

A good offense is the best defense. That's especially true when it comes to protecting your prize home garden from insect and disease attack.

Your first big worry will be cutworms. Many gardeners have trouble with these pests at the time they set out their transplants of cabbage, tomatoes, and even flowers. The main thing to remember is that treatments should be applied the day the plants are set out, warns Ray L. Jones, Michigan State College extension entomologist.

Here's how to fight them off: dust around the stalk of plants with a 5 per cent DDT dust or spray with two level tablespoons of DDT to one gallon of water. Where cutworms damage cucumbers, dust or spray over the rows just before the plants come up.

Some home gardeners like to use a tar paper collar fitted around the stem of cabbage and tomato plants, next to the ground.

Aphids or plant lice are other garden pests found on a number of crops, points out Jones. They cause curling of leaves. Aphid control demands thorough spraying with nicotine sulfate, rotenone or other suitable materials.



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## Homes and Gardening

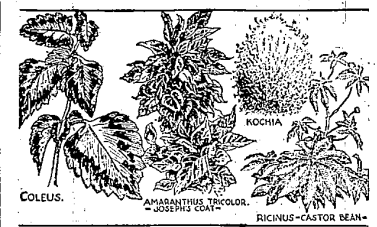


### MORTGAGES TAKE BIGGEST SHARE OF INSURANCE MONEY

Real estate mortgage financing took the biggest share of the \$14,577,000,000 investments made in the first quarter of this year by U.S. life insurance companies, the Institute of Life Insurance reports.

The aggregate of mortgages acquired by the life companies in the quarter was \$1,578,000,000, some 30 per cent more than in the corresponding period of 1954. The quarter's net increase in mortgage holdings was \$799,000,000, bringing the aggregate to \$26,727,000,000.

Life companies invested \$1,105,000,000 in corporate securities in the quarter, about 1 per cent more than a year ago. The greatest increase in this portfolio was in industrial bonds, which were bought in the amount of \$603,000,000.



### Decorative Foliage Plants Can Be Used For Back Yard Screen Planting

Plants with decorative foliage are especially useful to new homeowners who need screen and background planting at small expense, quickly effective.

If landscape plans have not fully taken shape, and it is desired to test the effect of a large shrub in a certain place, before actually planting it, the gigantic castor bean can be grown in a few weeks.

From one small bean can be grown a beautiful plant eight feet tall and as large in diameter. The leaves are large, beautifully shaped, of bronze, or maroon coloring. The Zanzibar strain can produce plants 12 feet tall, in favorable locations, with rich soil and plenty of water.

For a low hedge around a flower bed, or to serve a similar purpose, the fine leaved fire plant *Kochia* is excellent. Conical bushes 2 1/2 feet high with fine light green foliage can be grown singly or close enough together to be trimmed as a hedge. In the late summer the leaves turn to crimson.

The softly brilliant coloring of colorful plants reach their full brilliance in a sunny location, and will grow quickly from seed. A new planting in a front yard focal point is highly decorative. New leaves develop throughout the summer and the colors never fade.

Bushes four to six feet tall can be grown from seed of *Tithonia*, sometimes called the golden flower of the Incas. This bears flowers of bright orange, about two inches in diameter. The variety *Torch* grows 3 to 4 feet and is more compact, with earlier flowers.

In hot, sunny locations, *Amaranthus tricolor*, often called Joseph's coat after the biblical story of the coat of many colors, will attain its finest coloring. The inner foliage is jet black, bronze, tipped with green, the outer bright scarlet and gold.

Heavy-leaved plants should be relieved by those of finer character in the border. Some of the ornamental grasses, easily raised from seed are useful for this purpose and are often seen associated with cannas, castor beans, or the fancy leaved caladium.

The ornamental grasses, both annual and perennial, give excellent decorative effects. The penstemon, *pampa* grass, (erianthus) and *eulalia* with green and white leaves are all attractive.

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### Barbecue In Yard Can Be Built By An Amateur

There's nothing like a backyard fireplace for cooking delicious hamburgers, hot dogs or charcoal steaks. And as a spot around which to plan your outdoor activities it can't be beaten.

Unfortunately, many a homeowner has felt that building a stone fireplace was one job he wasn't able to tackle. Actually, building a barbecue is not as difficult as one might think. The introduction on the market of packaged, stock outdoor fireplaces, with the proper amount of stone cut to the exact size, and numbered, has put this project within easy reach of almost any do-it-yourselfer.

The oven, grill and metal work to inner pose a problem. A number of sizes and styles are available which will fit practically any size barbecue you might want to build.

Many stone dealers carry these stock pre-cut fireplaces. But if your local dealer does not have them available, he can supply you with the necessary stone as well as complete directions for building an attractive barbecue.

Chances are if you haven't visited a stone yard before, you'll be amazed at the variety of colors and types of natural stone which are available. There is a stone which will harmonize with any garden setting, from rustic to the most formal. And you'll find that almost all types of stone are cut in an easy-to-handle four-inch thickness.

But when you decide to build your backyard barbecue, don't take all the fun out of it by attempting to build it all in one day. Pace yourself. Make it a family affair and enjoy it even before it's ready for those delicious steaks and frank.

Don't flow the point on as you would on a wall. Spot it in two or three places, then brush. Paint the claspboard edges first, then the flat area between. Always use the brush flat, even when painting the under-edge of siding. Painting clockwise speeds the job and wears the brush out at the corners.

June 2, 1955 THE FARMINGTON ENTERPRISE Page 5B

If you don't know where you are going, how will you know when you get there?

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### Gadget Walls Are Big Space Savers

Gadget walls - more than mere architectural baubles - are finding their rightful niche in today's compact home interiors.

In many of the modern smaller homes, storage space is at a premium. It is difficult to break up different areas of work and play without reducing each room area to the dimensions of a closet. Some of the rooms are box-like without any finishing touches to give them a look of individuality.

Here's where the gadget walls come in.

To separate dining from living areas, home owners have found that a wall suggestion, such as simple, wide-spaced louvers, give a spacious airy look while marking the areas of use. To separate dining from kitchen, the peninsula with built-in storage for dishes and linen, will double as a snack bar.

These storage peninsulas can be put to use in almost any part of the house. They are easily adaptable to any size area.

Cleverly designed shelving around the fireplace, finished in a natural wood or painted, will dress up a stark wall, and furnish a display rack for cherished art objects, plants or books.

The family room is a veritable paradise for these handy installations. Locked gun cabinet, audio wall for television and hi-fidelity equipment, and one wall can become a neat sewing cabinet for mother, with place for patterns, dress form, sewing machine and pull down cutting table.

### Mosquito Control Pointers Offered

The most popular question asked at the Oakland County extension office these days is the method of controlling mosquitoes.

The following suggestions have been made by Ray Jones, extension entomologist at Michigan State College. He suggests treating the pools where mosquitoes breed or treating the areas with 3 or 4 per cent DDT in kerosene, providing there are no fish in the pond. DDT will kill fish, so in those areas use kerosene alone or pyrethrum - kerosene larvicide.

To control adult mosquitoes in lawns and parks, treat the shrubbery with four pounds of 50 per cent wettable DDT to 100 gallons of water (four level tablespoons per one gallon of water).

More details of these methods of control are available by writing the Extension Office and asking for the leaflet on mosquito control.

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