

Give Power Mower Checkup Before Using

Before cutting the lawn for the first time this spring, take time to prepare your power mower for faithful service. If it hasn't had a tune-up or sharpening lately, your best bet may be to take it to a competent service man. A minor check-up, here's a short-cut check list from the technical service engineer.

• Remove dried grass, dirt and debris from the entire mower. Use a good rust remover and touch up paint where necessary.

Wipe the mower with a clean rag soaked in oil. Never use gasoline as a cleaning agent. Many safe, commercial solvents are available.

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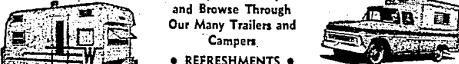
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Observer GARDEN PAGE

Wednesday, June 2, 1965 (P.R.F.N. GC 5-B) Page 3-B

Now Is Time to Act

Plant Bulbs for Colorful Summer

Spring brings tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and a host of little bulbs.

But, early June also means bulb-planting season for summer-blooming types which are dug up again in the fall.

Best known are the gladiolus, strong-growing, and colorful.

Plant them in the soil as soon as you can.

• Check and examine ignition spark plug. If it is in bad condition, replace it.

A new spark plug is one of the best investments you can make in improved performance.

Heavy deposits or damage to a spark plug's firing tip indicate other engine problems.

• Clean and examine ignition spark plug. If it is in bad condition, replace it.

A clogged muffler cuts power. Remove the muffler after soaking it with penetrating oil and tap out the clog with a screwdriver.

• Remove and clean the air cleaner screen. Reinstall.

• Check the condition of V-belts. If they are beginning to look cracked or worn . . . replace them.

• Check all nuts, bolts and connections to see that they are tight.

• Check the operation of the choke valve. When the throttle lever is in the start position, the valve should be completely closed. If it is not, and you can't adjust it yourself, consult a qualified power mower service man.

For safety's sake, never leave the throttle in the start position when finished with using the power mower. The spark plug wire can be removed for extra precaution.

Steel Basket Is Aid

In Transplanting Shrubs

Spring is one of the best times of the year for planting or transplanting most types of evergreens, bushes and shrubs.

So if this project is on your yardwork agenda, prepare for it by adding an all-purpose galvanized steel basket to your planting equipment.

Garden boxes placed side by side will give a solid-molded garden appearance tending to conceal the containers.

Plants which will do well in the subdued light of an apartment are philodendrons and holly.

The flooring under such indoor plants should be a resilient tile-resistant to moisture and alkalies such as solid vinyl, which has the added advantage of a multiple tiny flowerbed design, harmonizing subtly with the garden.

Indoor plants are very useful in drawing attention to narrow areas for specific reasons—such as a sunken living room which has steps leading down into it.

The placement of dwarf horsetail trees on the sides of paths or drives will draw the eye downward, dramatizing them and alerting guests so that they will not trip.

Plants can emphasize special home-decor effects. For example, the current popularity of Spanish moss has brought cactus back into fashion as an indoor plant.

And many modern homes designed in the outdoor-living tropical mood have tinkling fountains surrounded with lush greenery.

Since aromatic red cedar comes in tongue and groove pieces, it can be applied quickly over open framing.

The newest of the lavender roses yet to be introduced is being offered for the first time in this country by a Michigan nursery. It is a rose-lavender hybrid tea, brighter than any of the lavenders so far introduced, and is a real eye-catcher.

Those to whom flowers and colors mean much will be interested in knowing it is a development of M. Jean Gaujal, famous French rose hybridizer. One of its parents is the Peace rose.

Among its European awards is the Silver Medal at Lyon in 1962.

Eminence has all the cherished requisites for arrangement and showing . . . long-pointed bud, full open flower, long, strong stems.

The blossoms come singly and in pairs, in shades of fragrant.

Shower than any of the lavenders and mauves already on the market, this newcomer's "in-between" color is subdued, but lively.

Flowers and vegetables, which require plenty of water as well as protection from heat and intense sun, pose a problem if they're located in areas difficult to reach with a hose.

During early stages of growth, some flowers and vegetables require almost daily watering, and it's a good idea to have a bucket to wheel out to the hose just to sprinkle a few flowers.

The answer is to add a sprinkler cap to your list of garden supplies. For best results, use the galvanized steel sprinklers that spray a wide arc to cover a large area and are not damaged by insecticides or liquid weed killers.

These sprinklers feature a wide, perforated nozzle ideal for watering flowers. They discharge an even, soft spray that will not harm fragile plants.

The Cherry Hill Redevelopment project in Garden City will consist of clearing 31 acres and replanting new street signs.

Winter Kill Attributed to Dry Autumn

Parts of the United States have suffered two exceedingly dry autumns in a row. A number of ornamentals may have been weakened, and failure this spring will likely be attributed to "winter kill."

In most cases, lawns recover nicely from dormancy—at least if they are well-maintained. But even Kentucky bluegrass and fine fescues can suffer winter damage if there has not been enough moisture in autumn for them to green up.

Fortunately, early winter moisture has been mild, letting rain or melting snow soak into

thawed soil. We can be more optimistic than we were last November.

Winter damage is seldom due to cold temperatures, though. Bents are bowed over until soil temperature gets down nearly to zero, almost never the case in any of the states except Alaska.

Rather, drying-out, and possibly disease, cause winter injury. There is less desiccation in

snowy weather, but probably more matting and disease.

If patches of the lawn look an unusual straw color in spring, with a few green tufts here and there, scratch out muted leaves, so that new seed reaches soil when it can root.

Power rakes or mechanical thinners save time for larger areas. Reseed at once—even while the ground is still frozen.

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