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If planning the landscape design for your home presents a problem, just bring in the dimensions of the area and we will design a layout for you at no charge. Bring in a picture if you have one.

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The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

Home grown cucumbers: This has been a good year for cucumbers so don't let them go to waste.

If you want to have some good cukes to eat this winter, try this trick. Pick good slicing size cukes, slice one into a pint jar and fill the jar within 1/2 inch of the top with your favorite liquid salad dressing. Then freeze.

If you like sour cream cucumbers, here's a dandy recipe: two cucumbers, 1/2 cup sour cream, one tablespoon

sugar and one of salt, three tablespoons vinegar, some pepper, one small onion sliced thin. Onion powder may be used in place of onion. Slice cucumbers thin, after they have been peeled, salt and let stand for one hour or a little longer. Then squeeze cukes with hands to eliminate the water. Mix the ingredients into the sour cream. Four over the cukes and mix well with a fork. They are now ready to serve.

Incidentally, we sent out

hundreds of packets of non-bitter cuke seed for you to try. Please tell us how you liked this variety.

RACCOONS on corn: While the gardening season is coming to a close, we're still getting complaints about keeping the 'coons out of the corn patch. They still strip the ears of the plants. We've had many suggestions for coping with this night - marauding animal.

A lantern or some other light in the patch works for some gardeners. Others say it merely helps the animals see better.

One gardener tells us he uses nicotine sulfate, an insecticide. He sprays the ground between the rows. He says it even keeps out rabbits and wood chucks. Do not spray it on edible, leafy crops as it still is a toxic insecticide, one of the best aphid or plant lice killers we have.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: "Please tell us why our tomatoes do so poorly this year. Is it the weather?"

Answer: Yes, tomatoes do not ripen or color up well at temperatures below 65 degrees or over 85 degrees. Putting green tomatoes in a bright window DOES NOT hasten coloring, since light has little effect on ripening. If your plants have a lot of foliage on, you can hasten ripening by pulling off some.

Green Thumb bonus: If your plants show yellowing of foliage, send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope for my bulletin, "Why Leaves Turn Yellow." It also has some good information as to why fruit trees fail to bear.

Family Room Furniture Blends Style, Utility

Particularly well suited to the family room in its dual role of family dining area and entertainment center are the inviting armchairs that can provide extra seating in a conversation area. One new armchair, a pedestal swivel model even has ball-type casters to roll with the action.

"Because it's usually expected to double for games, as well as for homework, hobbies, and what-have-you, the round extension table has become a favorite choice for casual living areas," she reported.

Keeping pace with this demand, are round tables in a wide range of styles, including quint early American with turned hardwood legs, romantic Mediterranean with black pedestal base, and numerous contemporary leg or pedestal designs.



"A TABLE that can expand to seat a couple of guests at mealtime—or to accommodate a buffet spread for a crowd—is a practical choice," Miss Brody advised.

The popular custom of incorporating kitchen and family areas into one grand living-dining-cooking center calls for a decorating approach that comfortably bridges the gap between activities of the three areas, the consultant observed.

IN DINING furniture, for example, there's a need to combine the utilitarian aspects of yesterday's kitchen set with the comfort and fashion qualities of a traditional dining room.

Manufacturers have recognized this need and come up with the kind of furniture that does successfully bridge the gap from function to fashion.

All the practical advantages of laminated plastic table tops and rugged vinyl upholstery fabrics have been incorporated into versatile new dining ensembles that otherwise have little in common with the old kitchen dinette.

A LIVING HERITAGE -- Bonsai is the Japanese art of growing dwarf trees. The word translates as "tray planting." The trees are kept from out-growing their trays by pruning the branches and roots. The art has been practiced for centuries in Japan with a tree remaining in one family for centuries.

Men's Garden Club Holds Dahlia Show

The members of Tri - Town Men's Garden Club will hold their annual dahlia show Saturday, Sept. 16 and Sunday, Sept. 17 at the mall in Hudson's Southland Shopping Center located on Eureka Road at Pardee Road.

Registration will be open to members of the club, and to the public on Saturday from 8 to 10:30 a.m. The show will be open to the public for viewing - Saturday from 1 to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Exhibitors are divided into small and large amateur growers. A large amateur grower is one who grows more than 100 plants of "A" and "B" size dahlias. Each division is broken down into sections and classifications according to size, color and grade of growth. For instance Section A, Class B would indicate a yellow cactus bloom which is eight inches or more in diameter. "B" size are four inches or more, but less than eight inches. There are classes for miniatures, balls, poms, and first and second year seedlings.

There are also eight classifications for arrangements. Dahlias must be presented in 4 1/2 inch arrangements, but other blooms may be used with them.

This year the Southfield Center trophy for the best white dahlia is open to the public, regardless of membership in the club.

Further information may be obtained at the show, or by a phone call before 3 p.m. to Show Chairman Robert Hidbaugh.

There is no charge for exhibiting or viewing the show.

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