

LEXINGTON II, a four-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath colonial, is a 1973 Idea Home in the Farmington area. It is built by the Rottman Construction Co. in the Thompson-Brown Independence community, 11 Mile and Drake Rd. just north of Grand River. There's a family room (above) and a den or library off the entry foyer.



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

There are two ways to start a small asparagus patch: seeds and plants. Seed is the cheapest method but takes longer.

If you want just enough for the family, your best bet would be to order some roots from your local or mail-order nursery. Asparagus will grow in any well drained soil. Add all the humus you can get to the soil before planting. Enrich it with manure, compost, leafmold, sawdust, whatever is available.

Allow about 15 plants for each member of the family. If you plan to freeze some, then better allow 25 plants for each member of the family.

How about young seedlings which come up voluntarily in the patch... can they be used?

Home gardeners who want to sow asparagus seed, should soak seed 24 hours before planting. After they come up, be sure to thin them out, two inches in the row. There are about 1,500 seeds to an ounce, whatever is available.

FREE GUIDE: Tired of those asparagus? Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my bulletin, "How to Grow Nice Juicy Asparagus." It's full of good tips on growing this favorite vegetable. My guide also has

good information on raising blueberries in the backyard, and notes on rhubarb culture.

WATCH YOUR CANNAS: Take a look at your canna roots to see if any have rotted. Cut out rotted portion and dust with sulfur. Late February is a good time to start your cannas in pots, if you want earlier blooms. Or you can leave them in the boxes where they are stored, and plant outdoors in shirt-sleeve weather.

Canna roots multiply like mad, so you should have enough roots for yourself and your neighbor. Cannas are ideal as border plants (background) or in bed. If you want a striking effect, plant a bed of canna with salvia, marigolds or petunias ringed around it.

After the canna blooms have gone, you still have color from the salvia or other plants, plus the showy leaves of the canna themselves.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "We want to get out some strawberry plants, and wonder if Catskill, an old variety is any good."

[Yes, Catskill is still a good variety, noted for its big crops. Fairfax is another good oldtimer. Try Sparkle and Jerseybelle for late types, ideal for eating fresh and freezing. Surecrop is another good one to try.]

Wetlands In Home Can Be Hazardous

Be one-handed in the wetlands.

The "wetlands" are bathrooms, kitchens, and laundries, which have one thing in common - water. And water contributes to three major hazards in the home: slips, scalds, and electric shock.

Electricity is likely to be used near water sources, therefore, do not touch such appliances as toasters, mixers, or coffee makers with one hand while you turn on the faucet with the other, warns the Institute for Safer Living of the American Mutual Insurance Companies.

are left to dangle from wall outlets, the cords remain energized - and lethal if dropped into a sink filled with water.

Never use a plug-in radio while you're taking a bath or shower (portable battery models are OK). The same thing goes for record players, hair dryers, hot combs or any other appliances. Exercise care with all electrical appliances in the wetlands.

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Now Is Time To Plan 1973 Vegetable Garden

EAST LANSING

Home gardeners, now is the time to sit down in your warm house and make plans for your spring garden. Michigan State University horticulturists say that planning now will save you time and trouble later on.

Think about last year's garden. Did you have any special problems with it? If so, figure out what caused them and try to do things differently (and better) this time.

Much of your garden's success depends on its location. An open, level area away from buildings, trees or shrubs that can block sunlight is best. Nearby trees and bushes may also use up some of the soil moisture and nutrients that should be reserved for your garden plants.

Soil should be loose, rich and fertile. Good drainage is a must.

For convenience, your garden should be close to the house and to a water supply.

Make a scale-drawing of your proposed garden. Indicate size, row spacing, arrangement of crops, planting dates and any other useful information.

Your garden should be big enough to meet the needs of your family, but not too big, or it can become a burden on the gardener.

If you are limited to a small plot, you might want to avoid vegetables that take up a lot of space, such as cucumbers, melons, potatoes and squash.

SELECT vegetables that your family enjoys. Consult seed catalogs to select the varieties you want, and order early to avoid sellouts. Be sure to choose disease-resistant varieties.

In deciding which crops to plant in which rows, try to keep early variety together. Also, tall-growing plants should be together and to the north or west of shorter plants to avoid shading them.

Why not plant several varieties of the same vegetable or stagger planting dates to extend your harvest period?

For more detailed information on garden planting and care, write for "Home Vegetable Garden," Extension Bulletin E-529, from the MSU Bulletin Office, P.O. Box 231, East Lansing, Mich. 48823 or pick up a copy at your county Cooperative Extension office.



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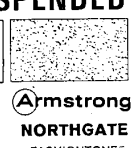
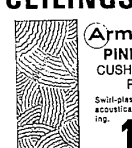
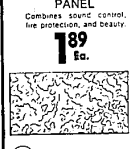
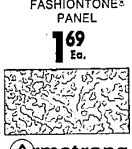
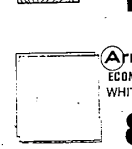
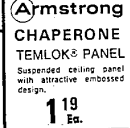
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