GREEN THUMB CLINIC:**  
A reader writes: "Please tell us how we can get rid of poison ivy growing near our rose bushes. Should we spray?"

Answer: Watch out for the weed killers. Drifting or fumes from a weed killer can kill your plants. Put on a pair of rubber gloves and try to hand pull the weed. You can starve it out by yanking the plant out as soon as it makes any growth.

Or put the tip of the poison ivy in a jar of weed killer, or household bleach, and the plant will commit suicide by absorbing the chemicals.



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## Poison Ivy? Get Rid Of It

Beware of that pretty vine growing along the stone wall in your back yard or climbing up the trunk of your favorite tree.

It could be poison ivy!

According to Michigan State University horticulturists, several varieties of poison ivy can be found in both shrubs and vine forms. Its leaflets characteristically grow in groups of three.

The summer months are a prime time for poison ivy problems, so if you find this plant growing near your home, do something about it. There are two basic ways to get rid of poison ivy - mechanical and chemical.

If you have only a few plants, pull or dig them out when the ground is damp. Cut vines on trees at the base and pull them away from the tree. Wear rubber gloves and protective clothing when working around poison ivy and wash the clothing separately when you're done.

If you use a chemical herbicide, follow the package's recommendations carefully. Use a sprayer equipped with an extension so that you don't have to get too close to the plant. Be sure to spray the entire plant - foliage, stems and bark. Don't allow the spray to contact ornamental plants.

Cultivation and mowing are not effective in eliminating poison ivy.

Keep an eye on the plants to make sure they don't come up again. If they do, eliminate the regrowth right away.

## Too Much Water Can Kill Plants

Too much water can do garden plants as much or more harm than too little water, say Michigan State University horticulturists.

Plants suffering from too much water about their roots often experience wilting, chlorosis (yellowing) of the foliage, reduced vigor, death of foliage and death of shoots.

The reasons for excess water in the root zone may be many, they explain, but all are caused by either poor drainage or excessive or too frequent applications of water.

As a good rule, water gardens once a week during the summer so that the soil is moistened to a depth of six inches.

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