

1965 Home Improvement Guide

Dress Up Back Door Aim to Save Steps, Increase Efficiency

The move to beautify back doors has begun. After all, why should they be ugly? The back door is as important as any other part of the house.

Handsome screens can dress up an existing back door. At the same time, they can conceal this utility entrance from an adjoining patio or garden.

One plan for beautifying the back door uses a fence section about five feet long, abutting the house wall near the back door, to provide the main screening action.

Then, coming in at a gentle curve and offset from the first screen is a second, which runs

along the edge of patio or garden. This screen is positioned to allow family members to pass from the back door around the side of the house without being seen from the outdoor living area.

The pattern suggested for the screens makes them a handsome addition to the back yard. The stringers are double one by sixes, which, incidentally, are thin enough to form a gentle curve. Posts are two by sixes, with stringers run between a pair and bolted.

The fence is then filled in with narrow one by ones, spaced slightly.

Tips on Gardening

By Betty Frankel

Local gardens are resplendent at the present time with green foliage, emerald lawns, and a profusion of bright flowers. Iris and oriental poppies continue to dominate the garden, but delphinium, columbine, pinks and a score of other perennials are contributing to the colorful scene. Deutzia, most orange beauty bush and wigwags are among the shrubs now in bloom. Roses are beginning to stage their June display.

close to the stem and the best flowers are obtained when the side shoots are pinched off and the plants are kept to a single stem. This produces a rather stiff and formal effect that is offset by the charming double flowers that line the stem. These resemble little camellias or small roses. The colors are bright and include scarlet, rose, cerise, salmon, purple and white.

• Land Clearing
• Bulldozing
• Grading

EARTH MOVING

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Many Types Offer Wide Selection

Today's fences take a variety of forms to meet specific problems, unlike those of yesterday when they were just a fence and not a property beautifier as well.

A wide range of materials has raised the standard of fencing to the status it deserves, according to John Concord, housing consultant to Masonite Corporation. Among them are hardboard panels, both textured and smooth-surfaced, which give the designer a choice in solving a homeowner's specific problem.

Try Baffle Arrangement

New ideas in fencing include the concept that a fence needn't entirely surround an area but serve as a section line or barrier enough to screen an offending view or form a boundary for a driveway or walk.

In a baffle arrangement, Concord points out, is much cheaper than building a complete fence, yet it is interesting to look at and it acts as a windbreak. He comments:

"A fence nowadays is more than a definition of where your land ends and your neighbor's begins. It's more than a device to keep animals and people in or out, more than a means of creating privacy.

IMPATIENS

Impatiens are useful little bedding plants that can be depended upon to brighten a shady corner. The name is derived from the word "impatient." It is said that this refers to the ease with which the seed pods pop open when the plants are jarred. Strangely enough, impatiens are also known as patience plant. Other names include sultana and balsam, the latter referring to the quality to which these plants belong.

The impatiens include both hardy and tender annuals and also perennials. Varieties are found in Asia and South Africa as well as growing wild in North America.

THE COMMON ANNUAL

balsam, *Impatiens balsamina*, is a native of India. It is not as popular now as it was at the turn of the century. However, it is of easy culture and is one of the showiest of summer flowers. The plants grow from eighteen inches to two feet in height and have light green pointed leaves with a toothed edge. Flowers form

REMINDERS

Make a note of iris and poppies that you wish to include in your garden, and plan to plant them in late July...

There is still time to plant a vegetable garden. If tomato plants seem long and spindly set them deeper in the ground...

Scale insects are hatch-

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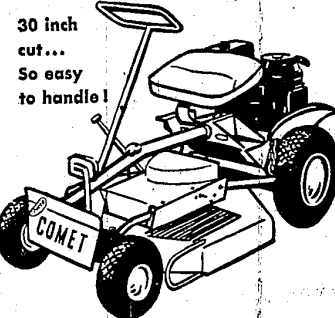
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Women Like 'Glorified' Utility Room

What do women want in a house? One thing is a "glorified utility room," according to a teacher of advanced classes in a California adult education program, who directed her students in a research housing project.

Called a family workshop, it's located not in the kitchen and garage, so it can be completely closed off when necessary.

In the "glorified utility room" would be suitable space for sewing, drip-drying laundry, folding, ironing, wrapping packages, arranging flowers, craft work and messy children's projects.

The women preferred such a room to be adjacent to the children's room, for it then could serve as a playroom, as well.

The teacher explained that all the laundry could be kept out of sight of the front of the house; work projects needn't be put away before completion. The described the room as a "must have," in the group's opinion.

Any family can plan such a useful room in a house to be built or incorporate it in an existing house by division or addition, says John Concord, housing consultant to Masonite Corporation.

A prerequisite is a well-designed floor plan. Other requirements are walls and working surfaces that look well and can take a drubbing from the various work projects going on.

Concord suggests woodgrained Royalco panels for good appearance, endurance and easy maintenance.

For working surfaces, he suggests splinter-free, Tempered Plywood, which takes a variety of paint or enamel finish. Built-ins, too, can be built with durable hardboard, and Peg-Board is an indispensable helper wherever wall storage is required.

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