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Well-Planned Laundry Fits Anywhere

Timely Tips on

GARDENING

By Betty Frankel

Gardeners are eager to begin their Spring chores, but winter is reluctant to release its icy grip and snow blankets the ground long after Spring officially arrived. The planting season will be shortened and compressed and the normally busy season will be busier than ever this year. Because of this, prior planning is a must.

Study the yard and garden and decide what planting is to be done. Study the catalogs and decide what to plant. Make a plan on paper so you will know where each plant is to be placed and how many plants will be needed. This is especially necessary for new homeowners who are going to do a complete landscape planting, but will also be helpful when it comes to planting even a small vegetable garden or a single flower bed. It is far easier to revise the plan on paper with pencil and eraser than it is to make changes in the garden with shovel and wheelbarrow.

MAKE A WORK SCHEDULE. Plan to do clean-up and feeding chores first. Next plant trees and shrubs before their

leaves have come out. Evergreens can be planted in early May just before their new growth begins. Plant flowers and most vegetables after the ground has warmed up in May. Decide what jobs are to be done so they can be worked into the short, busy Spring season that lies ahead.

Fertilizer and seed can be spread on lawns while they are still frozen... Keep off lawns when they have thawed until the roots have a chance to begin growing again... Don't dig in the garden until the soil has dried out enough to become soft and crumbly. Digging and tramping on the soil is likely to compact it and remove the tiny air pockets necessary for good plant growth... Seeds of hardy annuals can be sown on top of frozen ground or even on the snow where they are to grow... Weeds of tender annuals and tender vegetables such as tomatoes can be started indoors now...

APPLY DORMANT sprays to fruit trees when the temperature is going to remain above 40 degrees for the following twenty-four hours... This is the time to have elms sprayed to prevent Dutch Elm disease... If crab grass was a problem last year spread a "pre-emergent" killer on the lawn early in the season... Pruning is a job the gardener can do before the weather permits other chores. Remove broken branches and prune to improve the shape of the tree or shrub but keep the natural conformation... Don't prune early flowering trees or shrubs until after they have bloomed unless the branches are wanted for forcing into bloom indoors.

Trend Is Up In Improvements

Although baseball, bowling, boating and fishing each has a claim to fame as an important national pastime, there's a new challenger coming up fast — home improvement!

Most recent complete figures, from the U.S. Bureau of Census, show that the nation's homeowners spent a big \$11,733,000 for home improvement in 1963, points out Executive Director Edgar Hall of the National Home Improvement Council.

To see just how home improvement activity has grown, look back a decade or so. During the first five months of 1953, three billion dollars was spent on home improvement. During the corresponding period in 1963, that figure zoomed to four billion, four hundred million! Projecting the 1963 outlay for five months to an estimated 12 months gives a figure of eight billion dollars, versus 1953's 11 billion, 733 million.

Is a modern home laundry center a necessity or just a frill?

In a recent survey conducted among a group of parents, 66.7 per cent of those queried felt that a separate, well-planned laundry area is desirable. Because most of the parents in the group have children ranging from the new-born to teen-agers, they ought to know what they're talking about.

There are many good locations for the home laundry. Best choices are in the bedroom-bath area, where most soiled clothes originate and are stored after laundering, or in a spot convenient to the kitchen, where Mom probably spends much of her time.

Close to half of new laundry appliances still go in the basement. It is often the choice in older homes where there simply is no room upstairs.

There's no reason, however, why a basement laundry should not be as modern, as convenient, and as bright and cheery as a laundry located anywhere else in the home.

Planning is the key to success. Be sure to plan the installation as carefully and completely as you would an upstairs laundry.

First, you'll need a modern automatic washer and matching clothes dryer.

Of prime importance is a laundry chute to get soiled clothes from the floors above down to the basement. The lower end of the chute should be located at the point where clothes are sorted according to type for the most efficient laundering. For this, you'll

need at least three bins or baskets.

Include cupboards for storing detergent, bleach and other laundry aids. Remember to store stain removal supplies out of the reach of children.

When remodeling, you can remove your old deep laundry

NAILING TIP

Wedge small tacks and short brads between teeth of a comb, which may then be used to hold them in place for nailing without endangering fingers.

tubs and replace them with a modern, counterhigh sink for use in starching and pre-

treating extra-soiled clothes. Give yourself plenty of work room for handling clean clothes as they come from your automatic dryer. You'll need counter space for folding sheets, towels and similar items before storing.

And you should have hanging space — an open rack or, perhaps, a near-by closet — for hanging wash-and-wear

clothes as they are taken from the dryer (an essential step if

you are to realize the full advantage of these modern fabrics).

Keep all surfaces easy-to-clean. Be sure there's plenty of light. Remember that an inexpensive coat of paint on walls as well as cabinets will add immeasurably to the appearance.

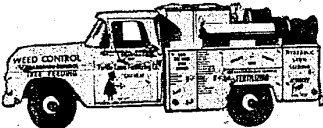
SMALL PARTS

When cleaning a number of small parts in solvent, keep them from getting lost by first putting them inside a scrap piece of wire or screening bent into a bowl shape which can be lowered into solvent.

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