



VINYL ASBESTOS floor tile is used with velvet, hooked rug, cane back chair, and an antique bow-front dresser. The result charming. The tile is the Montclair pattern by Azrock.



## The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Did you know that the automobile affects plant growth in your flower boxes, garden or greenhouse? How? By forming ozone, a bad poison made by automobile exhaust and sunlight.

Internal combustion engines of automobiles give off nitrogen oxides and unburned hydrocarbons through the tailpipe. Sunlight causes a splitting of the nitrogen oxides to form atomic oxygen, which combines with nitrogen to form the poisonous Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), which not only causes damage to plants, but also to man and animals.

This bad poison (ozone) is not always restricted to main traffic areas, but is distributed into your home and garden, by air movement. Depending on air speed, ozone concentration may spread eight miles or so from the highway.

WE DON'T HAVE information on how ozone affects people, but with plants it causes "flecking" on leaves. The flecks are dead spots in which the chlorophyll has been killed off.

Ozone enters the plant leaves through gates called stomata. When the stomata are closed at night or during dry spells, no fleck injury can occur from ozone because the pollutant can't get into the leaf.

Another type of ozone injury besides flecking is smaller flower size, change in flower pigmentation (coloration), reduced crop production and altered maturity dates.

One researcher found that blossom size on blue lavender petunia plants was reduced by 40 per cent, and this occurs with no visible injury to the plant's leaves.

Other types of injury include bronzing, stippling and bleaching of leafy surfaces. If close examination does not reveal the presence of these pests—mite, red spider, aphid or leaf hopper injury—then there's a good chance affected plants may be injured by ozone exposure. Ozone injury looks exactly like that of these insects.

Petunia, geraniums, morning glory, tomato, bean, squash, cucumber, pumpkin and maple are some of the more sensitive plants.

SOME NURSERIES sell fruit trees with wire labels. If the wire is not removed, it can girdle the trunk or limb of a tree and even kill it. Check your trees to see if a wire is girdling the trunk or branches.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC "We cut down a walnut tree. Will it continue to poison the plants nearby, even though the tree will be cut?"

Answer: No. Once the tree has been cut down, it will no longer produce the poisonous Juglone secretion. Also the sawdust or wood chips from walnut do not produce Juglone.

## How to buy intelligently

In these days of the shrinking dollar, it makes good sense to try to get the most for your money. When considering a purchase, either in a store or in your own living room from a member of the \$6 billion a year direct selling industry, follow these proven tips:

• Shop carefully and buy only what you really want or need.

• Ask questions about comparable products.

• Obtain a copy of any guarantee in writing. The guarantee should state its scope and limitations, clearly defining who is responsible for honoring it.

• Before you sign a contract or order, be sure you have read it carefully and that all blank spaces are filled in, as required by law in many states.

• Get an itemized receipt at time of purchase or delivery. Tax, if any, or other additional charges should be separately noted. The name and address of the seller should appear on the receipt.

• Know with whom you are dealing. When taking advantage of the high-quality products, personal service, convenience and economy of shopping at home, request identification of the salesperson.

# Home & Garden

## Care extends life of deck

For enjoyable outdoor living, a deck or patio built of wood remains cool, reflects little glare, adapts easily to sloping terrain and can be carried upward in railings, benches screens and arbors.

But to assure long life, the deck builder is advised to apply a few rules as he buys his lumber and saws and assembles it in his yard.

These include the careful selection

of a location, geared to easy access from the house. Seclusion can be attained with easily added wood screens, if need be.

For safety, beams and joists must conform in sizes and spacing to local codes; your building permit will provide it.

Choose lumber species that resist both wear and decay, such as heartwood western cedar, larch and Douglas fir.

For use in, or next to the soil, obtain pressure-treated lumber. Above ground ends and points of joingery can be dipped in a preservative.

Apply details that do not trap moisture. For example, extend railing capboards over post tops.

Stains are easier to maintain than paint on a deck, light hues easier than dark. Use rust resistant fastenings.

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