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Felix, I have specialized in Shade Trees and have supplied thousands for street plantings, industrial schools, churches and residential. I feel that the right selection of a shade tree is perhaps the most important decision that a home owner is faced with in landscape planning.



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What space do I have? What about patio privacy? What is the ultimate height of the tree? What is the proper location for shade of home? Do storms affect limb damage? How about insects? When is best planting time? How fast will it grow?

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The Green Thumb

—BY GEORGE ABRAHAM—

HOME LANDSCAPING: Anything you do to enhance the front of your home is like putting in the bank. Your home is your castle. A few well-placed shrubs around the foundation of your home is a lot better than trying to grow a botanical collection which soon grows up into a jungle. Roughly speaking, you want to put the tallest plants on the corners to soften them. Under windows put the low growing or spreading types so they won't obstruct the view.

Just what constitutes "good landscaping" is a matter of opinion. Some like to have an irregular skyline effect with their plantings, while others like to plant bushes all the same height for the "hedge" effect. To me, that irregular skyline effect is good.

A common mistake is to plant shrubs of all one color or variety. Try to select different kinds of shrubs so that you get different color flowers, and heights that vary. No planing should be overdone. All you want is just enough shrubs to take away that bare look, something that will soften the appearance of the base structure.

FREE: Want a good guide to help you landscape your home? Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for my illustrated bulletin, **How To Landscape Your Own Home**. My guide is packed full of helpful hints for those who want to dress up their own home. It lists vines, shrubs of various heights, hedges, shrubs for birds, and countless other tips. You'll need this helpful bulletin if you want to dress up your home.

A GOOD ANNUAL: If you want a satisfactory background flower, one which furnishes cut flowers right up until frost, then grow the cosmos. An all-America winner is **Sunset**, with 2 inch semi-double flowers of flaming golden yellow overlaid with scarlet.

The old-fashioned ones are still good. You can get them in a mixture of pink, white and red. Sow the seed directly in the ground or start plants indoors and then set them out when the ground is warm.

A GOOD CUCUMBER: A good scab and mosaic-resistant cucumber for the home garden is **Tablegreen**. Another good one is **like is the Salicy**, a hybrid with extra fine flesh. This hybrid costs a little more than standard types but is worth it.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "We set out some blueberry plants a year ago. What care do they need?" Answer: Mulch them with sawdust or peat moss. Add a little fertilizer to the base of the plants now, and use a couple handfuls of aluminum sulfate around each plant to increase the acidity. Acid soils are essential for blueberries and they do better if the plants are mulched rather than cultivated.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK: "Is there anything we can use to stop the grass from growing between bricks and stones in our walk? I pull them out but every year they grow back."

There's nothing which will permanently keep weedgrass from growing between bricks having spaces between them. You can apply a weed-killer or a drench, right over the bricks. Some use borax, salt, while others take a small torch and singe the grass off.

One gardener swears gasoline over the weeds and this kills them. Kerosene is probably much safer. Why not let the grass grow between the stones or bricks? We have a flat stone sidewalk and I purpose to place strips of sod between the stones. The strip of green is attractive and can be kept in bounds by running the lawn mower directly over it.

Good Vegetable Garden Needs A Space Plan

Home grown vegetables are sweet and tender—the best ones of all—and growing them can be a source of pleasure and recreation for the gardener. Choose varieties that the family will enjoy eating, add a few unusual kinds for a gourmet treat, and your vegetables will be sure to win praise and compliments.

Choose a spot for the garden that gets full sun. Vegetables just will not grow in the shade. A plot 40 feet by 60 feet will supply all the vegetables that a family of six can eat with plenty to share with friends or to put in the freezer. Even a tiny plot a few feet square can be used for a salad garden.

IT IS A GOOD idea to list the vegetables you plan to grow and the space requirements for each kind, and then make a little plan on paper so that you will be able to make the most efficient use of the space you have available.

Melons, squash and cucumbers need the most space. Allow three to five feet in each direction for the vines to spread. Tomatoes which are spaced

need two feet between the plants and three feet between rows. If they are not spaced, allow three or more in each direction for them to sprawl. Corn should be planted in the plants are a foot apart and the rows are 2 1/2 feet apart. Radishes, leaf lettuce, green onions, Swiss chard, spinach, peas, carrots and beets can be planted in rows 12 to 16 inches apart.

Cabbage, broccoli, cauliflower, and most other vegetables are set two to three feet apart.

FOR EASY CARE, group the vegetables that need the same kind of pest control. This system groups cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts and cauliflower. Eggplant, peppers, potatoes, and tomatoes are in

another group. The vine crops, such as melons and cucumbers make another category. Practice crop rotation and plant the different kinds of vegetables in a different part of the vegetable garden each year as different vegetables use varying amounts of the nutrients in the soil.

Use well-rotted manure or compost to enrich the soil. Work it in well.

Use commercial fertilizers as a supplement. Nitrogen promotes leaf and stem growth. Phosphorus aids root growth and hastens maturity. Potash makes the plants sturdy and disease resistant.

One hundred pounds of complete fertilizer is an ample amount for a garden of 2,500 square feet, (50 x 50).

FOR THE BEST vegetables, plan to water during dry spells but do not over water. Water thoroughly but not too often, and avoid handing the vegetables or plants when they are wet or diseases may be spread. Cultivate with a hoe or

wheel cultivator to keep weeds down, and after a rain to stir up the top layer of soil. Some of this cultivating can be eliminated by using a mulch or black plastic strips. Water will be conserved and weeds will be eliminated.

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