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New Grass Tailored To Michigan Weather

EAST LANSING winter, is well adapted to shaded areas and can be grown in sandy soils.

If you are thinking about establishing a lawn, don't overlook a new grass variety, Wintergreen, tailored to Michigan growing conditions.

Wintergreen is a superior red fescue grass developed at Michigan State University. According to Robert Shearman, MSU turfgrass specialist, it is best adapted to central and northern Michigan.

He says that Wintergreen compares favorably to Pennlawn red fescue, and is ideal on low maintenance areas such as cottage lawns, parks, industrial grounds, roadsides and around lakes and streams.

ALSO, Wintergreen produces a superior thick, green turf that will maintain its color late into the fall and

Patio Added When Garage Is Converted

Remodeling a garage into a family room can be a double addition if an outdoor living area is planned along with it. If the driveway becomes parking space for the family car, a new carport will add a sheltered part-time patio.

Where a new garage and drive are planned, a new deck of 2x4-inch Douglas fir effectively camouflages the old driveway.

Wood screens on the street side fence out distractions and traffic noise.

The new variety has a finer leaf texture than Pennlawn and a superior uniformity.

Shearman stresses low maintenance. The grass requires only one to three pounds of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet during the growing season and needs only to be mowed at a height of two inches.

"However," says Shearman, "Wintergreen, like all other red fescues, does not have resistance to Helminthosporium leaf spot disease and the turf may be subject to browning and thinning during severe attacks of the disease."

Homeowners may purchase Wintergreen seed through garden stores, local hardware stores, farm elevators and commercial seed dealers who specialize in turf grass seed.

'Iron-Poor Blood' Affects Azaleas

Iron deficiency is probably the most common cause of poor growth in azaleas, according to Michigan State University horticulturists.

The first sign of iron deficiency is chlorosis—a yellowing between the veins of the new upper foliage near the tip of the shoot, while the veins and nearby leaf tissues remain near normal green.

Currently white azaleas provide their splashes and masses of color, iron chlorosis should be corrected or prevented by applying iron to the foliage or soil as chelated iron or ferrous (iron) sulfate.

Laundry Room Entertaining?

Entertaining friends in the laundry room may sound a little off-beat, but not when washer and dryer are framed into cabinets, the top becoming a serving table for food and drinks.

In addition, adding some well-rotted hardwood sawdust or acid peat moss will help make the soil more acid and provide a longer-lasting availability of iron to the plant. Two parts loam soil to one part organic matter makes a good blend.

Iron chlorosis is often found in azaleas growing near building foundations where calcium from the concrete or mortar causes the acidity of the soil to decrease. Special care should be given to azaleas in these areas, advise the specialists.

In a basement room, a double-duty table built around a post can be square or round, depending on the area, and used for laundry sorting or suppers.

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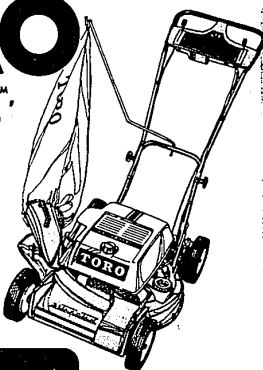
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