

# Enterprise Home Improvement

## Tips on Gardening

By Betty Frankel

**GAMBLE**  
Are there any gamblers in the crowd? If it is a crowd of gardeners, the answer must be yes; because nature is always playing a game of chance with the gardener. The odds are in the gardener's favor; but even when all the rules are followed, there is still an element of uncertainty. Will frost nip the flower in the bud? Will the hard, dry pellets of seed entrusted to the earth sprout and grow? Only time will tell if the wheel of fortune will favor them with enough rain, but not too much, enough sunshine, and freedom from

pests. Conversely, sometimes when all the rules are broken, the impossible happens and plants thrive under the most adverse conditions. It is this element of chance, combined with the opportunity to design and nurture living beauty, that makes people into gardening addicts.

**VEGETABLE GARDENS**  
Crisp green beans, juicy tomatoes, sweet corn on the cob! Mouthwatering vegetables picked at the peak of perfection can be yours if you grow your own. All that is needed is a sunny spot with average soil that is well drained. The rest is a matter of choosing which vegetables to grow (concentrate on the family favorites), and making a plan that allows enough space for each chosen kind.

Radishes, leaf lettuce, green onions, spinach, peas, carrots, and beets can be planted in rows that are only a foot apart, with eighteen inches in between. Most other vegetables need 1 1/2 to 2 feet between the rows. Tomatoes that are staked need 2 feet between plants and 3 feet between the rows. Corn can be planted in rows 2 1/2 feet apart with one foot between plants, or can be planted in hills 3 feet apart each way. Melons, cucumbers and squash are spreading vines that need 2 1/2 to 5 feet of space in each direction.

IF ONLY A TINY SPACE is available, try a salad garden with a short row of radishes and a short row of leaf lettuce.

a few tomato plants, including a cherry tomato, and a chive plant if space permits. With more space add head lettuce, spinach or Swiss chard, beans, beets, carrots, cabbage and broccoli. If there is space for a large garden, peas, corn, squash, melons, cucumbers, potatoes, and many others can be included.

For the best crops prepare the soil carefully before planting. Work in generous amounts of well-rotted manure, compost, or peat if they are available. During the final raking, work a light covering of commercial fertilizer into the soil, using four or five pounds per hundred square feet of garden.

**PLANT THE SEEDS** at the depth recommended on the packet and space and thin them to the proper distance. Cultivate after each rain to conserve moisture. Mulches of straw or plastic are also helpful. During dry spells soak the soil thoroughly every week or ten days. Do not sprinkle. Remove weeds before they become large, fierce competitors. Also, keep a sharp eye for insects and diseases and promptly remove them or use the appropriate spray or dust.

Hardy vegetables can be planted as early in Spring as the soil can be worked. Tender vegetable plants and seeds must wait until the soil is warm and frost danger is past. The average date for the last frost in this area is mid-May; so if you are dreaming of home-grown vegetables, now is the time to put your plan into action.

**REMEMBERS**  
It is too late now for pre-emergent crab grass controls. Use post-emergent sprays later this month. Fruit trees need numerous sprayings for best fruit.

### 4th Tool For Clean Up Time

Cleanup time is workout time for three important tools in the house-broom, rake and paintbrush.

But be sure you add a fourth one—the trash can.

Trash and rubbish are an open invitation for fire to enter your home.

A good, vigorous clean-out job, repeated at regular intervals, is one of the smartest things you can do to keep your home and your family safe from fire.

**MAYBE YOU DON'T** have anything you would call "trash" around your place. Call it clutter then. Go up in the attic and take a good, calculating look at any old maketresses, stacks of papers and magazines, discarded draperies and lamp shades. Check closets for old clothing and cleaning rags. Go over the basement for workshop scraps, oily rags, paint cans. Don't miss the garage either.

**GET RID OF IT ALL**—this fuel for fire—and you and the house will likely be around much longer to enjoy that new paint job and spruced-up yard you gave it this Spring.

National Fire Protection Association figures show that about one of every twelve fires starts in rubbish. That's why using the trash can is so important, during Spring Cleanup and all year around.

## Better Wiring Can Boost Home Comfort and Value

Almost any home improvement or remodeling job calls for some electrical work. Therefore, wise owners give their homes complete electrical modernization jobs while other work is being done.

From that time forward, they can make full use of the modern electrical appliances and equipment which are part and parcel of everyday living in today's homes — both inside and out. A wiring modernization job opens up a new world of living comfort, while adding to property value.

**Check System**  
Any electrical contractor who specializes in home wiring improvement will arrange to make a thorough check of the present wiring system, in order to determine just what changes are necessary in order to increase the home's "Housepower." As a rule, this survey is offered without charge or obligation.

In most homes built ten or more years ago, the wiring survey will reveal a need to enlarge the main electric service panel and to increase the size of the wires which feed electricity to the panel from the power line.

## Brighten Up Home With Windows

There's almost nothing that can transform a house from dreary to cheery like new windows. They let in light and air, make the outdoors part of your home, and add a sense of spaciousness.

With a wide variety of stock wood windows available at lumber supply dealers, it's easy to choose the right ones for any room in any house — Colonial or contemporary.

Many of today's wood windows, made of sturdy ponderosa pine, have small panes — diamond shaped or rectangular — to suit traditional architecture. Others have grilles that can be removed when windows are washed.

If new windows figure in your remodeling plans, you can choose from the following:

**Double-hung:** opens up from the bottom and down from the top. Like all the other types of modern wood windows, today's double-hung units open easily, close tightly, and are fully weatherstripped to prevent infiltration of cold air.

**Casement:** opens out to the side like a door to permit full ventilation and easy window washing. It is particularly useful in hard-to-reach places such as over the sink because it opens so easily.

**Sliding:** slides open at a touch and closes tightly for year-round comfort. Several often are used together to form a wall of windows between a living room or dining room and the patio.

**Awning and hopper:** similar in design, but awning windows open up and out, giving protection from rain, while hopper windows open in and down, directing breezes upward to prevent drafts. Awning or hopper windows frequently are grouped in banks to make up one large window.

Bay and bow: both of these windows project out from the wall, giving a greater feeling of space to a room.

## Ornamental Shade Trees

Corkscrew Willow, a picturesque tree with branches and leaves curiously twisted. Foliage is typically narrow and is also contorted.

**NO FINGERPRINTS**  
A thin coat of wax, well buffed with a soft cloth, on the edges of doors will keep fingerprints from showing.

**Increase Energy**  
This will increase the supply of electric energy "on tap" — opening the way for installation and use of major electrical appliances such as built-in ovens and surface units, high speed electric clothes dryers, dishwashers, garbage disposers, air conditioners — and many more.

Next, a survey of the branch circuits which carry current from the main panel to lights and outlets will undoubtedly turn up a need for extra circuits to feed small appliances, electric power tools, entertainment equipment and so on.

This doesn't mean that all wiring must be worn out. New branch circuits simply relieve the old ones from overloading and permit the use of several appliances at once without risking a "blackout."

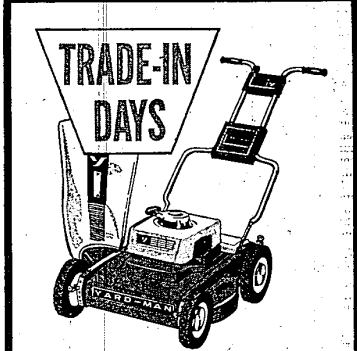
BY BOB LEE  
Of Albrecht's Nursery

Globe Locust, a splendid small ornamental tree that develops a compact symmetrical round top without shearing, makes a good shade tree when mature. Desirable for planting under utility wires and on streets where larger trees are not practical, and for formal effect. Thornless seedless, hardy and drought-resistant.

Sweet Gum tree, a pyramidal tree with dense star-shaped foliage turning a deep crimson in fall. Very interesting corky bark. Grows well in moist location.

KENTUCKY Coffee tree is a rugged, pest-free tree of picturesque round-spreading habit, slow growing, light blue green foliage.

Tulip tree a fast-growing symmetrical tree with tall straight trunk. Yellow tulip-like flowers in late spring.



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