

The Green Thumb
By GEORGE ABRAHAM

There's still time to add a much of peat, sawdust, straw, or any other material you have available, to keep weeds down and water in the soil.

A mulch provides a more even soil temperature and saves you extra time in watering and weeding. The kind of material to use is up to you. Peatmoss is readily available and is a good soil conditioner. Some gardeners do not like it for a mulch as it forms a mat when dry and will not allow water to penetrate.

This can be corrected by loosening the peatmoss with a small rake every now and then. Coarse, lump types will not develop these problems and make a better mulch.

If you happen to live in an area where sawdust is free for the asking, this makes a fine matching material.

A thick layer is needed, meaning about three or four inches. Note: As sawdust breaks down it ties up nitrogen in the soil, but you can avoid this by adding some form of nitrogen (such as liquid plant food - perhaps 23-19-17).

Just mix up a solution and drench the mulch. Or you can use about two pounds of a

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balanced plant food (such as 5-10-5) per 100 sq. ft. of soil surface.

MANY GARDENERS are having good luck using black polyethylene plastic sheets, to keep down weeds and conserving moisture. Black plastic must be well anchored to keep from being torn up by the wind. Small slits should be made at random in the plastic to let water into the soil.

Many landscapers are using black polyethylene under crushed stone, gravel, or pebble mulches, to keep weeds down. Other mulch materials to use include pine needles, wood chips, chopped bark, buckwheat hulls, crushed corn cobs, and even karpaper, or newspapers.

SLIPPING ROSES: Now's a good time to slip your favorite rose. One of the easiest ways to start a rose is by taking a shoot and rooting it under a glass jar. Make the cutting three or four inches long, remove the lower leaflets, leaving the upper two leaves. Cuttings are stuck in sand or earth as soon as taken and watered. Then place the glass jars to prevent wilting.

FREE: Want to know more about rooting roses? Send me a self-addressed stamped envelope for my bulletin, "How to Start Roses." It even tells how to make rose butter, rose hip honey, marmalade and rose jam.

But with a little planning and imagination, even those of us who live in the heart of the biggest cities can have gardens of our own.

If you're a lucky city dweller, you have a small plot of ground behind your home or townhouse. The ideal use of such an area is to plant small



OUTDOOR CITY LIVING — Just because you live in a city is no reason you shouldn't enjoy the same outdoor pleasures that suburbanites do. Members of the American Association of Nurserymen will recommend plants that will thrive in even the most difficult soil and air conditions.

Small Plot Of Ground Becomes Beauty Spot

such an area is to plant small trees, flowering bushes, and flowers around the edges and to pave or brick the center area for entertaining, individual, or family use.

HOWEVER, if shade is a problem, you should arrange the garden to put flowers in the center, where maximum sunlight can get to them. Perhaps you could incorporate a small pool or fountain into this center flower bed and leave the surrounding area for activities.

Deciduous trees that do well under most city conditions include the amur and Japanese maple, the tree of heaven (Ailanthus), the Russian olive, weeping willow, thornless honey and yellow locust, white mulberry, Chinese scholar tree, Japanese pagoda tree, flowering dogwood, Washington and rock-pear thorn, saucer or star magnolia, Japanese cherry, cherry plum, flowering almond.

Of the hedging shrubs, the yew, holly, privet, and privet do best. Lower hedges of lavender, rosemary, dwarf boxwood, or Hibiscus roses are usually hearty.

Color Sets Personality Of Homemaker's Kitchen

Color will go a long way toward determining the personality of a remodeled kitchen, according to a home improvement expert.

The four most popular kitchen colors — red, blue, green and yellow — each reflect a different effect psychologically, explains Robert Huff, home improvement director for Marlite paneling.

Here are the primary effects of each color: Red — warm and exciting; blue — tranquil and restful; green — Vigorous and youthful; and yellow — cheerful and light.

Huff points out that each room should be treated in relation to the character of the people who will use it, to the activities carried on in the area, and to the room's basic dimensions.

Many homeowners are using an accent color in the kitchen to highlight a particular area, such as the dining nook or food preparation area.

Especially popular for this use are 16"x8" Marlite planks, which come in 11 colors, including eye-catching Pumpkin, Fern Green, and Ultra Blue.

Garden Tour Is Open To Public

The Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society will tour two Redford Township flower gardens on Sunday, Aug. 23. The public may also tour the gardens.

The society will tour a garden at 2:30 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Rocheleau, 16212 Inkster Rd., between Fenkel and Six Mile Rd. At 3:15 p.m. the group will inspect the garden at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gies, five blocks east of Telegraph and two blocks north of Joy Rd.

Seeds Die

Studies in Oregon, in which seeds of various turfgrasses were buried for years, showed most to have deteriorated within 3 years. Highland Colonial bentgrass still showed considerable viability after 7 years.

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