

Ask Us What To Do

A page for the discussion of intimate problems on turf culture and plant growth. We are an international authority on these subjects. Send in your questions—your name will not be used.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDENS

My neighbors' flower and vegetable gardens are always prime, and mine invariably poor. I realize his soil is much better than mine. Is there any simple method of making the good garden be his?

It is more than likely you both have the same soils with which to work but his probably is in much better physical shape than yours. Sufficiently well rotted manure, worked deep and thoroughly into the soil, will make physical conditions good.

Your garden should then be divided into two parts. In one, grow plants from which you wish foliage such as lettuce or foliage for decorative purposes. This section must have feedings heavy in nitrogen and with comparatively small amounts of phosphorus and potash.

The balance of your garden you will wish to mature rapidly, producing bloom and fruits such as peas, beans or berries. Feedings for this section must be reversed, the nitrogen light and the phosphorus and potash comparatively heavy. With your soil in good physical condition from well-rotted manure (never fresh) or other good organic matter, thoroughly decayed, balanced fertilization will more than likely develop a better garden than your neighbor has. (Ohio)

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GETTING RID OF MOSS

My turf on shaded parts of the lawn, has been poor and has been replaced largely by moss. Will applications of lime in the spring help to get rid of the sour soil? In the past, lime seems to have helped but little.

Lime will be of but little benefit in this case. It is doubtful if this particular soil is acid. If not under trees, it is more than likely that this portion of your lawn has been overwatered. Unless these shaded portions are supplied with tile drainage to carry away surplus water, sprinkle only when the soil, to a depth of three inches is known to require water.

Cut a plug to find if the soil is dry. If moisture is needed, water deep, once a week. If lime is necessary, put twenty-five pounds of hydrated lime in a barrel, direct a stream from the hose upon it and let it run until you have a barrel of lime water. Let it settle and apply this lime water to the lawn lavishly. If lime is needed, good results will be immediate. Use the same lime repeatedly. (New York)

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PLANTS ARE UNDERNOURISHED

The bloom in my flower garden which ordinarily lasts for quite a while, fell off early this year. Can this condition be helped in any way?

Your plants were probably in an exposed place and may have had more than their share of heat from the sun. It is possible that they were undernourished not having a sufficiently heavy feeding and balance of phosphorus and potash to harden the plant for hot weather. Extreme heat is probably the real cause for their short life. (Ohio)

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REMAKING A LAWN

The soil from which our lawn was made, came from the cellar excavation. It is hard and we find it impossible to grow any sort of turf upon it. Can it ever produce a lawn?

This is the source of soil for most of our lawns. If it is the average of such soils, the lawn should be torn up and entirely remade. Halfway measures will not be sufficient. If it is small enough to dig by hand, have it spaded to a depth of at least five inches, breaking up all clods as it is spaded. Cover this with at least two pounds of thoroughly rotted manure or fine commercial humus to each square foot, mixing carefully with the top five inches of the soil.

At the same time, one pound of superphosphate should be applied to each one hundred square feet. Rake carefully to original grade and seed with a mixture of blue grass, white clover and very little