

seeing is believing



Rough Walls Need Furring

Adhesives are improving, so that furring strips for stalling wall paneling aren't always necessary...

Whenever the wall to be covered is too irregular or board paneling can't be glued to the wall...

For vertical paneling, a 1x2-inch base strip and two 1x2-inch furring strips spaced equally on the wall...

Usually horizontal paneling can be nailed directly to studs, but where furring strips are necessary they're applied every three feet along the wall.

The paneling of western cedar, hemlock, pine or fir, is nailed or glued easily to these strips.

Some basement walls are too rough or out of line, for furring strips. In this case, a new framed wall section of 2x4-inch western wood can be built flat on the floor and raised into position.

Turfgrass Expert Gives Tips On Fertilizing

Fertilizing your lawn could be compared to a bikini bathing suit - both are essential to the beauty of the final product.

"Proper fertilization promotes health turf, and reduces weed and disease problems," says Robert C. Shearman, extension turfgrass specialist at Michigan State University.

First application of lawn fertilizers should be made in early spring, as soon after the soil thaws as possible. According to Shearman, homeowners should use a "complete" fertilizer for this first application unless soil test results indicate otherwise.

Complete fertilizers contain all three major nutrients - nitrogen, potassium and phosphorus - in roughly equal percentages. They can be identified by bag listings such as 12-6-6, 18-10-10 or 12-12-12.

"Do not exceed an application rate of 1.5 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet of lawn in any one application," says Shearman.

cause fertilizer burn, shallow rooting and poor turf growth."

THE FIRST figure of a fertilizer formula tells you the number of pounds of nitrogen contained in 100 pounds of the formula. For example, a 100-pound bag of formula beginning with 12, contains 12 pounds of nitrogen.

The number of fertilizer applications needed per growing season depends on the turfgrass species, soil and environmental conditions, irrigation practices and whether clippings are returned to the area.

For Kentucky bluegrass in general, at least three fertilizer applications per year are needed in Michigan. "The second application should be made in late May," says Shearman.

Final lawn fertilization should take place near Labor Day, says Shearman. The fertilizer can be either a complete formula or one high in nitrogen.

Shearman cautions homeowners to follow directions on fertilizer bags, especially when using a fertilizer and a spreader made by the same company.

Companies who make both spreaders and fertilizers calibrate their spreaders to the particle size of their fertilizers," says Shearman.

Herbs Next In Hudson's Garden Series

Put a little spice in your life and garden - grow some herbs.

The Michigan Horticultural Society, in its garden lecture series, "How Does Your Garden Grow?," will present "Herbs for the Home Garden," by Mrs. Mary Gerathy, from 12 to 1 Monday, May 15, in the 18th floor Pine Room at J.L. Hudson's downtown store.

Mrs. Gerathy is a prominent horticulturalist, garden writer and lecturer. She has lectured nationwide on the subject of herbs. There is no charge for the lecture, but a box lunch charge of \$1.65 will be made for each registrant.

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