



THREE MOST popular plants for flower beds are (from top to bottom) tall, tapering snapdragons, semi-dwarf American marigolds and dainty white alyssum creating a dense edging. Snapdragons are especially favorite bedding plants because it takes eight weeks to grow a flowering size plant from seed. After flowering in spring and early summer, the snapdragons can be cut back to flower again during the cool weather of fall. Marigolds and alyssum will survive summer's heat quite well.



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Is there an easy way to get rid of dandelions in the lawn? With persistence you can knock them out with weed killers, but chances are they'll be back again next year. Each seed is equipped with a parachute and can blow in from your neighbor's lawn.

The best way to cope with dandelions is to eat them. Nothing beats dandelion greens, best cooked when young and tender. Some gardeners eat the roots like parsnips, peeled, sliced and double boiled. Try roasting and grating the roots as a substitute for coffee.

The early colonists cooked dandelion leaves as a tonic against many disorders. Even the Indians made tea from the roots to relieve heartburn and cramps. We understand there's a company in Maine that has been canning dandelions and fiddlehead ferns since 1897. You can buy dandelion seed from many seed houses, in case you want to grow some in your garden.

Here's a recipe for making dandelion wine, thanks to "Lawn Care." Pour boiling water on a gallon of dandelion flowers. Steep for several days, then strain. Add three pounds of sugar, one ounce of yeast, a gallon of water and two lemons. Cover, cork and leave for one week in a warm room. Strain off wine, corking with cotton and put in a cellar for three weeks. Decant, cork tightly on top and wait hopefully until winter.

It's a shame to lug newspapers to the village dump when you can make them into fireplace logs for next winter.

A newspaper log lasts about a half hour. The average weekly newspaper will make two or three logs, and the Sunday edition will make up to seven logs. Not only are newspaper logs about the same as wood as an energy source, but what other fuel is delivered to your doorstep each day?

FREE: Want to know how to make newspaper logs for next winter? Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for a copy of my bulletin, "How to Make Newspaper Logs." It even tells how to treat the logs so they will burn with different colors.

as you do pine cones.
GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "We want to grow some herbs near our kitchen. Can they be grown in tubs or pots?"

Answer: Yes, kitchen door herbs do well in tubs, pots, and hanging baskets. Try some mints, basil, thyme, sage, rosemary and parsley, to name a few.

WAYNE JONES SAYS:
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Conservation of energy is an important factor which none of us can afford to overlook. One of the biggest ways in which homeowners can help conserve fuel is by making sure their homes are properly insulated.

Sealing off cracks and openings around windows and doors can save you from 10-30 per cent of your annual heating and cooling costs.

The following areas should be checked periodically to make sure they are properly caulked and sealed: wall joints and cracks, porch-to-house joints, joints in concrete steps, around sinks and tubs, pipes through walls and floors, window frames, sealing ducts and vents, door frames and chimney gaps, and leaky gutters and downspouts.

Making sure these areas are properly insulated can help save you space heating dollars.

Here are some extra tips which will help ensure a successful caulking job:

- (1) Buy all materials from a reputable dealer.
- (2) Follow all manufacturer's instructions exactly.
- (3) Remove all dust, dirt, grease and old putty that has dried out or chipped from the surface before caulking.

Plant Center

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