

Topsoil Top Asset

Civilization, it is said, is sustained by six inches of topsoil. Soil is a remarkable asset not only for the nation but around the home.

Consider the casual care given soil, yet it supports acceptable vegetation. If a garden fertilizer rather than one designed for the lawn is used the soil absorbs the unneeded salts, spill chemicals, or let debris accumulate, and the soil "bugs" gradually decompose it.

Artificial turf can't claim as much. The bluegrasses and fescues in your front yard continually improve the soil, their slender rootlets infiltrating the soil case to add organic material. Such a lawn snaps back

from any normal abuse, especially in the excellent growing weather of autumn.

As man paves and plows, upsetting natural conditions, it's comforting to realize that beautiful grass and good topsoil buffer the abuses that he inflicts.

More Tree Farms

In the 12 western states, more than 16 million acres of privately-owned, taxpaying forest lands are growing timber for the nation's needs on tree farms certified by agencies such as the Western Wood Products Assn.

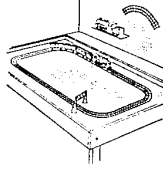


Model Train Table

MODEL train time is fun time, especially if you don't have to use the floor.

Model railroad enthusiasts and children will derive more enjoyment from their model trains if the layout is mounted on an easy-to-assemble table.

By using a single panel of Masonite quarter-inch Peg-Board as a table top for a model train, it is easy to string the wire along the underside of the table. The circuit can be completed through any of the hundreds of perforations.



Either prime and paint the Peg-Board or use a predecorated type with a pattern similar to monk's cloth. This patterned Peg-Board, or the unpainted panels, are available at lumber and building materials dealers.

For a free plan showing how to build a model train table and a display panel for accessories, write a request to the Home Service Bureau, Box B, Chicago, Ill. 60690 requesting AE-703.

Cedar Silvers

Western red cedar is prized for garden structures because it weathers to a true silver. Some woods of equal decay resistance either blacken or turn to a dull gray when exposed to sun and rain.

Wall-Hung Bench

If there's a three or four-foot-high concrete retaining wall in your back yard, use it to support a garden bench. Build a seat of fir 2x4s and attach it to the wall with angle irons. Prop cushions against the wall.

Don't Like Tulips? Try Hyacinths

If you are one of those rare gardeners who doesn't like tulips, there just may be some tulips you'll like.

If you think you know all the spring-flowering bulbs very well by now, the growers have some surprises for you. They have produced tulips you'd never believe, hyacinths in colors you've never seen before, and daffodils that look nothing like one.

How about an orange hyacinth? Yes, indeed. There are even two cultivars to choose from. Orange Boven is salmon-orange and Cypri Queen is a fine dusky-buff with large spikes.

Alone, they are eye-catching outdoors, (indoors, try forcing Cypri Queen); planted with mulberry Lord Ralfour or violet-purple Amethyst, they are more

startling.

But for sheer fire of color, Cyclops is the prize. Its bright red florets are large on a good-sized spike. In groups, contrasted with pale colors, or as a late forcer indoors, it never fails to attract attention.

Other unusual hyacinth colors you might like to try include Crown, a yellow; and Sapphire, a wisteria blue.

DAFFODILS that don't look like the typical trumpet include doubles, split collars, and new reds and oranges, and multi-rose and jonquil types.

If you'd like a waterlily blooming among your evergreens just as the snow is finally going, look for the Kaufmanniana class of tulips.

And for a large double rose

blooming low to the ground in early May, so it escapes those raw winds, seek out a double early tulip. An outstanding member of this class is Fringed Beauty: Its vermilion red flowers have yellow throats and the petals are fringed.

Lilies nodding in the breezes of late May are lily-flowered tulips, such as Golden Duchess, a deep, primrose yellow.

THE GREEN STEM of a parrot's tail floating in the air tells you it's from the Parrot class of tulips. Outstanding members include Black Parrot; Orange Favorite, an orange with green stripes, yellow base, and a delightful fragrance.

Double late class tulips are

often called peony-flowered tulips—mimicking gardeners have mistaken them for peonies somehow mixed up and growing out of a tulip stem.

Vertical Mowing Improves Old Sod

Powered equipment which slices into the sod, loosening the mat of vegetation and even cutting into the soil, "vertically mows" your lawn (also called power-raking, dethatching, scarification, and so on). It is good medicine for improving old sods, or for upgrading thin lawns or ones lacking proper varieties.

Vertical mowing helps make bolster seeding in autumn more

effective, by opening the lawn enough to let the tiny new seeds reach the soil where they can root. A seed blend containing only "fine-textured" grasses should be used.

Fine-textured on the modern label refers to a group of attractive lawn species that includes Kentucky bluegrasses, fine fescues, bentgrasses and a few other specialty sorts.

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