

Five Gardens Open For Annual Tour

The fifth annual garden tour of the Bloomfield Welcome Wagon Garden Club will be held on Saturday, Aug. 21 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Five gardens in the area will be open to the public — two in Redford Township, two in West Bloomfield and one in Bloomfield Township.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mallow's garden at 17328 Wakenend Ave. (off Six Mile Rd. between Inkster and Telegraph roads) is a small garden that has been skillfully designed. Mrs. Mallow, an artist, has used her talents to create a feeling of spacious luxury. A special feature is a small sunken garden enclosed by a ledge rock wall.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lewis, 27275 Westland Ave. (off Inkster or off Six Mile Rd.)

Suburban Gardener Grass Isn't Dead; It's Merely Dormant

By BETTY FRANKEL

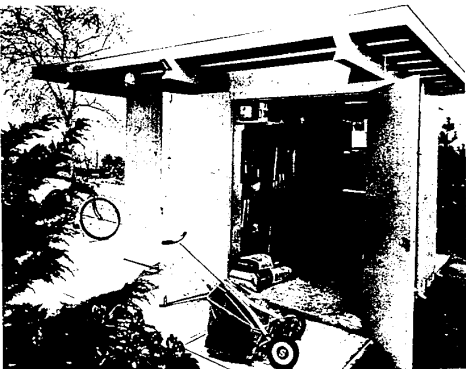
Does your lawn look as though it has expired? Here and there an assiduous gardener has managed to keep his turf green and growing, but due to extreme drought in this area most lawns are not much more than a crisp mat of dry tanish-yellow leaves.

Don't worry though. This is not death but dormancy, nature's way of protecting the grass plants. Even though the tops are dead, the roots are still alive. In a few weeks, with cooler weather and some good rains the grass will start to grow again and will green up quickly.

INSECTS CAN cause damage, too. Grubs eat roots. Others, such as chinch bugs, chew leaves or suck the juices from the plants. Sevin can be used to control most of these insect predators.

If the lawn has discolored areas or shows signs of wear it will need to be renovated or repaired. Late August or early September is a good time to do this. Grass seeds germinate quickly when the nights are cool and the days warm.

If the area to be reseeded is small, scratch it up with a heavy-tined rake before seeding. If the area is extensive it is easier to rent a machine such as a dethatcher that can do the work.



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Don't fertilize the lawn while it is dormant. Wait until growth begins in fall and then feed it to help restore the vigor.

Don't mow the lawn, either, when it is dry and dormant. Wait until growth commences again and then mow — but not too close — to nip off the brown leaf tips. If you are one of the lucky few with a green lawn, experience has shown that it is better to keep the grass longer in hot weather. Cut frequently, though, so only a small amount of leaf is removed at each cutting so as not to reduce the vigor of the grass plants.

SOME FUNGUS diseases may be causing problems and brown areas. In hot dry weather fusarium blight can become serious, especially on bluegrass lawns. This fungus causes roundish spots that first yellow and then fade to straw color. Discolored areas can spread to be two feet or more across.

Often a green patch reappears within the brown area making what is known as a "frog-eye" appearance. With cooler weather in fall the lawn will make a comeback, but the disease is apt to reappear again in following summers.

To control fusarium blight spray with Tersan 1991 (also sold as benomyl) at the rate of five ounces per 1,000 square feet. Use two applications two weeks apart. Also keep the lawn from drying out.

Common Kentucky bluegrass can be attacked by "fading out" or "melting out" disease also caused by a fungus. Merion and Fylking bluegrass varieties tend to be more resistant. In this disease the grass thins out in irregular areas. A severe outbreak is difficult to stop. Use Fone, Acidione - Thiram or Daconil 2787.

Sod makes an instant lawn, but is more costly than seeding. Sodding can be done at any time during the growing season, but sod needs moisture, too. Use good quality, weed-free sod and lay it carefully over well-prepared soil. Tamp down to remove air pockets and give a thorough soaking. Then water lightly every day for a couple of weeks until the roots get established.

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