

The Green Thumb
By GEORGE ABRAHAM



Water your trees: One reason why trees, shrubs and evergreens die in winter is from a lack of water in the soil. Never let your plants go into the winter dry. It's seldom that the winter cold will kill these plants. So keep your plants watered. If you live in an area where there's a shortage of water, then use laundry water for your plants. I can't see any reason why dish water or laundry water cannot be used in flower beds, vegetable gardens or for trees or shrubs. Of course, we don't want them to run off into a stream or well, but I feel they can be used or compost piles, in flower beds, around ornamentals and in the vegetable garden. Alternate it with clean water and the soaps, ammonia, detergents will be diluted to the point of harmlessness. Most of us take our water supply for granted. If you're interested in our environment we should be concerned about our greatest natural resource (water). We should do all we can to protect it. If we don't we'll soon be drinking recycled sewage water. Every year fresh water is consumed at the rate of 500 tons for each person, and because of growing irrigation and industrial uses, the annual water requirement is rising sharply. A family of four uses over 400 gallons of water a day. A lot of this water is simply wasted down the drain. How? Take a leaky faucet. A 1/16 inch leak that drips steadily wastes 3,000 gallons of water a month. To conserve water, get into the habit of turning it off, except when it's actually being used. IT'S SAFE to say that about 90 percent of the water from a municipal system is wasted because people turn on the faucet, then let it run while doing dishes (what a waste of hot water and fuel!). Men break off the tips and root the faucet run while shaving. Aerators on faucets are good water savers. They introduce millions of air bubbles into water, so it suds up faster, rinses off easier. Less water is needed. **SAVE YOUR COLEUS:** Don't let the frost kill your coleus, a handsome foliage plant (hot water and fuel!). Men break off the tips and root them in plain tap water.

U-M Prof: 'Variety Is Not A Frill'

ANN ARBOR
What has psychology got to do with landscaping a motel or designing a shopping center? Practically nothing, up until now, and the result has been a spreading visual blight which, says University of Michigan Prof. Stephen Kaplan, may do substantial psychological damage to those who live with it. Kaplan's course in environmental psychology, one of the first in the nation to link the two disciplines, was introduced at the U-M last spring. It drew undergraduates and graduate students majoring in such diverse fields as natural resources, landscape architecture, urban planning, anthropology and geography. He discusses ways in which the future architects and designers can diversify buildings with rooms of different wall textures, shapes and ceiling heights and windows that draw light from different angles, but his underlying purpose is to convince them that variety is not a frill. It's a necessity. "American psychology originally was deeply concerned with how man managed to get along in a challenging environment," he said. "Somehow it got derailed." Kaplan and his wife Rachel, who collaborated in designing the course, are concerned in their teaching and research with the problems and preservation of the natural environment. They emphasize that nature plays a special role in man's experiences. Dr. Rachel Kaplan is a lecturer in the U-M psychology department.

Handy Jim's FIX-UP TIPS

Storage Under Sink
A FREQUENTLY-WASTED space in the home is under the kitchen sink. This can be put to excellent use for the homemaker by her handyman husband. An easy-to-build cabinet here will provide out-of-view storage for kitchen chemicals and cleaners. Sides of the space can be lined with Peg-Board panels, on which the homemaker can hang odd-sized kitchen utensils or tools. Either swing-out or sliding doors can be made, using Peg-Board or a decorative Masonite hardboard with a finish that needs only occasional damp-wiping to keep clean.

Last Mowing Shouldn't Be A Close Shave
Don't give your lawn a close shave just before you put the lawn mower away for the winter, warns a Michigan State University turf specialist. According to Robert Shearman, mowing the grass too short can damage the lawn. "Enough leaf surface must be left so that the plants can continue to make food and remain healthy right up until grass growth slows down for the winter months."

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