

PROFESSOR TO SPEAK ON FERTILIZERS AT LECTURE IN WAYNE FEBRUARY 21

Farmington gardeners and growers interested to hear a talk on the topic, "All About Fertilizer," will find it a most profitable one. Professor Wade McCall, Soil Scientist of Michigan State University, on Tuesday, February 21, at 7:30 p.m. at the County Extension Building, 3930 Newberry Street, Wayne.

According to Dr. McCall, there is too much confusion about the feeding of plants since the wide spread introduction of liquid fertilizers, slowly available nitrogen fertilizers, and so-called organic fertilizers. Liquid garden and lawn soils in this area causes serious problems because grasses and vegetables prefer a moderately acid soil, he states. Many mineral elements such as manganese, phosphorus, iron, copper, zinc and boron become locked-up and unavailable to the young growing plant.

Dr. McCall supervises research on the nutrition of greenhouse flowers and outdoor vegetables in the Soil Science Department. Everyone is invited to the lecture.

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Asbestos Siding Easily Painted, Say Authorities

Although asbestos-cement siding never requires painting for preservation, an occasional situation may arise where such treatment is desired for a change in appearance, home maintenance authorities report. In such a case, they say, the home-owner will find that the siding takes paint readily.

Made from Portland cement and asbestos fibers, asbestos siding is rocklike in nature and is extremely durable. It will not rot or rust and therefore wears indefinitely without the assistance of a protective coating. Painting is not needed when the siding is first applied, since the shingles come with their own built-in decorative treatment.

Because asbestos siding is a permanent material, however, it follows that with the passing of years some owners of asbestos-sided homes may wish to switch to a new color plan. Or unusual neighborhood conditions may favor a "fresh-up" treatment. Then there is no reason why the paint brush should not be put to use.

In painting asbestos siding, it should be remembered that the material actually is a form of reinforced concrete, in thin-slab form. Therefore, a special type of paint is called for. A number of manufacturers now are marketing paints especially intended for use over asbestos siding. They are readily available at most paint and hardware stores, and at lumber yards. The purchaser should be sure, however, to specify paint for use over asbestos-cement and to follow the manufacturer's directions.

In the exceptional case where the painting of asbestos siding is indicated as desirable, maintenance experts point out, the investment is well justified. Examination undoubtedly will show that from the viewpoint of structural performance the siding shingles are as good as the way they were first put on. They will last as long as the building stands for their zero combustibility factor, which gives them a high fire-safety rating, remains constant throughout the years.

Other asbestos-cement products, including asbestos-cement board and corrugated asbestos-cement sheets, can be painted in the same manner as asbestos siding. Asbestos-cement roofing shingles also can be painted, although it is seldom that an occasion for the treatment would arise.

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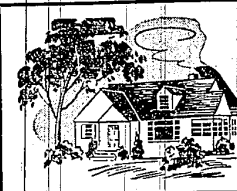
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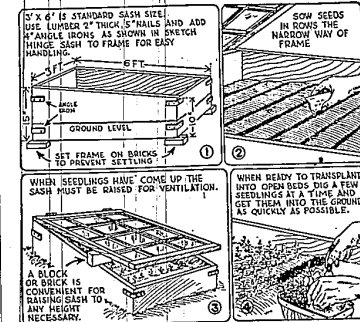
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Homes and Gardening



Cold Frames Should Be Built Now To Be Ready For Spring Planting

Thousands of years ago some observant cave-man noticed that plants growing in a pit thrived better in the early spring than those growing on the surface. Pits are still used for winter protection of plants in moderate climates.

Pits were transformed into cold frames when glass became available and gardeners, who are always observant and ingenious, found they could increase the value of their pits by covering them. Glass lets the sun's heat through and keeps cold air out. On a sunny spring day the temperature in the frame may run to 100 degrees though the air outside is chilly.

For eight weeks before frost has laid in the garden each spring, plants can be grown with safety in a cold frame. All through the year there are some uses for the frame. It would be impossible to find a better use for 18 square feet in any garden area than to cover it with a cold frame.

Any one who can wind a saw and hammer can do it. It is usually made three by six feet, or some multiple of this, for the reason that standard hot-bed sash are of these dimensions.

But a cold frame (or a hot-bed either) may be any size to fit old windows, or frames covered with one of the modern glass substitutes.

Glass substitutes are worth considering. They do not break and the breakage of glass in windy localities is sometimes considerable. They are much lighter than glass, a merit which women appreciate. They do not let in as much light as glass, but for growing seedlings they let in enough.

The substitutes most commonly used consist either of wire screens covered with material resembling celluloid, or fabrics treated with wax to make them waterproof, and let more light through. Two thicknesses of sheet polyethylene will serve for one year.

In making a cold frame, the frame should be constructed of 1-inch boards, of cypress, white pine or some wood which resists rot. First, dig a hole in the ground slightly larger than the size of the frame. It should be at least a foot deep. Place the frame into the hole so that six inches of it is beneath the surface and the remainder is above. This will insure that no drafts enter from beneath. Construct the frame so that the front is four inches above the surface and the rear is nine inches above it. It must slant toward the south, where the winter sun shines. It is well to hinge the sash at the top of the frame so it can be easily opened for transplanting purposes and airing.

A sunny spot in the garden, protected as much as possible from the full force of wind and driving rain, is the best situation for the cold frame. It may be too cold now to dig in the garden, but the sash may be procured and the lumber frame made, so that it is ready for serious gardening with the arrival of the first warm days.

Plywood Surfaces Made Burn-Proof In New Process

The new char-proof and stain-proof hardwood plywood, termed "beautyguard" by the trade, is expected to be widely used for heavy-duty purposes such as bar tops, counters, and tops for dressers, tables and desks. It will also be available to the home craftsman for these same uses through retail lumber yards and plywood shops.

The material is unaffected by alcoholic beverages and by household liquids of acid or caustic nature. A burning cigarette held directly against the hardwood plywood will not char the beautiful surface. The material is made by laminating a thin layer of aluminum foil beneath the face veneer of the plywood, and by finishing it with approved materials. The aluminum rapidly conducts heat, preventing charring of the wood surface.

The new development offers the beauty of genuine hardwood at less cost than the imitation wood surfaces now being used for char-resistant qualities. Furniture items made of "beautyguard" hardwood plywood are being exhibited at the winter furniture shows.

Kitchen cabinets and base units are manufactured in a wide choice of attractive woods. Among the favored species are birch, maple, mahogany, oak, gum, pine and fir.

Carport Solves Two-Car Problem

Millions of American families have jumped into the two- and three-car class, but most designers of older homes didn't anticipate such opulence. Result: one-car garage.

Now you can have shelter for the extra car, lumber dealers report. If there is no yard space for two cars side by side; and you already have a one-car garage, consider the possibility of building a carport shelter large enough for one car built directly in front of the older garage. It can be built of Douglas fir or west coast hemlock by any good carpenter or handy husband.

Plan the roof section of the carport so the rain water will run off harmlessly. It is a good idea to make certain the western red cedar support posts for the carport allow ample clearance for cars being driven in and out of the garage.

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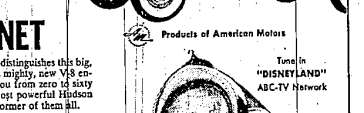
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HOT WATER BEST FOR THAWING PIPES, EXPERT STATES

If it becomes necessary to thaw water pipes this winter, don't do it with a blow torch, and don't try it with lye or drain solvents either, caution authorities.

With a blow torch or open flame, there is too great a danger of starting a fire in the cobwebs and dust particles around the pipes, warns Richard G. Pfister, safety specialist at Michigan State University. With lye, the pipe area above the frozen part would corrode without doing much thawing of ice.

The most practical pipe-thaw method for most families is hot water poured on several layers of cloth wrapped around the pipe, according to Pfister. Thermal tape does a good job, too, and is inexpensive. Infra-red heat lamps also work. The ones with red glass in front are the best.

Hot water is unaffected by alcoholic beverages and by household liquids of acid or caustic nature. A burning cigarette held directly against the hardwood plywood will not char the beautiful surface. The material is made by laminating a thin layer of aluminum foil beneath the face veneer of the plywood, and by finishing it with approved materials. The aluminum rapidly conducts heat, preventing charring of the wood surface.

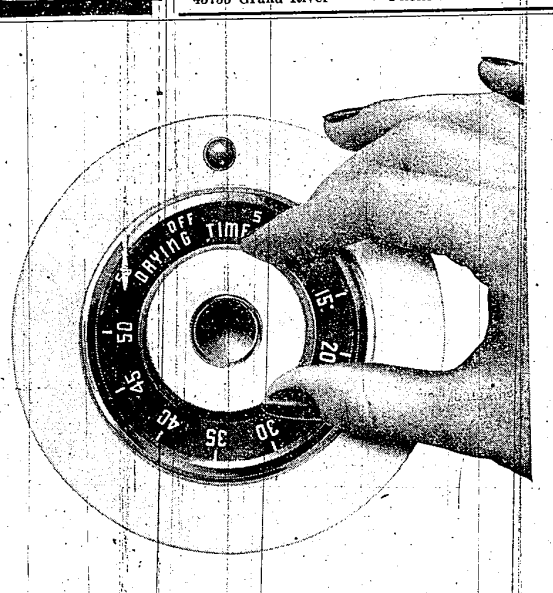


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