

## STAKE AND TIE PLANTS Make Your Garden Best in Neighborhood

Besides the usual watering, weeding, mulching, occasional lawn mowing and similar chores, there are a few things which the gardener can do to make the garden stand out above those of neighbors.

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Yet, they need not take up much of his time, say the garden experts.

Perhaps, the most noticeable of these is staking and tying up plants that are inclined to tumble over and look unlovely. Always use stakes large enough to support the plants properly and, if possible, insert while the plants are still small to avoid injuring the roots.

The green painted ones are less conspicuous than natural colored ones.

If your soil is a heavy clay and has become hard and compacted, a good idea is to aerate your lawn by running a spike roller or similar device over it to open it up.

This also has the further advantages of letting water and newly-applied fertilizer get into the soil where they are needed. Gardens and lawns sometimes need a pick-up when growth and vigor lag.

To apply fertilizer to the soil during a period of drought, when moisture is scarce, means that the fertilizer will often remain inactive and unavailable in the soil.

One easy way to counteract this is to follow the instructions to spray diluted liquid plant food (mixed according to the producer's instructions) on the leaves.

Within minutes the nutrients are within the plant and go about their business of feeding it. Naturally only soluble plant foods can be used for this purpose.

It pays to stick to a course of action—every endeavor has its ups-and-downs, but has no place for in-and-outers.

## It's Great in the Garden But Heed Doctor's Advice

With the return of warm spring days, millions of home gardeners once again are getting out to spade beds, plant seed, spread fertilizer, mow grass—and and the other countless chores attendant to keeping the lawn neat and attractive.

Your doctor recommends gardening as excellent therapy for both body and mind. For those who enjoy digging in the dirt, gardening offers good exercise, fresh air and sunshine after a winter of being cooped up indoors.

Your doctor and his American Medical Association also offer a few suggestions on keeping gardening fun and safe.

Take it easy for the first few sessions. Don't try to work a 10-hour day at hard manual labor on the first warm weekend.

Take frequent rest breaks and work at a pace that isn't too tiring. As the season advances,

your muscles will be able to do more with less discomfort.

Cuts, scratches and bruises are the fate of most gardeners. Clean minor cuts with warm water and soap, and cover with a light bandage.

Tetanus risks in the soil, and a booster shot of tetanus toxoid is recommended at the onset of the gardening season for all who have not kept their immunization up to date.

Step to think briefly about safety before handling garden tools—especially power tools such as lawn mowers. Power tools are great labor-saving devices, properly used.

Used carelessly, they can slash off fingers and toes. Always turn off the mower when it is left unattended, even briefly. Always turn it off when adding gasoline to the tank.

If the motor is electric, don't use the machine in wet grass. Power tools usually are accompanied by safety instructions. Read them carefully.

Poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac also sprout up in the spring to the great discomfort of many amateur gardeners.

Look for the three-leaf sprigs that mark poison ivy and poison oak. If in doubt, the best is any handbook or garden encyclopedia. If you find poison ivy in your yard, dig it out—roots and all—being careful not to touch.

If you burn poison ivy, avoid the smoke. The poisonous oils in the smoke and dust can expose your whole body, eyes included.

If you get a poison ivy rash, your doctor can prescribe soothing medications to ease the discomfort while healing progresses.

## Wards to Sponsor Decorating Classes

S. D. Ward, District General Manager of Montgomery Ward and Company, announced today the beginning of a new series of home furnishing and decorating classes in all Detroit area stores.

The course, "Ask Annabelle" was originated by Annabelle King, well known author, lecturer and teacher in the field of home furnishings and decorating. Miss King has studied at an Eastern School of Interior Design; authored a series of articles published by a large Metropolitan Daily Newspaper and was consultant to one of America's largest furniture retailers.

In addition Miss King was a "regular" guest on television and radio stations presenting ideas in interior decorating.

Miss King's philosophy of interior design can be summarized in her own words: "The target of our course is the homemaker who best knows what she wants. We find that the problem in most cases is that the housewife lacks 'expression' for the taste she has. She needs a 'hook' from which to start—and that's what our course offers — a starting point," concluded Miss King.

The course covers eight vital points that "start" the homemaker toward realization of her own personal objectives, including:

## Many Fail to Insure Possessions

Nearly one-third of American families still carry no insurance at all on their household possessions despite the tremendous growth of the insurance industry in recent years.

And many others who once had adequate insurance have not kept it up to date.

"Families are accumulating valuable personal property at an astonishing rate, filling 53 million homes and apartments with millions of dollars of insurable goods ranging from food freezers, color TV sets, and hi-fi systems to pool tables, art collections, antique furnishings and jewelry."

"This cornucopia of household possessions has increased the typical family's vulnerability to loss from home fires, windstorms, burglaries and other mishaps," states the Journal's publication of the American Mutual Insurance Alliance.

The chief adjuster of one large property insurance company is quoted as saying his advice is to insure a large fire loss today in which the dwellings' contents are adequately insured.

The fundamental reason for this situation, he adds, probably is the owner's lack of information as to the real value of his increasing possessions.

Insurance companies have tried to offset the public's tendency to underinsure by offering job homeowners package policies in which the minimum household contents coverage is backed at 40 per cent of the value of the house (10 to 20 per cent in some policies).

But even this provision does not do the job for all families, and those who have possessions worth more than that can easily get their insurance company to increase the coverage.

Many insurers provide policyholders with booklets for making inventories of household contents, as an aid in obtaining adequate coverages and in filing a proper claim following a loss.

## Make Beauty Spots Of Bare Places

Floods or droughts aside, nearly every garden has a trouble spot that crops up year after year. Usually the despair of home gardeners, these areas can actually become the focal point of your garden.

The reason for the problem may be that it's become a well-worn path for children and pets, that the soil is in inhospitable to plant life, or that the area is exposed to too much sun or gets no sun at all.

Rather than convert such spots to green-painted concrete slabs, there are a number of ways to make them into unusual and eye-catching plus factors.

One method is to carefully mark off the limits of the area, and start digging. After you have removed the soil to a depth of one foot, fill in about eight inches with crushed stone, and top with four inches of smaller stones, gravel or pebbles.

After edging with aluminum or redwood strips, which should be left in place or set higher than the pebbles, you are ready to produce an instant garden.

A sunny spot will provide a happy home for day lilies, geraniums, in red, white or pink. Simply remove the pebbles and stone to a depth large enough to accommodate the pots and pop in your plants.

If your plants are professionally grown, odds are they will be in clay pots, and have the right kind of soil for healthy growth. If they aren't in clay pots, it would be wise to re-pot them.

The reason is that the walls of the clay pots are porous, and you don't have to worry about over-watering.

Excess water from your garden sprinkler will simply drain out through the sides of the pot, as will any excess salts—thus virtually duplicating soil action. Non-porous pots allow the water to build up in the pot and induce root rot.

If the idea of pebbles is a bit too much for you as a topping, try redwood chips for a last four inches, above the crushed stone. Or, if the very thought of that much digging in your problem area brings on heavy perspiration, there's an easy way out.

Simply treat the soil in the marked area with one of the new all-purpose herbicides. That will effectively kill off any weeds that might appear. Then top off the spot with two inches of peat moss, bark or redwood chips.

If too much shade is the problem, a visit to your garden center or local greenhouse will turn up a wide variety of flowering plants such as fuchsia, impatiens and begonias that will do well there.

Or you might want to consider a garden of potted foliage plants, Philodendron, dracaena, and a host of others will make a truly fascinating show of greenery.

**Warm Soil Makes Seeds Germinate**  
Don't get overly anxious about planting flower seeds. Most seeds will not germinate until the soil warms to about 60 degrees.

## Fretwork Livens Outdoor Scene

Airy, open and very much in the mood of spring, fretwork casts cool reflections of light and shade across the home fashion scene. Its appearances are many, its interpretations varied.

Lattice and trellis effects, lacy patterns in wrought iron, cut-out wood carvings, wicker and cane—they're all part of the fretwork trend.

Ornamental openwork adorns everything from outdoor furniture to folding screens.

The fretwork influence is seen in the use of carved, cut-out wood for the sides of sofas and chairs or the, headboards of beds.

Used in the same way, cane in furniture looks both cool and attractive for spring.

Fabrics and floor coverings, wall papers and wall paneling echo the trend. Sofas, for instance, are upholstered in fabrics with scroll patterns that reflect the fretwork feeling of their carved wood sides.

Wall-to-wall carpeting or area rug floor coverings create the fretwork look through both patterns and weaves—sculptured effects, for example.

Paneling displays dimensional designs. A softer version of wrought iron, while wallpaper patterns follow the fretwork trend with lattice and wicker effects.

Expressing still another approach to the airy, open look, folding floor screens employ everything from wicker weaves to pre-stressed strands of beads for a refreshing result.

In wall ornaments, various types of scroll designs are ready to complement the fretwork of new home fashions.

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