

# Real Find For Do-It-Yourself

## Paint Roller Speeds Decorating

The paint roller has undoubtedly done more for do-it-yourself home decorating than any other recent tool. Coupled with latex paints (though they are used with oil paints as well) they turn out a job that is easy and attractive. The paint roller covers a wider area faster than an amateur could ever handle with the largest brush and there are no brush marks to worry about.

The tool consists of a three-covered roller and a handle. It's a simple tool and an inexpensive one. But, while a good paint roller is far less expensive than a good paint brush it doesn't mean that you can buy one for pennies.

A cheap roller is a waste of the time you use it with and the time used in putting it on.

Forget the disposable models. They may be cheap enough to use once and throw away, the results will be so poor you will regret using it.

GET A ROLLER with a hollow core that fits onto a roller frame. The part of the frame that holds the roller is best if it is expandable. An expandable sleeve or wire cage will provide some backing for the roller cover.

Pick a handle that will take an extension. This will allow you to paint a ceiling without climbing a ladder. The handle also should be comfortable in your hand.

The outer surface may be made of a variety of fibers. The synthetic are generally best, mohair not quite so good.

For more home painting you will use a short or medium nap cover. Generally the rougher the surface the longer the nap you should use.

Short nap (1/4-inch) is for very smooth surfaces—previously painted surfaces, woodwork, wallboard.

Medium nap (3/8-inch) is for anything already mentioned plus textured walls, stucco and concrete block.

LONG NAP for cinder block and extra long for wirefencing. The medium nap is best for all-round use and is preferable to the short nap because it will hold more paint. This means more painting per dip and therefore faster coverage.

The nap is glued to a cardboard surface. The better models have a core that is impregnated with materials to

make it less porous. A few are even made of plastic. Rollers also are available in seven-inch and nine-inch widths. The nine-inch will obviously hold more paint and cover a wider surface but it will be slightly heavier to handle.

For most people, however, the weight difference will be negligible, so pick the nine-inch model and get 25 per cent more coverage per dip.

A new roller may shed lint. Condition it before you start to paint with it. Dip it in the paint tray and cover it all over with paint. Then roll it back and forth on the ribbed portion of the tray to squeeze out the excess paint.

Then roll it on large sheets of paper until it rolls dry. Do this a couple of times to get rid of the lint. Then start painting.

CARRY AS MUCH paint on the roller as you can without dripping. Roll from a dry to a

Find Demand For Moth Free Closets

What used to be considered "extras" in new homes, are now demanding as "standards". This is documented in a continuing survey of 5,000 home owners and homemakers.

High on the wanted list is a cedar closet for the winter storage of summer clothes and in the summer for blankets, furs and fine fabrics.

Red cedar's permanent protection against dampness and mildew is also appealing. Being the most moisture resistant of all woods, a cedar closet is often the driest space in the house.

Electric Power Important For Lawn Mowing

Electricity is expected to play a bigger part in America's lawn mowing this year as electric powered mowers are expected to increase in numbers and as electric key starting gasoline mowers make their bow.

The electric key start, gas powered models have the advantages of easy starting and complete freedom of maneuverability and travel because they are not hampered by a cord. Batteries are recharged by simply plugging into the household current overnight. A fully charged electric starter is said to be able to start the gasoline powered mower thirty to forty times between charges.

BUGLAND

A single square yard of earth can support 100,000 or more individual insects while it requires nearly 21 acres to support one human.

## Gum Marks Peach Tree Borer Hole

PEACH TREE NOTES: Ever notice those gum balls on the trunk of your peach tree? This is the work of the peach tree borer, the most damaging insect pest which attacks the peach tree. Young trees are often girdled by it and older trees so weakened that other pests soon complete the destruction of the tree.

Telltale evidence of borers is gummy balls on the trunk of trees, especially near the base.

Spraying is often helpful, using malathion, but this cannot reach the grubs or borers. Inspect your trees now, if you

see deposits of "jelly" on the bark, get out a pocket knife, and "deworm" the tree. In digging out the borers, be careful to remove as little bark as possible. Next, resort to the old-fashioned method of gassing them out with mothballs or paradichlorobenzene crystals (usually shortened to PDB). Remove weeds and trash from about the trunk and apply the flakes in a continuous ring from 1 to 2 inches from base of trunk. Do not allow to touch

the trunk. The flakes or crystals give off a poisonous gas which kills the borers nearby. Usually fall, late September to mid-October is best time to treat the trees, although spring treatment is also beneficial. If the gum balls or holes are higher up on the trunk, you can mound some earth up to the infected spot and apply the flakes or crystals. They'll vaporize to form a gas which penetrates the borer tunnels and kills the borers.

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## Give Plants A 'Vacation' Outdoors

Flowering and foliage plants that can be spared from their job of decorating house interiors should be given a vacation outdoors—when the weather becomes settled and warm—to strengthen them for the winter months indoors, says the Society of American Florists.

Now that spring is here, the Society suggests plant owners undertake these preliminary steps:

Discard plants that have outlived their usefulness, including those too big for their indoor niche and that cannot be reduced in size by pruning.

Prune, to promote symmetry or to reduce a plant's size, several weeks ahead of the time when it is safe to set plants outdoors.

Repot in larger pots those plants needing more room in which to grow. If the pots are to be put into the earth, first use an insecticide to combat any insect pests on the plants, the Society advises.

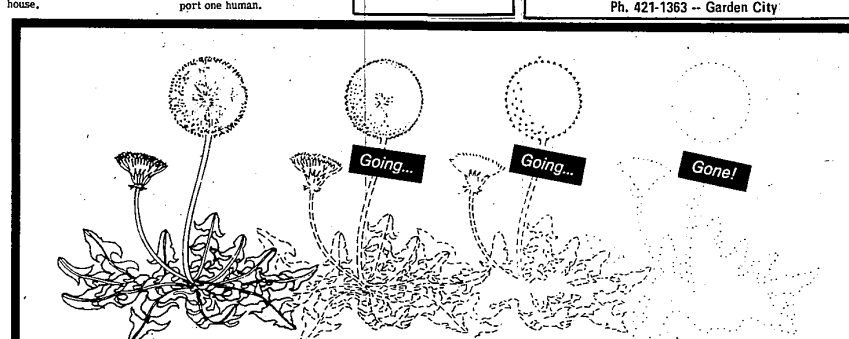
It is better to group house plants together in an outdoor bed location providing a variety of conditions—full sun for desert plants (cacti and succulents) amaryllis and geraniums; partial shade for azaleas, Christmas cactus and orchid cactus; and shade for foliage plants in general.

## Fumigation Aids In Study

Huge nylon tents covering entire islands have been used by a Harvard zoologist to kill all animal life on the islands in a study of recolonization by insects and other small invertebrates.

The sites selected have included half a dozen small mangrove islands in the Florida Keys, 30 to 50 feet in diameter and up to 500 yards from the nearest shoreline.

Dr. Edward O. Wilson and Daniel Simberloff would cover an island with one of the tents, then fumigate it with methyl bromide in sufficient concentration to kill all land invertebrates but not the mangrove trees themselves.



## Your weeds fade away or Scotts will pay!

Ever try digging out dandelions? It's not only hard work... it's a waste of time. The roots go down deep... sometimes 18-24 inches. And if you leave the least little bit of root behind it can grow right back up again.

There's an easier way. Turf Builder Plus 2 gets rid of dandelions and twenty four other lawn weeds with no trouble. No mixing. No spraying. No mess. No odor.

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Want to prevent Crabgrass, too? If you are concerned about crabgrass, ask for Turf Builder plus 4. It clears out this pest before it can get started and disfigure your lawn. It also gets rid of the dandelions and other such weeds—in addition to feeding your grass to new thickness and beauty.

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