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SEWING STITCH LENGTH VARIES WITH FABRICS

A stitch in time can save nine. But the length of that stitch is important and should be adjusted to the thickness and texture of the fabric.

Florence Rann, extension clothing specialist, points out that her experience in sewing on synthetic materials has led her to set her machine for shorter stitching and loosened tension. This makes for stronger seams and greater beauty to the stitching line, she says.

The Michigan State University specialist explains that this idea is in contrast to sewing on man-made fabrics when they first came on the market. Then women were advised to lengthen the machine stitch for best results and to help avoid puckering of the seam-line. But, contends Miss Rann, the smaller stitches seem to blend into the fabric.

On lightweight fabrics, sheers or tricot knits, she likes to use 16 to 18 stitches to the inch. "On medium weight fabrics, such as challis jersey and crepe, 12 to 15 stitches per inch is about right. And deep pile fabrics like fleeces and upholstery-types, require 10 to 12 stitches per inch."

On stretchy fabrics like knitted goods and crepes, Miss Rann suggests a light tension and short stitches. "This will allow seams to stretch with the material and not break. The same adjustment can be used for bias or semi-bias seam lines which must stretch when worn, such as steve and blouse underarm seams and long bias skirt seams."

"Actually," Miss Rann adds, "short stitches put more thread length into the seams than long stitches."

Seeds Of Hardy Flowers Can Be Sown In Seed Boxes This Fall

Many flowers, both annual and perennial, can be grown from seed sown in the fall.

The safest way for an amateur to sow either annuals or perennials in the fall is in a seed box. Not even a cold frame is needed to protect the box over winter, though it is a good thing to have. The seed box can be set in a protected corner of the house, covered with leaves, and left until spring.

In a flat, the seeds will escape drowning in surface water, washing away in heavy rains, or being uprooted by alternate thawing and freezing.

Next to a flat, a raised bed surrounded by a wooden curb is a good place. Fill it with top soil and sow the seeds in rows, evenly mulled so you can identify the plants.

A flat for fall sowing is prepared just as for spring sowing. Prepare a porous soil, mixing one-third peat moss, one-third sharp sand and one-third sifted top soil. Put half an inch of sphagnum moss on top of the soil, sow the seeds in this and cover with sphagnum lightly.

Most of the hardy perennials may be sown in this way, at any time before the freeze-up.

Annuals that can be sown now are more limited in number. They must be hardy, and should be varieties which self-sow in your locality and are easy to handle.

Some perennials can be sown only in the fall. Example are the perennial phlox and distamus, or gas plant. These require frost for germination. Primulas also give best results when sown in the fall.

Do not try to keep your seed beds or boxes warm this winter. Let them freeze before you apply a protective mulch, which is intended to keep them frozen. Winter thaws do the damage rather than cold.

If you have a cold frame, fill it with dry leaves with your seed boxes underneath, and put the sash over it in the spring. The mulch can be removed and some time gained by promoting early growth from the warmth of the sun.

If your seed boxes have spent the winter outdoors, do not remove the mulch until the deep frost is out of the ground, then place the boxes in the sun and water as needed.



Primrose seeds should be sown in the fall for best results.

MORE HOME-GROWN VEGETABLES APPEAR IN RETAIL MARKETS

The number of varieties in retail markets are definite evidence that home grown vegetables are rapidly being replaced by those shipped from warmer states.

Although most Michigan potatoes are not as high as expected, there is still an ample supply of clean, smooth varieties which cook well.

Many western states in the warmer climates are sending us brussels sprouts and broccoli of excellent quality for fall menu variety.

Recent rains and cooler weather have brought much improvement in the quality of lettuce found in retail markets at lower prices.

Light season production of Michigan tomatoes is steadily declining and is expected to end soon. Many markets are also displaying 14 ounce tray-packs from other states. Wholesale production of Michigan tomatoes is steadily declining and is expected to end soon. Many markets are also displaying 14 ounce tray-packs from other states. Wholesale production of Michigan tomatoes is steadily declining and is expected to end soon.

Rich color is added to the vegetable counters at this time of the year by plentiful supplies of squash, for around the end of September and early October there is the widest choice of squash varieties.

Early Michigan apples did not size properly and coloring was retarded by the high temperatures prevailing during the summer months. However, the late rains and cooler weather have improved both coloring and sizing. McIntosh, Jonathan and Delicious are most in evidence.

The supply of prune-plums has helped to keep prices at such a low level as to place them in the good-buy spotlight.

There are abundant supplies of Bartlett pears available. All pears should be purchased in the firm-ripe or firm stage and ripened at room temperature - never in the refrigerator.

Continuing supplies of green Thompson seedless grapes are coming into the markets, while heavy supplies of Tokay grapes have also begun to arrive.

All fresh pork cuts as well as smoked pork represent good values, for all types remain steady to a few pennies lower than a week ago in the wholesale market. However, because many packers and retailers have depleted their frozen stocks in storage and are beginning to use all fresh supplies, some retail prices may appear to be slightly higher. There are numerous excellent pork buys to be found this week.

With such liberal supplies of these items in the markets, prices remain at very attractive low levels. Cooler weather has encouraged better growth and top quality supplies of 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pound beef are available at slightly lower costs. Forequarter cuts of beef continue to be most in demand.

Wise shoppers will recognize small eggs to be much the better buy on a per pound basis. Both large and medium sizes are priced at very high retail levels and have increased one to two cents a dozen.

Nearly 200 tons of paper were needed to record the 50 million votes cast in the election for the Peace Conference at Geneva, Switzerland, according to a United Nations official.

Start Planning Your Home Now For Next Spring

If you're hoping your dream home will reach the hammer and saw stage by next spring, now is the time to start laying the ground work on paper.

The Small Homes Council recommends major points to consider before the surveyor even cocks an eye through his transit.

Site and Plan - You must consider size, shape and special features of the house you plan to build before buying a lot. Surrounding of the growing things of nature are important. You must consider location of schools, church, work and shopping. There are also city regulations and future requirements to keep in mind.

Financing - It's a good rule to limit monthly mortgage, tax and insurance payments to not more than 20 per cent of your monthly income. Maintenance costs are also a factor. Your architect can give you an overall cost estimate.

Building Contract - Before signing any contracts for building of your new home, discuss the work and make sure all details are mutually understood. This should also include arrangements for additional charges or "extras."

Construction - Sound, good construction is economical, for there are fewer repairs, lower maintenance costs, money saved.

Plumbing and Heating - As these facilities are roughed in the house, it's a good idea to recheck location of everything, and to make certain all units are adequate for the size of the house and the family. Keep in mind future possible installations.

Electricity - Know what you want and allow a generous supply of outlets. Changes are costly, and it is wise to wire for any type modern electrical equipment that you plan to install "some day."

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Deer Information Sheet Ready For Hunters

The 1955 Deer Hunting Information sheet will soon be available from Conservation Department district and headquarters offices throughout the state.

Every year, the little four-page sheet gains in popularity. This year, 75,000 were printed as aids to hunters.

Included are statistics and tables that tell the story of last year's season and on the back page is a slimmed-down summary of this year's regulations.

The sheets are also distributed at sportsmen's clubs.

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Best Meat, Fruit Vegetable Buys Of Week Revealed

More pigs in the market is good news for the budget-minded shopper. The spring crop now coming to market is about 13 per cent more than last year, and prices are lower. For roasts, good values can be found in loin cuts or Boston butt. Smoked cuts representing wise choices include ham, picnics, bacon, and sausage.

Cooler weather has helped bring bigger and better frosts to market. Ample supplies are selling at about 50 cents per pound. Some stores are offering 17 to 22 pound tom and 10 to 15 pound hen turkeys at very reasonable prices.

There is a swing toward more demand for forequarter cuts of beef, and prices have increased slightly. Blade cuts of chuck and ground beef top the economy list. Some stores will feature a few hindquarter cuts at savings to the customer.

Small and medium-sized eggs from young producing hens are the best buy on the basis of both weight and quality. The difference in small and large eggs is as much as 30 cents for only a six ounce difference in weight. The spread between medium and large eggs is about 14 cents for a three ounce weight difference.

Alert shoppers will star cauliflower on their market lists. The crop is short, but it is now at its peak in quality and quantity.

Potatoes vary from 2 to 7 cents per pound according to the size package and the source of supply. Price-wise, Michigan Chippewas and Kathodins are the best values.

Cooler weather has improved many vegetables. Head lettuce and cabbage are more crisp and green. Fall squash, eggplant, and dry onions are other wise choices for quality and economy.

Tokay grapes are at the peak of supply and quality. Prices are as low as 10 cents per pound in many stores.

Michigan Jonathan, McIntosh, and Delicious apples, of good size and color, are in abundant supply. Prices during October are lower than any time of the year. Cider time is here with one gallon sizes very reasonably priced.

Bartlett pears continue in good supply. If ripened at room temperature, they will be tender and juicy within a few days.

This year's big cranberry crop is already arriving at produce counters. Quality is good and prices are right for the budget.

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