

Portulaca, or moss roses, make a bright colorful ground cover. They grow quickly from seeds sown after the weather is warm, or little plants may be purchased.



This Grass-Roots Campaign Is Winner!

Republican? Democrat? No matter which, it's time to join the grass-roots movement. The lawn-care season has arrived.

First make sure the machine (mowing, that is) is in good working order -- motor clean, blades sharp, gas in tank, and that it WILL start.

Next a clean sweep. Give the lawn a brisk raking to remove dead grass, clippings and to untangle the snarls. Then give it a close cut. Looks better already.

If there is a thick layer of "thatch" next to the roots that raking didn't remove, rent a power "dethatcher" to do the job. Thatch keeps air, water, fertilizer from getting down to the grass-roots level.

Any thin or bare spots. Those are the precincts for special attention. Scratch up the surface of the soil

with a rake and scatter seeds evenly over the area.

NOW THE MAJOR campaign! Feed the lawn.

Without nourishment that lawn just can't be strong and healthy. Unless you are a real purist who casts his vote only for organic fertilizers, split your ticket and give your lawn a light dose of a commercial chemical fertilizer high in nitrogen (that's the first number in the formula on the bag). This will give the lawn a quick boost and bring out the green.

Follow this in late spring with an application of urea-form (synthetic organic) or a natural organic fertilizer (Dehydrated manure, sewage sludge, cotton seed-meal).

A Good Tree Deserves Room For Its Roots

"Don't put a \$50 tree in a 50 cent hole." That bit of old-time advice still holds true. When you are planting a tree, make the hole big enough. Don't crowd the roots.

Large trees should be moved with a ball of earth around their roots. However, smaller trees and most shrubs can be moved with bare roots. Care must be taken to keep the roots protected so they do not dry out. Keep them covered with damp straw or burlap or even damp newspapers.

DIG THE PLANTING hole about a foot wider than the roots spread, and make it at least a foot deeper than needed.

Discard about half the soil removed from the hole and mix peat moss with the remaining soil.

Put a thick layer of this mixture in the bottom of the hole, and position the tree in the hole so it is at the same level as it was growing before, and so it looks most attractive from the main point of view.

Fill the soil mixture in around the roots until the hole is half filled. Work the soil down around

the roots. Fingers work best for this.

Pour on a bucket of water to help settle the soil around the roots. Then finish filling the hole. Press the soil down firmly around the roots. This is best done by stepping firmly but gently on the soft soil while the tree is held to keep it upright.

MOUND SOME SURPLUS soil around the edge of the hole to form a basin or saucer around the tree. Water thoroughly. The saucer keeps the water where it is needed.

Plan to give the tree a good soaking every week throughout the spring and summer. However, don't keep the soil constantly soggy. Let it dry out a bit between waterings.

Fertilizer should not be used in the planting hole because it may burn the tender roots. If desired, some can be used later in the season.

Staking may be necessary to keep the tree vertical.

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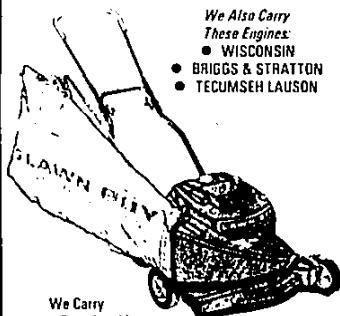
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