



The Green Thumb

By GEORGE ABRAHAM

How late can you plant tulip bulbs?

We've planted them as late as January and still got showy stems and blooms. However, don't wait that long because you might not have a "January thaw" and the ground could be frozen solid.

If you want a different type of tulip, why not plant some of the novel forms and colors that have come out recently. While the Darwin tulips are best known, don't overlook a newer group called the Darwin Hybrids, noted for their great vigor.

Some other good types include the lily-flowered tulip with pointed, reflexed petals; parrot tulips with fringed, and wavy petals; double petalled tulips, and there's the multi-flowered types, with several heads on a stalk.

Plant your tulips six or eight inches deep for best results. Some people plant them deeper, but we see advantage. There is a disadvantage to planting them

shallow. In fact, bulb growers have an expression: "For bulb production, plant shallow, for blooms plant deep."

Planting them six to eight inches deep protects the bulb from the cold, whereas shallow planting tends to cause the bulb to reproduce, and split up into several small bulbs which do not bloom well at all the next year.

You'll be interested to know that "Utopianoma" reached its peak in Holland in the 1600s, when as much as \$1,500 was paid for a single bulb—a lot of money at that time!

Answer: The Men's Garden Club of America offers this homemade formula: Wood shavings, one pint; perlite, one pint; peat moss, two pints; calcinated clay (kitty litter), one pint; sheep manure, one pint. Try it and tell us how you like it.

Q. "Is it true that aspirin will help keep cut flowers longer?"

Answer: No. Nor will a copper penny, as many believe.

RYEGRASS for lawns? Who

would ever think we have a ryegrass that makes a wonderful turf, almost as delightfully fine-textured as is bluegrass. We don't mean the old-fashioned coarse perennial ryegrass, but the newer varieties such as Manhattan and Penn.

Seed of the new perennial ryegrass is large, sprouts quickly and provides a lot of seedling comph. You can even

combine Kentucky bluegrass with it for greater permanence.

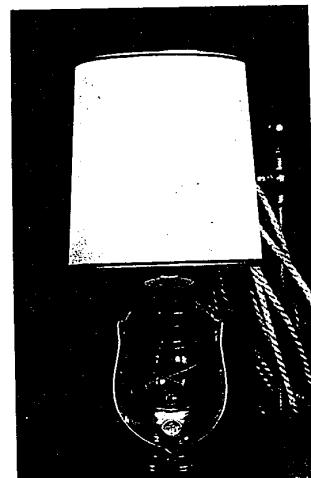
Want to know more about new lawn grasses? Send me a self-addressed, stamped envelope and ask for a copy of our bulletin, "New Lawn Grasses Applauded," prepared by the American Lawn Institute. Still time to sow grass or you can wait until spring. Be sure to read our guide.

GREEN THUMB CLINIC: A reader writes: "Is it true you can use wood shavings in a soil mixture? What else do I need?"

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RED LANTERN mounted on a blue wooden base adds finishing touch to any Early American decor. The lantern shade is made of ribbed shantung with red and blue trim. Dunning Industries makes this "New Dimensions in Living ... through home lighting."

Fewer Acres Produce More

Fifty years ago Michigan had nearly 20 million acres under cultivation. Today, that figure has declined to 13 million acres. At the same time, production of food and fiber has greatly increased due to new technology, equipment and mechanization.

Pinch tops back occasionally to keep plants well-shaped, the specialist advises.

Generous pruning is a bright idea, such as a southern windmill, or they become tall and leggy. Wax begonias grow well in sun or shade.

Most herbs such as chives and

rosemary also grow well indoors.

Perfume with a common fertilizer and water thoroughly when needed.

Dig plants up carefully and place in appropriate-sized

pots. A six-inch pot is large enough for most annuals.

Generously prune $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{4}$

original size, cutting stems just above nodes or buds. This causes full rather than sparse, leggy growth, Taylor explains.

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