

FARMERS GET SHRUBS, BUSHES, TREES FROM STATE UNDER GAME PROGRAM

Pines, shrubs and multitrunk rose bushes have now been shipped from six nurseries to about 900 southern Michigan farmers.

Nearly 1,000,000 pines, shrubs and rose plants in all have been provided cooperating farmers, who received the plants free as part of the conservation department's farm game habitat program. The

work is limited to southern tier peninsula farms only. Plantings serve farmers as windbreaks, fence rows and erosion-stoppers. Pheasants, rabbits and other farm wildlife also use the plants for food and cover. In March, a record 119 farms joined the program.

Careless Habits While Painting Result In Mishaps

Painting ranks high on the list of most popular "do-it-yourself" activities. During the seven-month period from April to October, more than 5 million homeowners will paint all or part of the outside of their dwellings themselves.

With an often surprising disregard for personal safety, intrepid brothers and sisters of the paint brush will be clambering along roof tops, leaning out of windows and scampering up and down ladders, all to the tune of 200,000 falls resulting in personal injury each year - most of them serious or disabling.

In a recent two-year survey of "do-it-yourself" activities and their relationship to home accidents, it was discovered that of more than 650,000 fix-it accidents a year occurring among private-dwelling families, 300,000 or nearly half fell into groups in which a ladder would ordinarily be used. Painting accounted for a high percentage of the ladder group of mishaps.

Here is a list of suggestions often disregarded by more experienced painters and sometimes unfamiliar to amateurs which will help you to work on ladders or scaffolding with safety and confidence:

In painting an average two-story house you will need at least a 26-foot extension ladder for the upper story. The lower story can be handled more rapidly with two 6-foot stepladders and an 8-foot extension plank at least two inches thick and 12 inches wide. Also be sure to use a pot hook for holding the paint bucket. Wood clamps will be needed for securing planking to stepladders.

The right work clothing is important. Regulation painter's overalls and jumper are recommended for safety and comfort, and because they provide convenient carrying space for necessary tools. Always wear shoes with stiff leather soles when working on ladders or scaffolds. Smooth rubber soles may be a slipping hazard and they are tiresome to the feet.

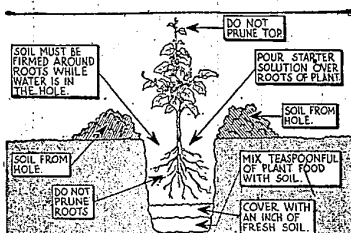
Safety check your ladders before each use. Place every type of ladder so that its feet rest on a firm, level surface. The foot of a straight ladder should be placed away from the wall at a distance approximately one quarter of the ladder's length. Step ladders should be opened fully so that side braces latch.

Always climb a ladder slowly and steadily. Any shuffling movement or sway is a indication that it is placed improperly. Work only within convenient arm's length of the ladder without bending the body to right or left.

Use both hands when climbing, and when working leave one hand free to grasp the ladder. Finally, use as much care when working on a four-foot stepladder as you would on a 30-foot extension ladder.



Homes and Gardening



Utmost Care In Transplanting Will Increase Percentage Of Success

Transplanting a green, growing plant is far different from moving dormant shrubs. It administers a shock to the plant which is fairly compared to the effect of a serious surgical operation.

Most plants will recover, even though the operator is unskilled, but there are a few simple precautions which will increase the percentage of success.

If you are growing your own plants, prepare them for the experience by giving them an extra feeding a week before the operation. In a bucket of water (2 1/2 gallons) hang a cloth bag containing 10 ounces of your regular plant food, four ounces to the gallon. Let it soak overnight, then water the plant with the solution. This will build up the energy of your plants for the ordeal to come.

The night before the operation, prepare another bucket of water the same way; or by using a soluble plant food according to the instructions for a starter solution. Take it to the garden along with the plants. It is important to disturb the roots of the plants as little as possible. If they are in pots, the soil will come out in a ball with little disturbance. If in a flat, they can be lifted with small injury by taking care. Transplants which have been purchased without soil should not be allowed to dry out and should be kept in the shade.

Dig a hole large enough to hold the plant roots with room to spare, and deeper than necessary. Mix a teaspoonful of plant food with soil at the bottom of the hole and throw on an inch of fresh soil. Hold the plant where it is to stand and pour into the hole, over the plant roots, half a pint of the plant food solution in the bucket. While the water remains in the hole and around the plant roots, draw in soil to fill the hole completely.

Do not prune the roots of the plant in any way, not even to remove broken roots. Do not cut back the leaves and stems, although this was formerly the accepted practice. Experiment stations which have studied the matter advise that the plant needs all the roots and leaves it has, and will recover faster if you leave them intact.

Pouring water into the hole and drawing earth into the water excludes air pockets, and insures good contact between roots and soil. Do not pack the wet soil; it will settle down by its own shrinkage.

Plants set out in this way seldom wilt but in case they do, no harm is likely to result. They soon recover and begin growth.

As soon as the shock has worn off, there will always be a check in the rate of growth as a result of transplanting, and that is why plants grown from seed which are not transplanted will mature faster than those which have undergone this operation.

Prepare Garden Now, Select New, Different Crops

A garden spade has many uses. But if you have a large garden, the best use might be to lean on the spade while you watch someone else plow your garden with a tractor. And now is the time to do that plowing, advises R. L. Carolus, Michigan State College horticulturist.

As long as you're planting a garden, try some different vegetables. Home grown spinach, for one, is really a sweet, tasty vegetable when planted early and harvested before hot weather. Plant seed thinly - two or three to an inch - and only three-fourths of an inch deep. Plant America or Long Standing Bloomsdale and keep it a couple feet away from your other vegetables. It will be ready to eat by June 1. If you give it a pound of 12-6-6 nitrogen fertilizer per 50 feet of row.

Try planting some beets early for greens or baby beets for buttering or pickling. Agata, don't sow too deeply. When the plants are six inches high, thin the crop to one plant every two inches. The thinnings make an excellent cooked vegetable.

Perhaps you will want a few rows of early potatoes. Plant them about a foot apart in 30 - 36 inch rows. Work the ground deeply. Use Irish Cobbler, Chippewa or Kennebec varieties. For potato beetles last dust with D. D. T. Remember, the backache will start soon as there will be thinning, weeding, hoeing and cultivating to do as the weather turns warm. Carolus advises: Make an early start in keeping the weeds down and it will save time later when the hot weather makes the work seem harder.

WOODLAND FIRES

Sixty-seven fires burned 261 acres of forests and grasslands in Michigan last week.

Conservation department records show 2271 acres have been burned this year in 327 fires.

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Lighting Tips for Homemakers

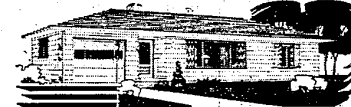
Even though most children would enjoy a daily diet of candy, mothers know the importance of well-balanced menus. Good reading habits should begin at the preschool age, say home lighting specialists. Encourage even small youngsters to look at their picture books in a well-lighted place where there's a good reading lamp. If children are taught good lighting habits for even casual eye work and play they'll carry this habit over into more serious study sessions as they advance in school.

If you haven't room for end tables beside your sofa, try a pair of wall lamps. Lighting specialists recommend lamps with large shades, 13-inch bottom diameter and 8 1/2-inch top diameter and at least 8 inches deep. Lamps designed for 50-150-watt, 100-300-watt, 50-100-150 watt, R-40 or 50-100-150-watt bulbs will give the best light when placed according to recommended positions. Mount lamp shade so that lower edge of shade is 18 inches above the floor. Then, place the sofa so that reading material of persons seated at both ends is 26 inches out from center of shade and 15 inches to left or right from this point.

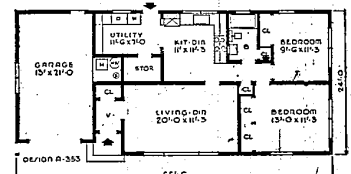
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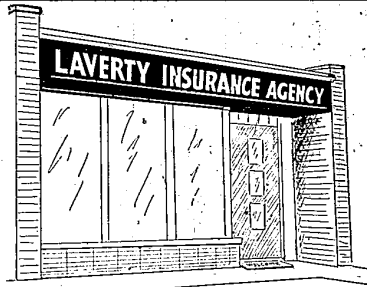
House Plan Of The Week



A SMALL HOUSE PLANNING BUREAU DESIGN NO. A-333

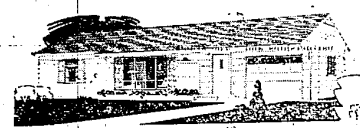


This house plan, Design A-333, has several features which ease household operation. Information about the plan may be obtained from the Small-House Planning Bureau, St. Cloud, Minnesota.



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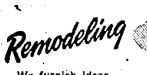
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