

The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

The Strawberry Patch: established plants so that newly-formed "daughter" plants may root and grow without being crowded. The average patch can be renovated by hoeing out the old plants, although some use a rotiller.

If your strawberry bed is to be kept for a second year, it's a good idea to renovate as soon as possible after the final picking. Renovating simply means thinning out the

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Suburban Gardener Landscape Planned For Easy Maintenance

By BETTY FRANKEL

Do you wish that your yard were covered with green concrete? By mid-summer many a gardener wishes he didn't have so much lawn to mow, so many weeds to trim, and so many flower beds to weed.

SPRAYING vs. DUSTING: I'm often asked which is better: spraying or dusting? Most gardeners prefer to apply fungicides and insecticides by spraying. In a survey by the Men's Garden Club of America, 90 per cent of the members prefer spraying.

Rose growers who want to display flowers, use a dust in order to reduce the residue on the foliage and to prevent damage to the blooms. Otherwise, most of them rely on sprays. Many spray every seven days, but most of the people in the survey spray every 10 to 15 days.

Incidentally, many growers are using a new fungicide called Benlate and think it's the best yet for roses. A reader wrote to tell us he tried "something" different to combat rose mildew—a common dishwashing detergent called Lemon Joy.

He says: "I used one tablespoonful to a gallon of water and it did a good job at little cost."

Let me suggest that you put the water in the sprayer first, and then the detergent. If you don't you'll have a barrel of suds.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: Our peonies started to bud out nicely, but the buds turned brown and did not open. Does that mean we have to cut the plants down?

Answer: Your peonies have botrytis blight. In August cut the plants back to the ground and burn the tops. Drench the bed with a solution of Bordeaux mixture or Captan or Zineb. Next spring, be sure to spray the new growth, especially the buds.

wooded leave the natural ground cover or plant ground cover rather than formal lawns.

On a large property that is not wooded part of the area that is normally carefully groomed lawn can be left in meadow that will have a

succession of wild flowers blooming all summer and fall. The type of landscaping that results when you let nature determine the direction is going to be informal and easy to care for, but can have a great deal of charm and beauty.

Planks Look Like Barnwood

If you can't quite decide on the paneling for your basement project, check some of the new textured panels on the market.

For instance, nostalgia is popular from Broadway to California. In decorating, barnwood can help set the theme for an interesting basement project.

And you don't have to go out and tear down an old barn! Local building material dealers have a prefinished paneling that looks like barnwood, yet has a washable plastic finish. It comes in

easy-to-handle 16" x 8" planks, 1/4" thick.

Marlite planks have tongue-and-grooved edges that simplify fitting. Complete installation instructions are included in each carton of this prefinished paneling. Hardwood moldings also are available for use with this textured hardboard paneling.

With a paneling like barnwood setting the theme, it's easy to select furnishings and interesting accessories. Naturally, it would be an excellent place to showcase your antiques.

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