

Suburban Gardener

Labor Day Weekend Is Time To Plant Evergreens

By BETTY FRANKEL

Labor Day weekend is a good time to plant evergreens. They are not actively growing now, so they are in a good condition for transplanting, however, there is still ample time for good root growth before the ground freezes.

Evergreen shrubs are included in most plantings around the front of the house for quite obvious reasons. They are attractive at all seasons, their texture and color is good, with considerable contrast between various kinds of evergreens. Also, the dwarf varieties stay small enough that they do not require a limited space or get so tall that they obstruct windows.

When designing the landscaping for the front of a house keep it simple and dignified. Limit the number of kinds of shrubs. Use only a few and the planting will look richer and more pleasing.

Choose kinds that will com-

frast with each other to provide the necessary variety. Contrasts in color or shade of green, in texture, in general form of the plants, and in size should be considered. Also, consider the height of the shrubs (leaf-losing kinds of trees or shrubs in the front planting. These can provide additional interest.

IN FORMER years, when houses had high unattractive foundations, plantings were designed to conceal the foundation. Modern houses are built differently and no longer need to sit in a nest of greenery. Even with two-story houses it is generally more pleasing to group the shrubs so that in some places the house is hidden at ground level, but it is possible to see where the house meets the ground.

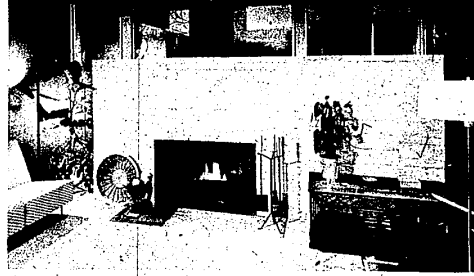
In general the plantings should be designed so that the front entrance is accented. Play up the front door, and the feeling of welcome will be augmented. Also other general features of the house, softening the architectural lines of the house by placing a shrub or group of shrubs where there are strong vertical lines, as at the corners of the house, either at an inner or outer corner.

If there is room, the plantings at the corners should extend beyond the house and swing out in a sort of "wing." This will give room for a thicker planting. By extending beyond the house the eye will be carried outward and the house will seem larger. Lining the shrubs up with the edge of the house tends to result in a more cramped appearance that cuts down the apparent size of the house.

ANOTHER SIMPLE system can be used to help decide how tall the plants should be that are chosen for any particular spot. This works for either one-story houses or two-story houses. Also the door can be located in the center or off to either side.

Draw a line from the center of the door sill to a point on the edge of the house half way between the ground and the roof eaves. Tall plants will fit under this line at the outer corners of the house with lower plants accenting the doorway. These tall plants can be evergreens, leaf-losing shrubs or even small flowering trees.

To complete the planting of the front of a house, a most attractive effect results if trees are placed so they frame the view of the house. This framing can be done by the small trees used as part of the foundation planting, or they can be shade trees or ornamental trees strategically placed on the lawn.



RICHLY FINISHED WOOD and natural stone combine to create a comfortable atmosphere in this home.

Charm Of Fireplace Enhances Family Life

The charm of a fireplace can set a romantic atmosphere and enhance unity in any household. And if a few moments are set aside for planning, installation of a fireplace in a new home or as a remodeling job can be simplified.

When planning a new house, the possibility of adding a room here and there to meet changing family requirements should not be overlooked. Perhaps another bedroom will be needed, or maybe a new family room should be considered to absorb the "lived-in" look and keep the living room primed to entertain guests.

No matter how used, designing an addition around a fireplace gives it something of distinction which makes time spent in the room more meaningful.

IN SOME AREAS, family rooms decorated with flowering plants and enclosed with insulating glass, sprout up as additions to existing homes as

leisure time encourages green thumbs to bud.

By using Thermopane insulating glass, family rooms can provide comfortable, year round living because a layer of dry air sealed between two panes of glass insulates against outside cold and reduces heat loss. And in the summer, insulating glass provides a barrier against outside heat, reducing air conditioning costs.

EXPERTS ESTIMATE that to build a new fireplace from scratch would cost about a thousand dollars. But by using space in an existing chimney to receive additional fire tile or by designing the venting system to accommodate a chimney duct at some later time, adding a fireplace becomes less costly and less involved.

According to Ralph Sherwin, chief architectural designer for Libbey-Owens-Ford Glass Company, if tile requirements are anticipated when building or selecting a new home, firebrick, tile, and baffles can be

installed with ease compared to what a new construction would have cost. With planning and projection, the cost of adding a fireplace can be more than cut in half.

A room's decor can be enhanced with tasteful use of richly finished wood and natural stone. And in the evening, this setting softly outlined by the glow of the dancing flames, slows the hurried pace of day, bringing relaxation and warmth to chilly winter nights.

Forest Losses Oudo Usage

Up to 15 billion board feet of timber is lost annually to over-maturity, insects, disease and fire in the United States — more than enough, for all homes currently being built, estimates Knox Marshall, forestry vice president of Western Wood Products Assn., Portland, Or.

Two-thirds of this huge loss of usable wood occurs in the West and most of it on federal forest lands, Marshall noted. Inaccessibility, a woeful lack of roads, is the key problem, he said.

The cost of roads and intensive management would be more than repaid in building materials salvaged from neglected forests, Marshall stated.



The Green Thumb By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Home gardeners who raise squash, pumpkins and gourds become alarmed at the large number of blossoms which drop from the vines.

Blossoms which drop are no cause for alarm once you understand the nature of the cucumber family. Squash and pumpkins produce five to 10 male blossoms to one female, and only a small per cent of the female blossoms naturally develop into normal fruits.

The males and excess unused female blossoms dry up and fall, their romance shattered forever. Does it pay to pollinate these blossoms manually? Some gardeners feel it does, but if the weather is good, mother nature sees to it that wind and insects will do the job for you automatically.

One of the worst villains in the garden is the squash vine borer. It causes wilting and death of vines. Small piles of sawdust-like material (called "frass") on the ground indicates presence of borers.

Control: Spray the vines at the base of runners during late June and early July (after the blossoms have fallen). Since it's too late for this, you can attack borers already inside a stem. Take a penknife and stab the grub. The wounded stalk is then placed on the ground and covered with soil for root formation.

FREE: Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a copy of my guide, "How to Grow and Cook Pumpkins and Squash."

WATERING PLANTS: If you plan a vacation and are worrying about your plants (house plants) getting water, here's a helpful trick: set a new building brick in the bathtub with about 1 1/2 inches of water.

Pots are placed on the bricks and are automatically watered for at least two weeks. Another trick is to put several thickness of newspapers in a pan, saturate them well and place the pots on these. Never put newspapers directly on the tub as it may stain the enamel. Some gardeners sink their pots in vermiculite, wet sand, or sawdust. Saturate these materials and water the plants first before packing the pots to their rims.

You can also place a plastic bag over the plants and tie securely around the pot. This forms a "vapor-trick" greenhouse which moves a fine "plant-sitter" for you.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "our tomatoes have a lot of yellow and leaves on, and they ripen slowly. Would it help to remove some of the leaves?"

Answer: Removing some foliage might induce earlier ripening (by three or four days). Don't remove too many as it may bring about sunscald. Keep in mind that temperature, not light is the factor which favors the ripening of tomatoes. Putting green fruit on the windowsill will not help them to ripen.

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Delicate white blossoms in Spring, plant in a shady spot.
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Lodense Privet 18-20 in.
Very compact dwarf form.
Boston Ivy
Self-clinging, quick climbing vine
Trumpet vine
Large orange trumpet-like flowers in summer. Clings to any support.

The Handyman
Q. The locks on my windows are not functioning properly due to careless painting. How can I remedy this?
A. You can overcome this problem quite easily by removing the locks and dropping them into a jar of paint remover for approximately an hour. Clean them off with steel wool or an old toothbrush, making sure that you give them a final rinse with the solvent recommended in the directions on the can of paint remover.
To ensure they will work easily in the future, apply a few drops of lubricant, wipe away the excess and replace the locks. You will find that they will work like new—until the next careless paint job!
Q. My veranda floor is wood and is solid. Can I pour concrete over it?
A. It is not good practice to pour concrete on wood floors. Not only would the concrete crack, but the wood under it would rot out in a very short time. If your wood is in good condition, it would be a better idea to repair the floor.
Q. How can I remove self-pollishing floor wax that has built up on my tile floors outside the door of a wear?
A. A solvent type cleaner is not recommended for this job. There are several water-based wax removers that work quite well, but be prepared for a lot of down-on-your-knees scrubbing. Apply as directed, use a stiff brush. You may also find it necessary to use a fine grade of steel wool (#0 or #1) to remove heavy wax build-up. Rinse the floor thoroughly and allow it to dry.

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