

home & garden

Pre-Fab Myths Debunked



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Next Year's Weed Battle Won Now

The best time to fight lawn weeds is before they appear, and that means taking a few simple steps at the end of one growing season or before the next one begins.

Some suggestions offered by the American Association of Nurserymen can be helpful in your weed control efforts.

While there are different chemicals available to kill most types of weeds, the nurserymen advise they be used with great care, sparingly and only according to directions on the label or instructions you can get from your county agricultural agent or nursery garden center.

Never use a chemical just on suspicion, the nurserymen say, because quite often there is a better way to solve the problem.

The most effective weed control is with the maintenance of a good turf cover — few weeds can compete with a tight sod that is growing vigorously and kept mowed at the proper height.

If, in spite of this, weeds continue to be a problem and you are going to adopt chemical measures, advice from the nursery industry can make your effort more effective.

First of all, chemical weed

correctives should be used only on established lawns since some can be harmful to tender, new grass. By the same token, the material should be kept away from other plants. Even small amounts on certain plants such as roses can cause injury.

When only a few weeds are present, spot treat instead of treating the whole lawn.

It is a good practice to fertilize the lawn immediately before or after you apply the weed control material, to encourage the spread of grass to fill in any empty spaces which may have resulted.

The lawn should not be wa-

A number of myths about manufactured housing have been debunked: partly because the public has learned to separate present facts from past memories of "pre-fabs"; partly because manufacturers and builders are producing better homes.

But, say industry experts, this is no time for resting on laurels.

In some major "consumer areas" — holding down costs, design, environmental planning, energy conservation, and over-all housing quality — there's still a way to go.

To that end, about 14,000 builders, building manufacturers, materials producers, architects, engineers, equipment suppliers, financiers, and land and community developers are expected to attend the fourth annual IN-BEX Building Exposition, Nov. 27-29, in McCormick Place, Chicago.

They'll investigate — through seminars, and some 300 exhibits including a special Energy Conservation Center — ways to improve housing's marketability and the industry's profit margins.

Misconceptions about manufactured housing have not been confined to potential homebuyers.

Builders of conventional houses have also labored under some outmoded ideas about the technology.

Here are some of the "popular" fallacies — and facts — supplied by IN-BEX 5 South Wabash Ave., Chicago.

Fallacy: Manufactured housing consists exclusively of modules.

Fact: Modular housing is only a small segment of the industry. Most of the market is made up of panelized, pre-cut, and "packaged" homes, and pre-built components such as roof trusses, wall, ceiling and floor panels, and plumbing and heating cores. The industry also includes mobile homes.

Fallacy: Manufactured housing is new and relatively unused.

Fact: A recent market research study estimates that more than 2,150,000 housing units will be produced during 1973, and 90 per cent of the conventionally-built homes will use some form of

pre-built components. The technology, which has been making big strides in this country for the past few years, has been used successfully in Europe since the mid-1940s.

Fallacy: Manufactured housing is confined to boxy, look-alike designs.

Fact: Actually, manufactured units permit great design flexibility. Modules are designed to be "put together" in a variety of ways. Manufacturers of panelized package homes produce a wide variety of designs, from ranch style to Georgian, traditional to contemporary, single-family detached to multi-family.

Fallacy: Manufactured housing is suitable only for low-cost units.

Fact: As with conventional building, there are low, moderate, and high-cost manufactured homes. One large manufacturer has a custom-design series that sells for \$150,000. As for pre-

features, many manufactured homes offer wall-to-wall carpeting, operating fireplaces, bay win-



THIS ELEGANT HOME debunks the old myth that manufactured housing is suitable only for low-cost units.

dows, open-beam ceilings, even built-in bars.

Fallacy: Use of manufactured housing will put local builders out of business.

Fact: Mostly, it's local

builders who buy manufactured housing. They also develop the land, put in the foundations and utilities, handle on-site assembly, and rent or sell the finished homes.



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Sometimes home gardeners have seed left over or perhaps they want to save seed from their own plants. Is it advisable? In many cases, it is.

Keep in mind one fact, though: Flower and vegetable seeds are rather expensive when compared to other costs. Never save seed from a hybrid plant. Hybrids

are produced by crossing in-breeds which in many cases do not have the outstanding characteristics that you would like.

Seed from a hybrid plant (such as a tomato) when used the following year will revert back to some of these parents and the result will be disappointing.

From open-pollinated (non-hybrid) varieties select only the most desirable fruit from the best-looking plants. Be sure to allow the fruit or seed to develop fully before picking.

In most cases the seed will start to darken or become hard when it is mature. Pick and dry the seed as soon as possible. A good drying temperature runs around 90 degrees. Temperatures higher than this may cause the seed to lose viability or germination.

We dry our seed on a screen in a warm garage. A fan helps to dry the seed and prevent mold. If pulp is present, remove it from around the seed after it has dried. This is done by screening or winnowing (using air to separate the dried pulp from the seed of vegetables).

After the seed is cleaned and dried, store it at low temperatures and low humidity, in glass jars tightly sealed. Best temperature is between 40 and 50 degrees F, but the important thing is to keep it dry. Even at low temperatures seed will not remain viable if the humidity is allowed to remain high.

Next spring, when you get around to sowing seed, better check it out about six weeks in advance to see if the germination is good. If not, better toss it out and buy fresh seed from a reliable seedsmen.

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This will make the plant bush out.

Give it a bright, or semi-sunny window, 72 degrees F. Good soil mix includes one part each of sand, peat and loam.

Incidentally, the popular shrimp plant also needs frequent pinching to keep it from getting scraggly. You can cut the tops out anytime and start new plants in sand or plain tap water. Don't try to grow the plant indoors, if it's been outside all summer. It's too large and woody. Start a new plant for winter.

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