

# You Can Put Grass In Shade

Mature trees and the shade they afford at a home site are certainly worth more than the occasional problems they present.

Fortunately, something can be done about the problem of maintaining ground cover despite diminished light and the drain on soil moisture by tree roots, the Lawn Institute says.

PROPERLY BLENDED lawn-seed, combined with stepped-up feeding and high mowing, generally allows the luxury of both tree and turf, it adds.

For much of the country shade seed blends contain fine fescues, noted for tolerance of dry, infertile soil often associated with shade, the Institute points out.

Even such stalwarts as the fine fescues need assistance in heavy shade. Tall mowing adds green leaf in compensation for the reduced sunlight. More frequent fertilization better provides for both tree and grass. And, though dormant fine fescues wait out drought with thorough watering will be needed to keep grass green if dry weather persists.

One of the chief causes for grass loss in the shade is the severity of disease there, the Institute explains. While it is almost impossible to prevent disease, the better lawngrowers usually recover adequately.

Michigan State University tests show that over a period of years the fine fescues re-

vived best, and gradually came to dominate the lawn under the trees.

## Old New Floors? It's Hardwood

Hardwood floors have a number of qualities that set them apart from other floors, but one that is especially distinguishing is their renewability. In contrast to most flooring materials and floor coverings, floors of hardwood can be reconditioned to look like new even after many years of severe wear or neglect which have marred their original beauty. This restoration is achieved at moderate cost by means of sanding and refinishing.

## Floral Advice

FOR AN UNUSUAL and eye-catching pair of book ends, plant two matching vases with ivy, the Society of American Florists suggests. The soil will give the vases enough weight to hold books in place. Train the ivy vines over wire to trail to each side.

HERE'S A STAIRCASE decorating tip from the Society of American Florists. Decorate one side of your staircase with foliage plants and the opposite side with flowering plants. Place the large pots at the bottom of the stairs and diminish the sizes of pots on each upward step.

WHEN YOU LEAVE home for a short holiday and don't have a friendly neighbor handy to "plant sit" for you, the Society of American Florists suggests using this method: Place the potted plants on thoroughly-soaked bath towels in the kitchen sink, bath or laundry tub, out of direct sunlight. Set the water tap so one drop of water falls on the towel every few seconds. The towel will conduct the moisture to the plant soil. The pots, of course, must have drain holes in the bottom.

## Decorate Fireplace With Plants

It's easy to transform your fireplace—with its great, gaping black hole—into an attractive bower this spring of tastefully arranged ferns, vines and foliage or flowering plants.

Select a container suitable for the size of the fireplace opening, says the Society of American Florists. Baskets or hampers are wonderful for this purpose. So is an old copper wash kettle. One caveat: its use is limited only by one's imagination and originality.

YOUR NEARBY FLORIST has a good selection of foliage and flowering plants. Take your container with you when the selection of plants is to be made. It helps in choosing the proper heights and numbers of plants.

While stylized arrangements can be made by using only one variety of plant, it is often more fun to have a medley of all different sorts and kinds of plants.

Ferns add grace and softness. Shiny ivy leaves add a gloss accent. Philodendron, variegated ivy, and some of the speckled and striped crotons are others that may be included.

Be sure to select some plants that are quite tall. Not only do they make for a more graceful design, but they also fill more space in the fireplace opening, the Society points out.

# Fiberglass Belt On Ford Tire

A new belted tire offering improved traction and longer life will be introduced by Ford Motor Co. on certain models this spring, Harold C. MacDonald, vice president - car engineering, announced.

Following earlier Ford concepts, the new tire design is wide-oval in shape, with a belt of fiberglass around the circumference of the tire beneath the tread, and polyester bias-ply cords.

It will be offered as part of a new optional high-performance package on Ford Mustang and Mercury Cougar models.

Earlier this model year, said MacDonald, Ford introduced the wide-oval radial-ply tire option and, in the 1967 model year, offered the greatest number of new tire developments at one time in the history of the industry.

Advantages of radial-ply tires are substantially longer tread life, improved traction on wet surfaces, puncture resistance, smoother ride at high speeds, and some increase in fuel economy.

Both radial-ply and the new belted tires feature a relatively inelastic belt around the casings. Because the belted tire rolls like a ball, there is less of the movement that rubs tread off onto the pavement.

Wide-oval tires have a larger "footprint" on the road, and contribute to improved handling, cornering and higher speed capabilities.

This year, regular radial-ply tires are optional on "Thunderbird, Mercury and Ford, while the wide-oval radial is an extra-choice with Mustang, Fairlane, Cougar and Mustang.

Conventional wide-oval tire certain Ford, Mustang, Fairlane, Cougar and Mustang models since introduction of the 1967 car lines.

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Wayne Jones

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