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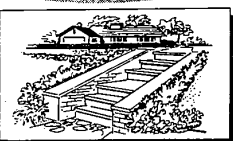
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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Postage stamp gardening: We've mentioned this time and again. If you have a small backyard you can still grow plenty of vegetables in the space you have and harvest a bountiful amount of produce.

Grow herbs in cans as they take up a small amount of space. Tomatoes, onions, peppers, lettuce and other crops can be grown in clay pots resting on a porch railing. And don't forget to garden "vertically"—meaning you should use a wire fence to let the vines grow up instead of out.

I'll repeat our wire corset method for gardeners who have a small space. Go to your lumber yard and get some concrete reinforcing wire. Roll a piece into a

cylinder, 1 1/2 feet across and five feet tall. The result is a column of vine growth held in place and supported by a wire cylinder. Wire with a six inch mesh is best because it makes it easy to reach in and pick the tomatoes.

Some gardeners train their tomato vines on a wire fence stretched between two posts. Plants are set two feet apart and trained to three strands of wire mesh. Train the vine up, tying with soft cloth or wire twists. We guarantee you'll have plenty of tomatoes and they won't be full of snail holes!

EARTH WORMS: good or bad? People who play golf curse earthworms because of the castings they make on the

turf. However, good gardeners know that the earthworm is a real ally.

Some soils have more earthworms than others. If a soil is too dry or full of some alkaline or acid material, earthworms are apt to be scarce. You can buy earthworms but I doubt if it pays. We've seen some earthworms that eat so much you can actually hear them eating, or crunching.

You can encourage earthworms by building up your soil with extra humus. Some gardeners call the earthworm "nature's plowman" because it turns soil over and over, bringing up subsoil. It eats the soil to get tiny bits of leaves and other pieces of organic material.

They enrich the earth by passing more than 10 tons of dry earth through their bodies annually in one acre alone. They help water and air get down into the subsoil, and can bury two inches or more of decayed material every decade.

FREE: Having trouble with your soil? Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for a copy of our guide, "Good Luck from Bad Soils." Our guide will help you produce more crops from your soil, regardless how poor it is. Meanwhile, save all your coffee grounds, tea leaves, orange skins, etc. and toss them into the compost pile.

Pollution Pelts Plants

Air pollution damage to plants is costing the U.S. more than \$500 million a year, reports Dr. William J. Hooker, Michigan State University plant pathologist.

Potatoes proved to be especially subject to air pollution damage; being the first major Michigan field crop to suffer serious, widespread, commercial yield losses. Symptoms of air pollution damage were observed in Michigan potato fields as early as the mid-60s.

Major sources of damaging pollution are car and truck exhausts.

Hooker and his colleagues are testing materials, including systemic fungicides, to prevent or reduce the damage to plants.



Cotton fabrics in cheery yellow and white companion prints keynote the charm of this living room with traditional furnishings. An all-over floral print appears along one wall as tied-back draperies enhance the classic lines of the sofa. Both of the Waverly prints have a Scotchgard finish for stain and soil resistance. Adding a spot of freshness to the decor is a baker's rack filled with flowers and ferns.

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- (Money plant)
- Poppies
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Cut your grass, Mister?

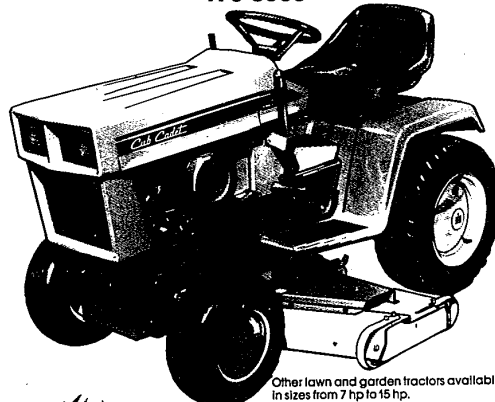
Maybe you're the kind of guy who looks forward to getting out on the lawn. But chances are you probably wish the grass would somehow cut itself. It won't. And until someone invents a breed of grass that does, a beautiful lawn will continue to take hard work. And plenty of it. But love it or loathe it, you don't have to do all the work yourself. Let the International Harvester Cub Cadet® lawn and garden tractor make it a lot easier... and maybe a little more pleasant. And if

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Paneling Hides Old Ceilings

When ceilings start looking shabby it's time to bring them back to life, but this time make it permanent as well as pretty.

Paneling the ceiling with easy-to-handle tongue-and-groove western hemlock or pine boards keeps it light while reflecting a warm glow down into the room.

A deep cornice molding at the wall-ceiling joint will create a cove effect. Lightly sealed, the new ceiling will be maintenance free for years to come.

'Gardening With Children' Is Topic

"Gardening with Children" can be a rewarding experience, according to Alice McCarthy, who will speak on the subject at the next lecture in the Michigan Horticultural Society series "How Does Your Garden Grow?"

The program will be at J.L. Hudson's downtown store in the 13th floor Pine Room, 12 to 1 p.m. Thursday, May 25.

There is no charge for the lecture, but a box lunch charge of \$1.65 will be made for each registrant. Reservations required by calling Hudson's downtown.

Mrs. McCarthy is a Birmingham educator and lecturer. She has been active in the Birmingham School District school beautification and ecology program. Her work with school children on beautification and ecology is known and copied through the country.

A fortified strawberry ice cream cone - a nutritious combination of cereal, fruit and milk in a quick, easy-to-eat form - may provide improved nutrition for breakfasts of tomorrow. Breakfast is the principal target area for food manufacturers developing new nutritionally-balanced food products in convenient form.