

Farming Enterprise Annual

4C The Farmington Enterprise May 5, 1965

Flowers, Foliage Add Quick Color

Proper selection of professionally-grown container plants and shrubs makes "instant landscaping" an interesting, economical "do-it-yourself" hobby for home owners.

For quick color, take home some geraniums, petunias, azaleas or year-round chrysanthemums in red clay pots.


An abundance of good ground-cover plants is always available at your florist's or garden center store. Use them as you please to re-decorate outdoors.

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Insulation Adds to Living Ease, Cuts Costs of Heating, Cooling

A recent government report published by the U.S. Department of the Interior has recommended insulation as the solution to the high operating costs of home heating and cooling. While insulation cannot eliminate the costs of home heating and cooling, it will certainly help to reduce the most use of fuel by keeping heat in the home and not letting it keep heating the outdoors. And cooling costs can be reduced by insulation that helps to keep hot air out.

New research on the part of home insulation manufacturers has gone far to produce insulation that can be installed in most homes fairly easily and without large expense.

There are many types of insulation materials. They include: mineral wool, rock, glass, slag, paper pulp, gypsum, asbestos, cork, aluminum foil, vermiculite, cotton and other mineral and vegetable materials. Two forms of insulating materials commonly used are batts and blankets. They come with what is known as a vapor barrier on one side of the material and are vapor-permeable on the other.

For a long time it was thought that the effectiveness of insulation should be judged by the thickness of the material. This has, however, been found to be untrue. The factors which determine the effect of insulation, besides thickness, are density and conductivity.

Consult Dealer

Any local home insulation dealer should be able to help in finding the proper type and thickness of insulation needed in a particular home, and it does vary.

The tools needed for the installation of insulation are simply a sharp knife for cutting and fitting, and a good heavy-duty staple gun for solid attachment. The latter can usually be rented at any hardware store.

In hard-to-get-to corners, or ceilings, particularly in attics where joists are exposed, there is insulation which can be poured from a bag into any crevice. In this case, it is best to call in professional help, as it entails the use of a pneumatic hose. This type of insulation is also used in homes where studs for stapling are not readily available.

Here are some hints which should be helpful in the installation of insulating materials:

- The vapor barrier of the batts or blankets of insulation should face the heated side of any room.
- The insulation, whatever material, must be butted tightly — gaps will let the heat escape.
- Eaves, vents, attic louvers should not be covered as they are important to air circulation.
- The staples holding the insulation should be no more than six inches apart.
- Insulation, for complete effectiveness, should be packed tightly around windows, door framing and other such spaces. This can be achieved by cutting a piece of vapor barrier to cover the areas and form unbroken protection.
- Pipes should be protected from winter freezing by insulating between them and the wall.

It's Smooth

When home improvement plans are under way, take effective, eye-pleasing lighting into consideration.

Metal lath and plaster walls and ceilings are gaining increasing recognition as a trouble-saving assembly for future installation and the creation of a smooth reflective surface.

Indirect lighting, which is directed to the ceiling and then reflects generally about the room, can magnify seams and irregularities. For an appropriate reflective surface, consider plaster on metal lath.

Container Plants Seen as Answer To Weed Invasion

Now gardeners can achieve that happy goal — "weedless" gardening — with potted plants. No more last ditch efforts to fight off August's annual invasion of weeds with container gardening. Just sit back and watch the plants thrive, without weeds. And it's no trick at all for gardeners who are raising professionally-started plants in red clay pots.

Plant growers and nurserymen start seeds and bulbs and root cuttings in soil that has been sterilized by steam at high temperatures. When the little plants are big enough to be transferred to larger pots, and marketed, they are also re-potted in sterilized soil.

"This sterilization process effectively kills out stray weed seeds or latent bugs that might interfere with the healthy growth of the plant. Porous clay pots enable the plants to utilize all the nutrients in the soil for maximum growth.

Porosity of the clay naturally leaches out any excess water through the sides and bottoms of the pots. At the same time, the porous clay walls allow needed air to reach and nourish roots. This saves the added effort of cultivating the soil around the plants to insure adequate aeration.

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Plan before Plunging Is Best Rule for Home Pools

From fabled luxuries to increasingly popular backyard fixtures, swimming pools have become investments that pay off in increased family enjoyment.

Home owners who are ready to take the plunge and invest in a home swimming pool have many considerations before the actual construction begins.

Cost, materials, landscape and upkeep are just a few points that require careful planning. Although pool construction costs are lower now, it is best not to skimp on quality work in a long-term investment such as this, as any compromise may end up in costly repairs and increased upkeep.

In choosing the material of which the pool is to be constructed, type of soil and physical layout of the property are important considerations. Often the best way to determine if the pool should be constructed of gunite, (pneumatically applied concrete), vinyl liner, steel or some other material is to see which is the prevailing choice in the area — a good clue as to which is best suited to the region.

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How to Build for Noise Control

When selecting materials for constructing room partitions, attention should be given to both the development of a satisfactory wall base for decorating and adequate noise suppression.

Plaster is a popular and effective method for finishing interior walls and ceilings. It is capable of receiving both paint and wallpaper and offers good sound suppression qualities.

Full effectiveness of plaster finish is achieved by using a good foundation. One of the best is expanded metal lath, attached directly to joists and studding. If exterior walls are masonry, self furring metal lath is used.

The shape of the pool is mostly a matter of personal preference, but there are several points to consider in choosing.

First, a rectangular pool, though less imaginative in design than the many free-form and kidney shapes, is best when there are children using the pool for races and sports. Also, the pool should have as few hidden corners as possible, to avoid algae forming and eventually clogging the filter, and to facilitate cleaning.

Keep plantings some distance from the pool, to prevent leaves and grass from clogging the skimmers and to discourage insects from pestering swimmers.

Fences are required in many communities, and should be built to avoid any accident.

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