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A-12x10-0 Red White Shag	138.00	59.50	A-15x9-0 Green Plush	179.00	69.00
P-12x10-0 Avocado Heavy Scroll	193.00	59.00	P-15x12-0 Gold Heavy Scroll	269.00	109.00
			W-15x13-0 Beige Plush	309.00	129.00
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			P-15x19-10 Green Shag	307.00	149.50
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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Home grown nuts: If you are interested in your environment and want to plant trees for shade, food and better air, why not consider the nut trees?

Filberts (often called hazelnuts) are easy to grow. Plants sucker freely and can be grown as a tree or a bush. If you like them as a small tree, remove the suckers from the base.

Balek walnuts are easy to grow. Try the grafted Thomas black walnut as they start bearing about the third year. The heartnut (also called Japanese walnut) is a hardy tree, producing nuts with a flavor similar to butternuts. Trees bear annual crops starting about the sixth year. Two trees should be planted for better pollination. I forgot to add that if you plant filberts, use two different kinds for pollination, since one variety alone will not produce nuts.

The American butternut makes a good ornamental tree, producing tasty nuts for baking, confections and eating fresh. Plant two trees for better nut production. The Chinese chestnut makes a good shade tree with fine flavored nuts. Two trees are needed for cross pollination.

DANDELION GREENS: Dandelions are prized by the gourmet for grating, while others may regard them as a "sulfur and molasses" spring tonic. It's an easy matter to find dandelions in spring and

cover them with a basket. In a week or so, they'll be bleached white, crisp and tender, with no trace of bitterness.

The famous French cook, Brillat-Savarin says that a taste for bitter flavors is a sign of high sophistication. Serve the small inside leaves in a salad alone with other native greens — shepherd's purse, cowslip, dock, chicory, plantain and purslane.

And if you've never tried eating French fried dandelion blossoms, here's a recipe to try: First, gather a batch of blossoms, look them over, and wash thoroughly. Roll in a flour to remove excess moisture. Dip each blossom in oil, then fry in deep fat, or oil. Sprinkle lightly with salt and you'll find they're delicious!

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "Why is it gloxinias grow so tall and spindly. We give them plenty of food and water." Gloxinias often grow tall and spindly, a sign of lack of light. Move them to a brighter window and turn them every two or three days to prevent one side from stretching out farther than the other. After yours has finished blooming, you can start to dry it off by withholding water gradually.

Put the pot in a cellar and forget about it until fall when it can be started up again. At that time, you can either repot it or scrape off an inch or so from the top and replace with fresh mixture.

Stairways May Yield Extra Storage Space

A wealth of new storage and shelf space may be right under your feet, where you walk over it every day.

Basement or second-floor stairways often are just that, and the dust trap under the treads goes to waste. Opening up or enclosing staircases gives new shelf space, and adding doors provides cabinets for a multitude of items.

One family added lowered doors and kept the television set under the stairs, on a roll-out table. Or the set could be built in, along with tape deck and record changer.

This idea might work well for a sewing area or home office, depending on space. For a family with privacy-seeking teenagers, or when business calls are received at home, a phone booth under the stairs is the answer.

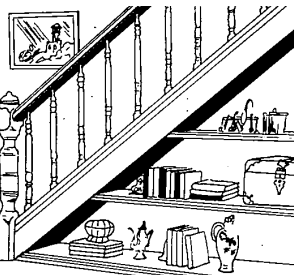
IF THE STAIRS are near the front entry, a closet is convenient for storing coats, galoshes and umbrellas. Near the back door, it's a handy place for sports equipment and along an outside wall a pass-through may be added for storing firewood.

An open stairway can be a skeleton in a basement, and this is a natural starting place for dressing up an often neglected area.

A decorative screen of 1x2-inch fir or pine slats may provide just the touch to separate the stairway from the room. It can extend from floor to ceiling and for a little distance in front of the bottom step.

If both sides of the stairs are open, one side may be screened and the other framed and paneled with 1x4-inch hemlock or cedar boards, installed vertically, to set off a separate area and serve as a backdrop for furnishings.

ANOTHER IDEA is to build a stepped-up cabinet and bookcase combination to replace the handrail of an exposed staircase.



STORAGE FOUND — Opening up wasted space under staircases with shelves, cabinets of western wood adds much-needed storage. Book shelves of 1x12-inch fir or pine boards are attractive display areas for family antiques, art objects. Television set, record changer may be built-in, consolidating home entertainment equipment.

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Those delightful bluegrass, fescue and bentgrass plants in your lawn are not only pretty, but reduce rather than add to water pollution.

A lot is said these days about eutrophication, — the rapid aging of waters accompanied by explosive growth of algae. Organic and mineral runoff from the land feeds this cycle and speeds the aging. Algal "blooms" are mostly attributed to soluble phosphorus in runoff water, stimulated secondarily by nitrogenous compounds.

Some homeowners are hesitant to fertilize the lawn, for fear of contributing to the eutrophication problem. Fear not! Aside from rare instances of fertilizer spillage that washes into the drainage, a lawn has little chance of contributing to the eutrophication of nearby watersheds. In the first place phosphorus applied to the lawn, even if soluble, does not remain in solution long but is immediately fixed on soil particles. Many years are required for phosphorus to work itself down even a few inches into the ground on most soils.

There is almost no movement of phosphorus into water draining from a lawn. The grass itself protects the soil from washing and physically carrying phosphorus into the drainage system. Most of the phosphorus responsible for eutrophication comes not from fertilizer but from waste treatment plants. Waste water contains considerable detergent, and most detergents are half or more soluble phosphorus.

SOME NITRATE does enter drainage water, for soil organisms are continuously nitrifying nitrogen and lightning produces some oxidation of the gas! But so avidly do growing plants absorb free nitrate that almost none is lost from sod even when a lawn is heavily fertilized.

At the Lawn Institute nitrogen fertilizer was applied to impoverished bluegrass in mid-winter, its influence measured the following spring. In spite of four inches of rain falling, to frozen soil shortly after treatment, spring growth showed grass stimulation only where the fertilizer was applied; it had not washed even a few inches down the slope. And its influence was as intense where used in January as on other grass receiving the same fertilization in spring. Certainly most fertilizer

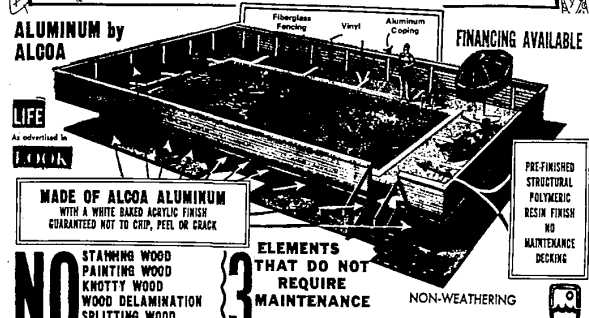
nitrogen is immediately absorbed by lawngass, or, in the case of slow-release fertilizers, remains immobilized in the sod for gradual feed-out.

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