

THE MANCHESTER ENTERPRISE



May, 1999

Manchester, Michigan

Special Edition

Don't Wait, Go To Hidden Lake Gardens!

I've never been able to answer the question - when's your favorite time of year to be at Hidden Lake? "Any time I can be there," must be the answer.

Hidden Lake Gardens is such an agreeable place, the daffodils and narcissus constantly nod their approvals. It doesn't even have to be a perfect spring day. This 755 acres is open 365 days a year. And any one of those days you can be there is sure to be delightful.

We were there last week, and urge you to be there this week. Some of the bulb plants may be a bit beyond their prime, but the crabapples are approaching perfection. The evergreens point their greenery straight to Heaven, stupendous against a spring blue sky. Against a gray spring day, they are dramatic.

At Kettlehole, the contrast of the changing season is clear - a few white flowered trees peek out from behind trees that haven't begun to leaf yet, a reminder that spring's renewal is with us, and the barren trees tell us we've added another winter to our years.



The winding, welcoming lane of crabapples at the entrance to Hidden Lake Gardens



A barren stand of trees provides a stunning backdrop to a clump of narcissus.

The swan pair is nesting, the primroses are beside the paths in a tumbled confusion of colors. Baby hostas are up, and even a low caste dandelion seems special.

Don't wait, don't think about it. Just go west on M-50, pass through Tipton and look for the signs. There's plenty of green and white for MSU fans, appropriate since Hidden Lake Gardens is owned and operated by Michigan State University. And I did see a cluster of blue and yellow flowers, so there is a nod towards academic equity.

If you're just hungry to dig into your earth, Hidden Lake's Spring Plant Sale happens this Saturday, May 8, from 10 AM to 2 PM.

Go early, do your Mother's Day shopping. You'll find a good selection of wildflowers, perennials, ferns and hostas, ground covers, ornamental grasses, herbs, shrubs, rhododendrons, azaleas, heathers and trees.

- Wanda Fish



Daffodils along the shore of Hidden Lake provide a promise of spring.



Gardening from the Ground Up

by Ron & Barbara Kopp, Pine View Farms Nursery

Starting a Perennial Garden...Part II

This week is a continuation of ideas to keep in mind when planning your perennial flower bed.

A curved edge is often more pleasing and more natural than straight, sharp edges. If it borders a lawn, it is easier to mow. A simple way to start a new bed is with a garden hose. Lay it out, step back to see the effect. Run the mower (without cutting) along the edge. Is it easy to maneuver or are the curves too sharp? When you have achieved the desired shape, remove the sod for your new planting area.

After removing the sod, you will need to add topsoil so the planting area is slightly higher than the lawn. It will provide better drainage and show off the plants when they are slightly raised. Mix in some peat, old manure and compost. All this organic matter loosens clay soils and retains water for the roots without becoming water logged. The sandier soils are held together with the added humus. Your new plants establish much quicker in loose soil.

There are a couple of new soil products on the market. "Soil Conditioner" for clay keeps the clay soil from binding like cement. And, "Soil Moist," mixed in the soil around the plant roots absorbs water and releases it to the plant when

needed. It replenishes itself with rain or watering. The expanding and contracting of "Soil Moist" and "Soil Conditioner" keeps the ground loose for optimum root development.

If your flower bed will be placed along the house with windows that are often open, be sure to place plants with fragrant flowers under them.

Repeating the same plant pulls together the overall effect. Putting the same flower at each end and again in the middle is much nicer than a patchwork of samples.

If the garden is viewed from only one side, it is commonly planted, tall to rear, then medium, short in front. This can look boring, so place a few tall ones in the mid section and a couple medium ones in the front.

Island beds are more effective with a raised center tapering down to the edges. Don't be afraid to mix in some shrubs and evergreens. Many shrubs have wonderful branch structure and even color in the winter when everything else has died down. The evergreens of course keep the area from looking so naked and empty while you are waiting for your flowers to return next spring.

Since you'll be creating a wonderful area for birds and butterflies, add water such as a nice bird bath to the area; they'll greatly appreciate it. A few large

stones or boulders add to a more natural look as well.

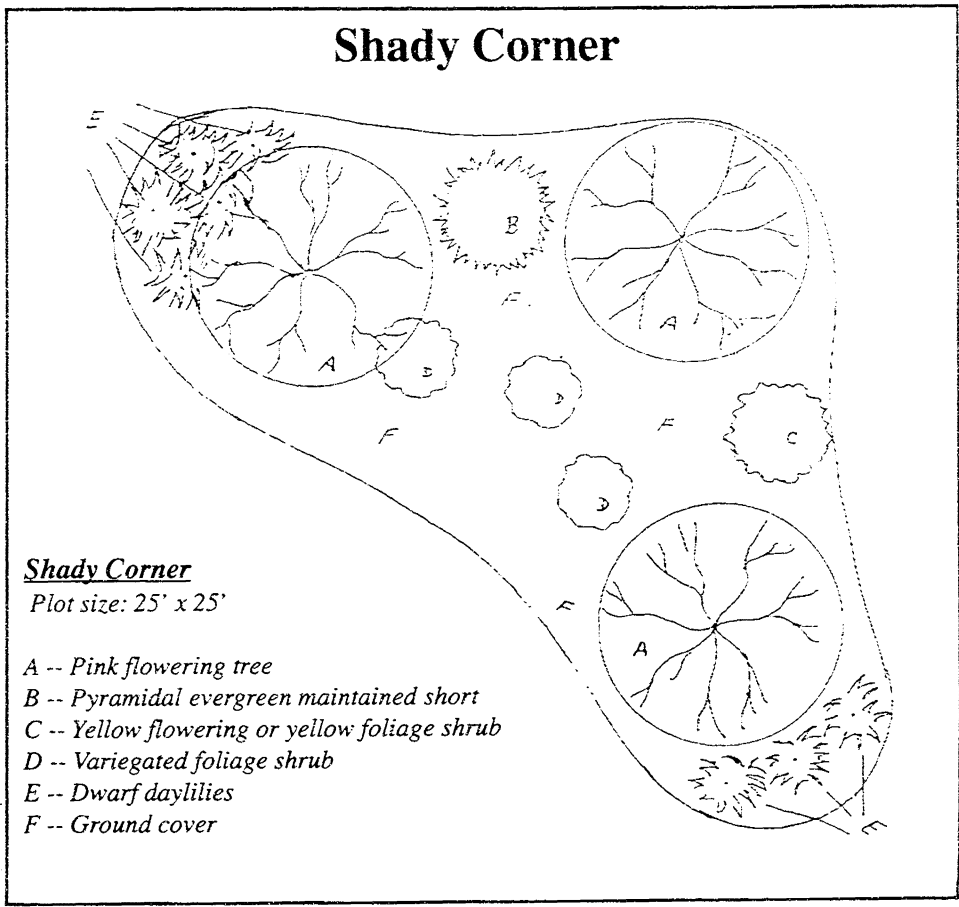
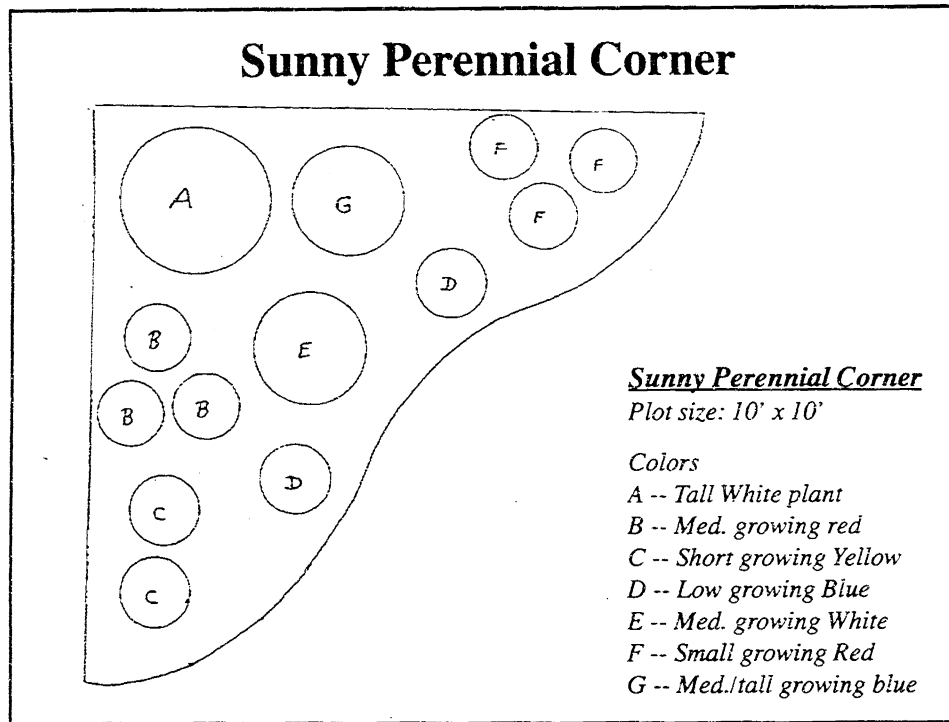
Put in a few annuals or bulbs. The early flowering bulbs create a splash of color and the old foliage will become hidden as the perennials grow during the summer. The annuals create non-stop blooms in between the perennials' flowering seasons.

Remember, nature doesn't put the same leaf on all trees. The different leaf shapes, textures and colors is far more

interesting than a group of all the same. A plant with variegated foliage can be just as eye catching as one with flowers, especially in a shady area.

Next week we'll suggest varieties of plants that do well in certain areas so this year's garden will be the nicest you have ever had.

Send your gardening questions to "Gardening from the Ground Up", c/o the Manchester Enterprise



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The Living Soil

Throughout the 1950's a dramatic change was taking place in the field of turf grass management. It was the beginning of the "chemical age." Chemical fertilizers were replacing animal manure and human sewage. Chemical pesticides were being introduced to kill and control weeds, insects, diseases and other pests. Whatever the problem, a chemical was developed to cure and control it. New and different types of chemicals came on the market at such a rapid rate that hardly anyone knew how to use them to obtain the desired results. This lack of knowledge led to misuse creating damage and lawn stress. As more chemical combinations were being used more frequently, additional problems would develop. A "snowball" effect of more chemicals was beginning.

Through research in 1957 many discoveries were made and much was learned about nature's rhythm, timing, and her methods of improving soils. The critical role of soil micro-organisms regarding their function in groups on different materials has provided solutions to many lawn problems. Many secrets were uncovered, especially an all important one that allows the growth of weed-free grass. A living soil will produce healthier disease resistant plants versus a "dead soil" which has lost many micro-organisms, bacteria, enzymes, fungi and protozoa due to over application of herbicides and pesticides.

A Living Soil contains billions of essential soil microorganisms of various kinds that perform functions necessary for optimum plant growth. If soil conditions are managed properly these microbes can live and work in balance with nature. A living soil will complement and improve your lawn program in the following ways:

1. Decompose organic material
2. Retain nutrients
3. Utilize nutrients
4. Regulate plant growth
5. Form soil aggregates and organic complexes
6. Clean up herbicides and pesticides

Decompose Organic Material

Thatch in a lawn is organic material (surface roots) that should decay and return to the soil. Certain species of fungi

and bacteria are the "decomposers." This decayed organic material becomes the food or fuel that feeds other organisms to complete their function.

Retain Nutrients

The unused nitrogen in the soil is generally lost as "nitrate runoff" and begins to pollute our underground water wells and ponds. Free nitrogen is a protein that the bacteria and fungi gather up in their bodies and multiply. Nitrogen that is stored in this way becomes a bank account for the turf to utilize, as it needs it. Unfortunately many of these bacteria and fungi have been killed by herbicides and fungicides and are not available for this function.

Utilize Nutrients

Once the bacteria and fungi retain the nutrients, other organisms are encouraged to feed on them to metabolize (digest) the protein (nitrogen) and release it back into the soil as ammonia, which is quickly converted into food for the turf.

Regulate Plant Growth

Certain species of soil microbes produce hormones and other by-products that stimulate growth and development. These microbes produce growth hormones not found in the plant itself. The same seeds fed the same nutrients will show different rates of growth in a "living soil" versus a "dead soil."

Soil Aggregates and Organic Matter

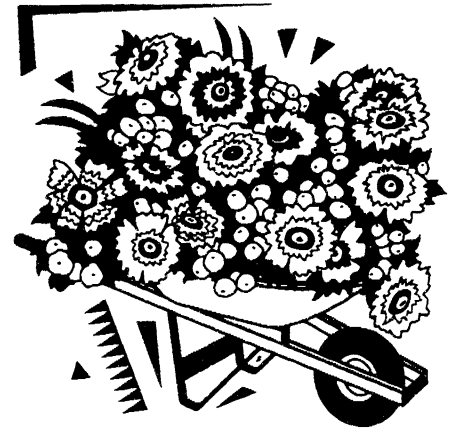
An ideal crumb structure composed of clay, silt, sand, and organic matter allows for optimal infiltration of air and water. Clay, silt, and sand from soil aggregates in a biological process under the control of certain species of organisms that produce the "glue" or organic matter to hold them together. It is impossible to form or maintain this ideal structure without these necessary organisms. Soil lacking these organisms will become very compact and tight, causing heavy mat and thatch and a thin sparse lawn.

Clean up Pesticides and Herbicides

Soil toxicity as a result of overuse

of herbicides and pesticides can be degraded or consumed by certain species of microbes. A healthy soil is able to overcome mismanagement by the homeowner and the service companies. If these organisms are not available in the soil, the build-up of toxins will create a "dead soil" and result in weak turf grass growth.

- Courtesy of Article Resource Association, www.aracopy.com





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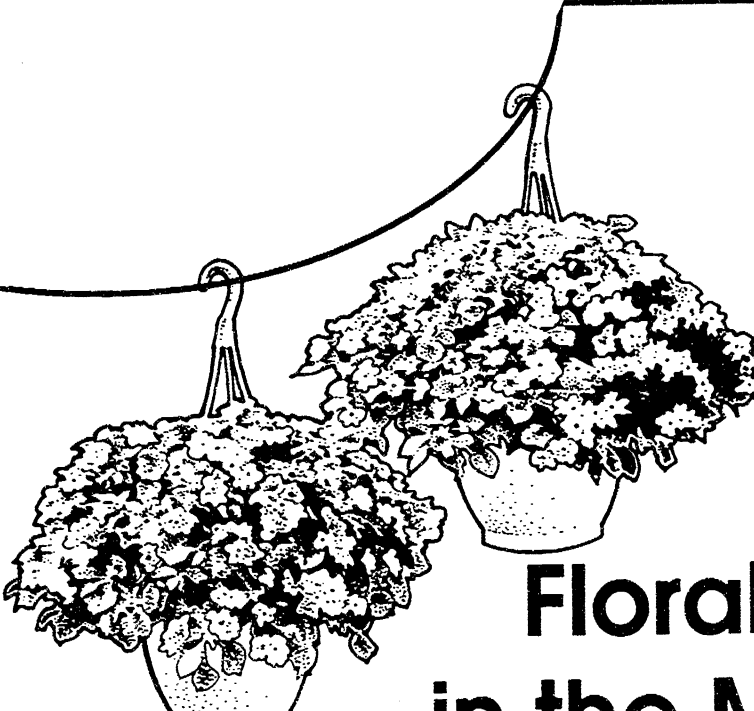
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Let's Talk Weed Control...

Although the easiest solution to your weed control problem may seem to be the use of a chemical herbicide/fertilizers, there are many problems with this method of control. First, the use of chemicals is expensive, and the cost is increasing each year. Non-chemical alternatives can be used at a fraction of the cost.

Chemical herbicides are toxic chemicals. Chronic, or long-term, exposure to these chemicals is suspected of causing cancer, as well as affecting the nervous system, liver, kidneys, and other organs. Increasingly, research is showing that some people are more at risk than others, particularly children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with pre-existing conditions such as heart disease, bronchitis, and emphysema. Pets are also very susceptible to toxic residues.

Infertile soil is the primary cause of weed growth. Chemical fertilizers may add nutrients to the soil, but in such a way that the soil can't use the large amounts of nutrients added at one time. This "shot in the arm" approach also disturbs the chemical balance of the soil by speeding up the normal metabolism of most of its living organisms. The use of chemical fertilizers is wasteful because excess nutrients are leached out of the soil and remain unavailable to plant life. These nutrients can eventually leach and contaminate groundwater or the surface water of lakes and streams.

Still another problem with chemical

herbicide/fertilizers is that they can kill beneficial soil life, such as earthworms. In the absence of earthworms soil lacks the oxygen which is provided by air passing from the atmosphere through burrows in the roots.

Finally, chemical herbicide/fertilizers may prevent plants from absorbing necessary trace nutrients.

Alternatives to Chemicals

In contrast to a chemically-based control program, a biological weed control program is inexpensive, poses no health hazards to members of your family or to pets, and makes use of ecologically sound principles. It doesn't kill beneficial soil life indiscriminately. Because nutrients are released slowly as plants need them, there is no chance of contaminating drinking water or lakes or streams.

1. The first step in any lawn development program is to test your soil to determine what nutrients are lacking. Millennium Formulations have been specially formulated to correct the deficiencies in this specific area. Natural/Organic formulas have a wider buffering range on the pH scale, allowing more utilization of nutrients than chemicals.

2. Increase fertility of the soil by using biological, natural and organic nutrients. Balance is the key word. Turf grass requires a balanced nutritional program of primary, secondary, and micro-nutrients, along with active soil microbes.

3. Begin a compost pile using as many natural fertilizers as you can find. The best compost piles are layered with green matter, rich earth, manure and phosphate. The pile should be turned regularly and shredded with a lawn mower before applying it to the lawn. Use sparingly. When worked in with a pushbroom, the compost will not mar your lawn appearance.

4. Hand pulling, or mechanical pulling (weed popper) is a tried and true method of weed control. It is hard work, but it is effective. When used in conjunction with our fertilization program, the turf will thicken and less weeding will be required in subsequent years.

5. Weeds are likely to increase if the grass is mowed too closely. Grass left high keep weeds and crabgrass out by robbing them of sunlight. The height of cut should be 2-1/2" in the Spring and Late Fall, while at 3" during the hot Summer months. Second in importance is the mowing frequency. The grass should be mowed to remove only 1/3 of growth per mowing. This may necessitate two, possibly three mowings per week during the fast growth periods. Always maintain a sharp mower blade, do not mow in the heat of the day, or at the height of a hot, dry period. If possible, do not mow when the grass is wet. Contrary to popular belief, grass clippings are not a contributor to thatch. They decompose readily if kept short in length or mulched, and provide a good source of organic fertilizers that will increase the humus content of the soil.

6. Watering is of equal importance to mowing. Begin watering when the soil starts to dry out and before the grass wilts and has a chance to turn brown (an early clue to dryness is when grassy areas show a dark bluish-green cast). Apply water anytime, although very early in the morning is often ideal for efficient water use. Always water when the temperature is increasing, not decreasing. Evening and night time watering leaves grass wet for long periods, which favors disease infection.

Water one to two inches per week. One inch of water should wet the soil about six inches deep. To determine how much water has been applied, set a straight sided can under the sprinkler. Frequent light watering will contribute to a weak root system versus this ideal program which will develop deeper healthier roots.

A WORD OF CAUTION: A single watering during a drought period is likely to do more harm than good. If grass cannot be kept actively growing with sufficient water, it is best to let the grass go dormant. Improper watering during extended dry periods will slow the rate of recovery when adequate rainfall does occur.

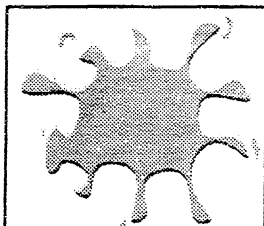
The biological method of weed control does take time and effort, and its results will not be achieved overnight. However, with persistence you can build a rich soil that will support a healthy, green, lawn.

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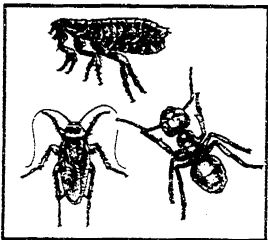


Annuals & Perennials

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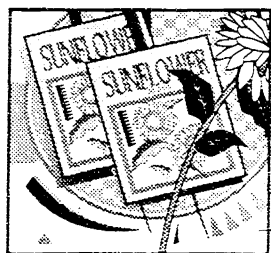


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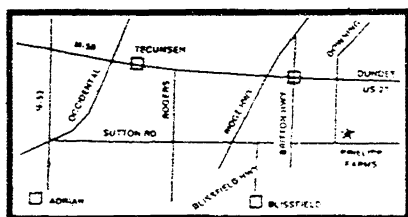
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Finding the Right Organic Fertilizer for the Entire Yard and Garden

What do you look for in lawn care and garden supplies? If a product saves time, is effective and a good value, it wins your vote. If you like lush, green lawns, a fruitful harvest from your vegetable garden and healthy flowers, shrubs and trees, a good option might be Milorganite. Not only is Milorganite one of America's leading natural organic fertilizers, it's good for the environment and safe for your family and pets.

It's Goof-Proof

Milorganite has been trusted for more than 70 years by homeowners, golf course superintendents and professional grounds maintenance crews, including the crew that prepares the fields for Super Bowl games.

An important fact for homeowners is that Milorganite is an organic, slow-release fertilizer. That means improved color and growth are observed for 8-12 weeks while adding organic matter to the lawn. And since Milorganite contains virtually no chemical salts, it won't burn grass or plants, even in dry conditions. Even for lawn care beginners, it's virtually goof-proof.

The Iron is Better

Iron is an essential micronutrient for plants to produce chlorophyll, which is necessary for a healthy green color. Plants with an iron deficiency begin to yellow. While iron is essential, not all iron is the same. Some sources of iron form water-insoluble compounds in the soil that cannot be used effectively by plants. Even higher application rates won't result in long-lasting results. However, the iron in Milorganite is naturally complexed, making it ideal for plants because it is released slowly in a form that plants can easily use.

Weeds Deterred by Healthy Lawn

Help keep crabgrass and other weeds from developing by using Milorganite and mowing lawns no shorter than two to three inches. By preventing sunlight from reaching the ground, a healthy lawn keeps weed seeds from germinating.

Runoff Slowed by Healthy Lawns

It was a common belief that runoff from fertilized lawns contributed to dissolved nutrients polluting area waterways. Actually, according to recent University of Wisconsin-Madison research, a properly fertilized lawn reduces nutrient runoff.

The increased turf density of a properly fertilized, vigorous lawn slows down water movement and gives it time to be absorbed by the soil. After only one year, properly fertilized test plots had significantly less nitrogen and phosphorous runoff than unfertilized plots. Runoff can be reduced by ensuring turf does not lose density due to nitrogen deficiency. Fertilizing with Milorganite is one of the most environmentally sound ways to accomplish this objective.

Application Guidelines for Lawns

The following application guidelines will make your lawn the envy of the neighborhood:

Cool-Season/Northern Grasses: On cool-season grasses like Kentucky

bluegrass, fescues and ryegrass, apply one 40-pound bag of Milorganite per 2,500 square feet of lawn in spring, summer and fall.

Warm-Season/Southern Grasses: On warm season grasses, such as bermudagrass, St. Augustinegrass and zoysiagrass, apply one 40-pound bag of Milorganite per 2,500 square feet of lawn in early April, late May, early September and late November. Fertilize centipedegrass and bahiagrass in spring and summer only (late fall fertilization may predispose these turfgrass species to winterkill).

New Lawns: When preparing an area for grass seed or sod, apply two 40-pound bags of Milorganite per 2,500 square feet of planting area and mix it into the top two inches of soil before seeding or sodding. For seeded areas, mulch and begin watering. Re-fertilize newly seeded or sodded lawn every 10-14 weeks with Milorganite at 15 pounds per 1,000 square feet. Regardless of when, where or what type of grass you are fertilizing, Milorganite never needs to be watered in because of its non-burning nature.

Spreader Calibration

Milorganite can be easily applied to lawns with any drop- or rotary-spreader. Information for calibrating many common spreaders is available on the Milorganite bag or contact the Milorganite customer service line at 1-800-304-6204.

For Gardens, Trees and Shrubs

Don't stop applying Milorganite at the edge of the lawn. To keep your entire yard and garden growing healthy, follow these simple guidelines. Milorganite can be used from your vegetable garden to your perennial beds, from the ornamental bushes to the shade tree in back. Here, there, everywhere.

Vegetable Gardens

If you grow tomatoes, you will be interested in a study conducted at the University of Wisconsin-Madison that compared tomatoes grown using a variety of fertilizers. Several commercial vegetable garden fertilizers, as well as a Milorganite-based blend, were applied at the rates suggested by the manufacturers. Natural organic Milorganite was applied at a variety of rates to determine the best rate for vegetable gardens.

Tomatoes were harvested on four separate occasions. Both the fresh and oven-dried produce weights were compared to determine yield. Tomatoes grown using Milorganite produced the highest yield. Not only did Milorganite outperform the other fertilizers, it also surpassed a Milorganite-based fertilizer blend with a higher nutrient analysis.

It was found that turning-in five pounds (15 cups) of Milorganite for every 100-square foot section of garden, prior to planting, will maximize the harvest. Halfway through the growing season revitalize the garden by adding three pounds (9 cups) of Milorganite per 100-square foot section. Rototill or work into the soil with a hoe between planted rows.

Flowers

Annuals - When preparing a flowerbed, mix three pounds (9 cups) of Milorganite per 100 square feet into the soil. When flower buds form, apply two pounds (6 cups) of Milorganite per 100 square feet around plants.

Perennials - Apply two pounds (6 cups) of Milorganite per 100 square feet in spring and again after blooming to strengthen plants for the following year.

Roses - Apply one to two cups of Milorganite around each bush and lightly work into the soil each month during the growing season.

Trees - Established trees - In spring or early summer, use five pounds (15 cups) per inch of trunk diameter. Pour into 12-15 inch holes approximately one-inch in diameter spaced two feet apart along the drip line so that new root growth will be fertilized. Fill the holes with Milorganite and cover with soil. For deciduous trees, extend a few feet beyond the drip line.

Transplanting container grown trees - Use one-half pound (one and one-half cups) of Milorganite per foot of tree height and loosely mix with soil at the bottom of the hole when trees are transplanted from containers. Three months

later, hand-spread an equal amount of Milorganite slightly past the drip line.

Shrubs - Established shrubs - In shrub beds, scatter five pounds (15 cups) of Milorganite per 100 square feet uniformly over the soil surface and work in with a hoe or rake in early spring or summer. For individual shrubs, apply one pound (3 cups) of Milorganite per shrub on the ground above the root area.

Transplanting shrubs - use one-half pound (one and one-half cups) of Milorganite per foot of shrub height and loosely mix with soil at the bottom of the hole when shrubs are transplanted from containers. Three months later, two pounds (6 cups) of Milorganite should be hand-spread under the plant and lightly raked into the soil.

For More Information

Milorganite fertilizer, produced by the Milorganite Division - MMSD, Milwaukee, Wis., has been used nationwide for more than 70 years on golf courses, lawns and around the home. If you have any questions regarding Milorganite, or would like to receive free information on its many uses, call 1-800-304-6204, or visit www.milorganite.org.

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It's Almost Paradise



Paradise Ponds' latest creation at Wampler's Lake

Water gardening has been a popular pursuit in the far east and Europe for centuries and has gained in popularity in the United States over the last few years. As in everything, when there is a niche created, there are always those entrepreneurs who are willing to jump in and fulfill a need.

Two young and energetic local students of landscape architecture have joined forces to help bring those aspiring water gardeners "a bit of paradise in their own back yard." Ryan Shankland and Chuck Kirk are Manchester residents and the princi-

pals of Paradise Ponds, a new business in the area dedicated to building water gardens. Chuck is also the owner of Precision Lawn & Landscape ("No one else can cut it!").

Ryan became hooked on water gardening when he was eight years old and a neighbor had a pond in their yard. After moving to Manchester in 1987, their home on Union Street had a small pond. "I brought home a turtle, and I went to Meijer's and bought a couple of goldfish, and I started working on the garden," he reminisces. Four of those 50¢ gold-

fish from eight years ago are now residing in one of Paradise Ponds' first creations, at the home of Chuck's parents on Wampler's Lake.

During a term in the service, Ryan studied Wildlife and Land Management and has continued his studies since, attending seminars around the nation.

Chuck recalls how he started mowing lawns at age 18. "I started out with an Escort, a push mower, and a weed eater," he says. Now, just a few years later, he's looking forward

to delivery of his dump truck. He has studied landscape architecture at Lansing Community College and plans to transfer to Michigan State in the fall.

The pair have done three ponds together so far and have contracts for three more. Using the "bigger is better" stance, they maintain that the ponds they build are lower maintenance and provide a more stable ecosystem than smaller water gardens. "The solution to pollution is dilution," says Chuck. The plants, fish, and

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bacteria all contribute to a natural look and a natural habitat. A shelf system to the different depths of the pond provide habitats for a variety of different plants. A depth of 24" in zone five guarantees that the fish can winter safely in the pond. Pumps and filters do their share to provide adequate oxygen and assure a clean environment. The pond is designed with a pump size to assure that the water is regenerated once per hour.

"The object is to make it look like it's been here forever," Ryan muses. "We want it to look like the house was built around the pond, not the pond built around the house." And indeed, without being told that the 14' x 16' pond on Wampler's Lake was brand new, the casual observer would probably not notice. The electrical lines are subtly hidden and provide light in the lighthouse and for the interior of the pond. Landscaping around the perimeter of the pond will be completed as time allows, now that the busy season has begun for Paradise Ponds.

These ambitious, enthusiastic and knowledgeable young men are bound to make a success of their business. I wouldn't be surprised to see a lot of new water gardens in the Manchester area this summer!

- Marsha Johnson Chartrand



Fun Flower

Facts

- Once a flower is named and registered in Holland, it can never be renamed.
- The late Audrey Hepburn was honored eight years ago when the Audrey Hepburn Rose became official.
- Can't find Lily of the Valley at your garden center? Remember, they are sometimes listed by their botanical name Convallaria.
- In a family way: Holland, the world's largest flower source, places an emphasis on family values which is reflected in the number of family-owned flower farms.
- In order to reduce stress on the set, Hollywood producers place bouquets of flowers in their stars' dressing rooms.
- The largest one-story building in the world is the Flower Auction in Aalsmeer, The Netherlands. It's bigger than 150 football fields.
- Although we tend to associate flowers with seasons, more and more of them are now available year round.
- Gardening is the number one hobby in America, but people in the U.S. are way down on the world's top 10 list when it comes to buying flowers.



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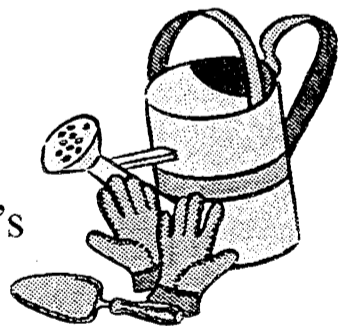
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Effective, Easy-to-use Flower and Plant Care Tips

By Robert Perilla

People love flowers and plants but often don't indulge in the pleasure because they are unsure how to care for them. As an individual who has dispensed advice to floral professionals for 16 years, I've compiled a list of effective, easy-to-use tips to make your flowers, plants and world more beautiful.

Perilla's Top 20

1. **To keep your flowers looking better and lasting longer**, display cut flowers in a vase, and make sure none of the leaves are covered with water. Leaves decay in water, drastically decreasing the vase life of your flowers.

2. **Not sure how much sunlight hits a particular section of your garden?** Plant hydrangea. It thrives in bright, moderate and very little light.

3. **Aloe everybody.** Keep an aloe plant in the kitchen. It's juice offers quick relief from cooking burns. Aloe plants like water, so make sure the soil is moist, but don't mist the leaves or you will kill the plant.

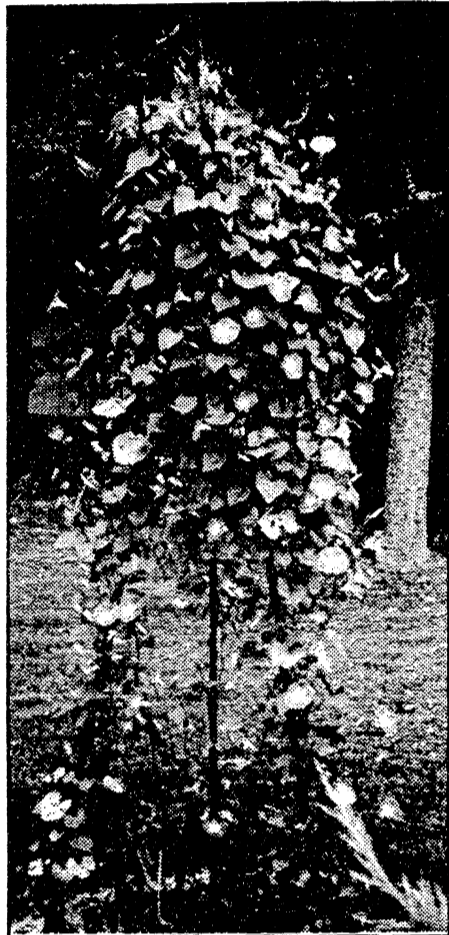
4. **Maximize your pleasure from gladiola.** To assure a full and spectacular display, make sure that at least one flower on each stem is open when you buy them.

5. **Give your flowers a second life — dry them!** Check out the video "The Art of Dry Flower Arranging." It's an easy how-to that will make anyone an expert in preserving that special bouquet. Only \$28 (plus \$5 shipping and handling), you can order it through Public

Relations Marketing, P.O. Box 508, Glenwood Landing, New York 11547.

6. **Gorgeous Gerberas.** Once called African Daisies, gerberas have become even more popular now that you can choose both size and color. Gerberas now come in standard, huge, mini and micro-mini sizes.

7. **Decorating a buffet with flow-**



ers? Keep the flowers away from fruit. Fruit gives off ethylene gas which accelerates the aging process of flowers.

8. **They may be beautiful, but...** With dramatic pink, white and blue flowers, cyclamen are beautiful plants. However, they can cause illness if accidentally eaten. Be sure to keep them away from children and pets.

9. **No time for watering?** Try this dramatic decorative poster instead. Picturing more than 600 indoor plants, this five-foot by three-foot poster cost \$20 and is available through Public Relations Marketing at the address indicated above (Tip 5.).

10. **Double your floral pleasure!** Call 1-800-FLOWERS in October to order fresh flowers delivered directly from Holland (via FedEx), say "Alstublieft" (the Dutch word for "thank-you" and "you're welcome") and you'll automatically be entered in a sweepstakes to win a free trip to Holland!

11. **When the water in a vase starts getting low**, don't dump it and start all over. Flowers are happier when you just top off the existing water by adding some that is fresh.

12. **Daffodils make a house look homey**, but be careful. They secrete a poison into the water that can be deadly to any other flowers you put in the vase.

13. **The most important thing you can do to make your flowers last** is use a

vase that is clean and freshly washed.

14. **First things first.** When you bring flowers home, cut the stems at an angle and place them in fresh water for a nice long drink before removing their wrapping.

15. **Iris item.** When buying Iris, make sure that they are showing color on the buds or they may never open.

16. **Speak to your plants?** Whether or not this really improves their health, one thing is certain; if you don't give your plants proper nutrients and sunlight, nothing you say to them will help grow.

17. **Just like humans, flowers rest more comfortably** at night when it's cool. Try a lower thermostat setting in the evening and watch your flowers perk up in the morning.

18. **Gardenias are a hearty variety** whose white flowers set off the decor in any living room. Remember these flowers require light, but avoid putting them in the sunny part of the room.

19. **Want to eat lunch in your backyard**, but can't stand the bugs? Try decorating the area around your table with pretty Rose Geranium or Lemon Geranium plants, which are effective at keeping many small bugs away.

20. **If you want to encourage continuous blooming** of the plants in your garden, remove the flower head after it finishes its bloom.

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Schebor's Is Still A Favorite Destination

Each greenhouse and plant nursery has its very own personality. Schebor's is a laid back, family kind of place that grows on you through the years. Since 1949 (we think), Schebor's Greenhouse on Logan Road between Sheridan and Hogan Roads, has been a favorite place for many to go for good plants, gardening advice and good company.

As greenhouses go, Schebor's is not large, but there is a wide variety of stock which is constantly renewed and they will work with customers to order or grow just what the customer wants. Advice is knowledgeable, honest and sometimes funny. It's a very personable place.

At Schebor's your first inkling of

humor and a laid back approach is the careful greeting from King, a magnificent, mellow German Shepherd, who is almost 13. King is good with customers. King wouldn't pose for a portrait among the flowers, but did showcase his talent of talking about the telephone. When the phone rings, King "sings" a sort of low volume, muttering howl. He stops when the ringing stops.

Russell Hall and Sharon Hammang run Schebor's now owned by Mr. Hall, following the death of Joe Wolf in March. Ms. Hammang, who lives in Manchester, has worked at the greenhouse for "eleven seasons. Joe hired me when I went there with my mother to buy some plants. I

love it, especially the customers." There is a lot of friendly banter with customers, and Sharon likes to talk about the customer who told her she needed a lot of help "because I am a recovering brown thumb."

Schebor's offers a wide range of flowers, vegetables and plants, including some tropical ones,



Schebor's Geraniums are locally famous



Russ and Sharon are the friendly faces at Schebor's

such as the white fuzzy leafed wandering Jew, an indoor plant that can spend the summer outside. Schebor's is one of the few nurseries that carries Mexican daisies, an energetic pink plant that can be outside but which will bloom indoors all winter long if treated properly.

For geranium fans, in a fantastic array of colors, some in baskets and pouches. For the gardening impaired, geraniums grown from cuttings take a lot more effort on the part of the grower, but the re-

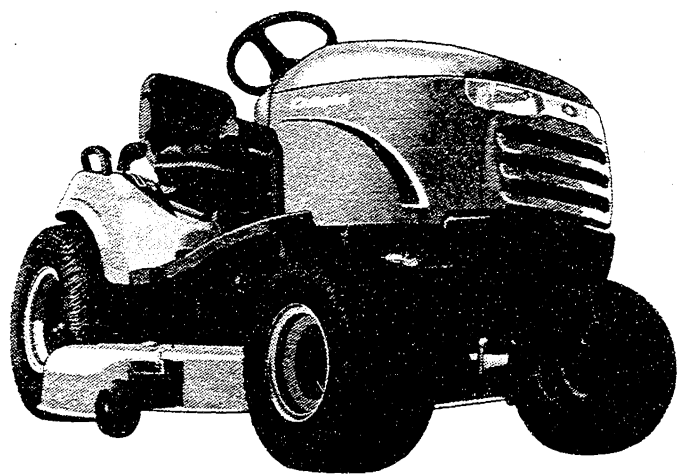
sult is a lush, fuller blossom.

Schebor's productions can also be found at the Ann Arbor Farmers' Market. Russell Hall has been taking plants there to market twice a week for 20 years.

To get to Schebor's Greenhouse, take M-52 south from Manchester and turn east on Logan Road. You'll find King's team there from 10:00 AM to 6 PM, Monday through Friday, and 11:00 AM to 5 PM on Sundays. Don't bring King any treats. He's on a diet.

- Wanda Fish

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Save Money and Energy with Landscaping

Saving energy isn't always as simple as turning off a light or making certain that a faucet doesn't drip. The landscaping that you have around the outside of your home can prove to be a valuable energy saver, inside. Properly placed windbreaks, snow fences and shade trees can be very beneficial when it comes to saving money in the heating and cooling of your home.

The provision of shade and cooling in the summer and protection from the cold winter winds can lead to a reduction in heating and air conditioning bills for the homeowner by as much as 30 percent.

Windbreaks and living snow fences provide a source of shade and wind protection for livestock both in the summer and winter. Animals are kept healthy by shading and cooling them in the summer and protecting them from wind-chill and snow in the winter. Finally, property values are increased with improved privacy, beauty and noise reduction.

One of the most affordable windbreak and shade trees available to the consumer is the Austree Hybrid. "Adaptability, versatility and durability are the main selling points of the Austree," said company president Dennis Warnecke. "The Austree Hybrid is a tree that will grow in virtually any soil condition and is greatly needed in the U.S. . . . especially with all of the new development that is taking place across the country. People want a fast growing tree at a reasonable price to protect homes, agriculture and animals."

When Bill Lieb planted 1000 2' to 3' Austrees at Rocky Mountain Rosters in Colorado, he hoped that the trees would grow as fast as the catalog promised. "I didn't believe the trees could grow 8' to 15' a year," said Lieb. "If I hadn't been able to look at my window and see the results myself, I still wouldn't believe it. They are a super windbreak for this country where there aren't any trees. Just take care of them and watch them go!"

When planting a windbreak or a snow fence, you should consider fast growing deciduous trees and augment the windbreak with slower growing evergreen trees. The deciduous trees will offer a great deal of shade and wind protection in the summer and fall, and even though they lose their leaves in the winter, they will provide effective wind protection in the winter too. The evergreens will take 20 or more years to provide much protection, but will be

a viable solid wind barrier year round after maturity.

Rocky Mountain Roosters planted the fast growing Austree in various sites on their 5000 acre ranch. Their plan was primarily designed for windbreak protection, wildlife habitat and to create instant shade trees for the newly developed land. "We have been able to develop great bird habitats and living snow fences with the Austree Hybrids. We have planted the slower growing pines and other conifer trees as well," Lieb said.

Getting the trees to perform as advertised may require a bit of management, particularly in their first year or so. "If you do what we tell you, and we outline it in great detail in our planting instructions, chances are you'll get great results," Brett Axton, CEO of Austree advises. "People expect a miracle; it's still only a tree. But it certainly does everything we say it will do and more, in a short period of time."

Spring time is the ideal time to start planning your windbreaks and sites for specific shade trees. You should contact your local county ex-

ension office for a list of evergreen trees and other deciduous trees that would be suitable for your area. Proper ground preparation and watering of all new plants will increase the success of your living energy saving investment.

The Austree is a male sterile hybrid tree of the Salix family. The tree is a result of over 30 years of selective breeding by the Department of

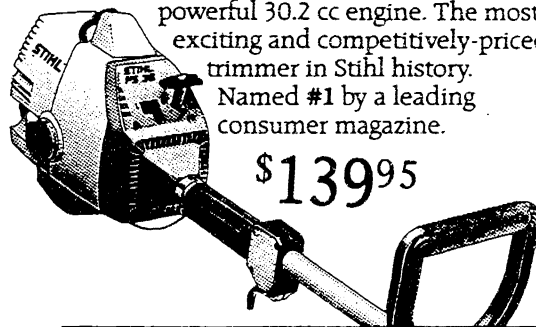
Science and Industrial Research of New Zealand. The trees are ideal for uses as windbreaks, hedges, privacy screens, erosion control, shade trees, noise and dust barriers.

For more information, or to receive a free 12 page color brochure, call 800-760 TREE, or write to: Rocky Mountain Austree Inc., P.O. Box 9307, Colorado Springs, CO 80932.



Stihl's FS-36 Trimmer

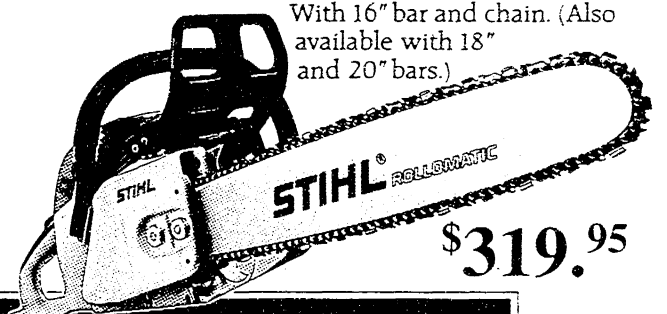
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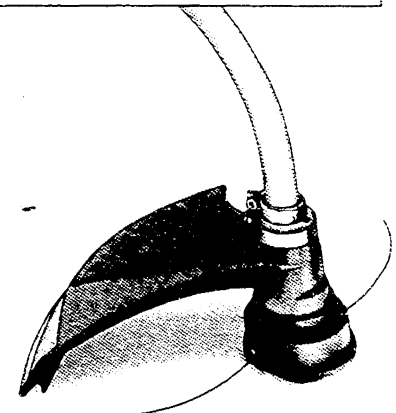
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Having a difficult time coming up with the perfect gift for Mom or Dad on their special days? Why not buy them a house? A Purple Martin house, that is.

Becoming a martin landlord is an entertaining and educational hobby, says James R. Hill III, noted ornithologist and founder of the Purple Martin Conservation Association (PMCA). For many PMCA members, overseeing these avian rental properties has become a family project, providing not only a valuable service to the martins but also allowing family members to spend quality time together.

The PMCA also provides members with updated research information and the opportunity to network with other martin landlords across North America. The organization also has many martin-related products for sale, including the Martin Startin' Kit, complete with informational booklets, house plans, gourd seeds and the dawnsong cassette tape to attract martins to their new home.

Members of the swallow family, Purple Martins are friendly, gregarious birds who will return year after year to a well-maintained colony site.

Although this requires active participation by the landlord to ensure the bird's continued presence and well-being, the reward comes each spring when the martins "come home."

The first step in the process is the house, which can be a constructed from wood, prepared from home-grown gourds, or purchased ready to hang. A successful martin colony owes much to the style and type of housing that is provided, says Hill, since martins can easily fall victim to natural predators if their home doesn't provide the necessary protection.

Once the houses are placed in an appropriate location, the exciting part begins: waiting for the martins to arrive. During the cold winter months, the martins reside primarily in Brazil, but in January, their northern migration begins, with the gulf states the first stop on their route. By May, martins can be found in nearly every state of the Union, as well as several Canadian provinces.

After the martins have been sighted, landlords can participate in several PMCA-sponsored projects. The first is the Scout-arrival Survey, which tracks the arrival of the martins into a

particular area. Other projects include the Colony Registration Program that documents the location of active and inactive sites, and Project Martinwatch that records nesting information during the breeding season.

Martin landlords gain a deeper appreciation and understanding of the relationship between man and nature, and ensure the continued survival of the Purple Martin itself. Landlording provides years of entertainment and enjoyment—a "one size fits all" gift, perfect

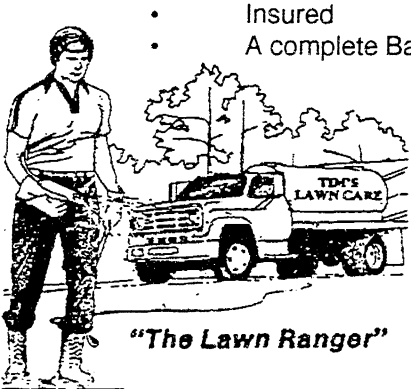
for that parent who has "everything."

(For more information about Purple Martins and the PMCA, contact James Hill via e-mail at pmca@edinboro.edu, write to PMCA, Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, Edinboro, PA, 16444, or visit the website at <http://www.purplemartin.org>. The Purple Martin Conservation Association is affiliated with the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, which provides logistical support.)

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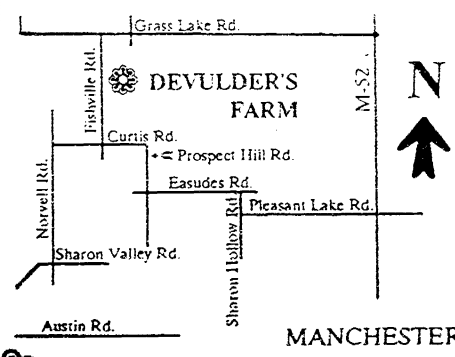
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Decks and Railings Join Ranks of Care-free Home Products

If you love your deck, but tire of the yearly maintenance it requires — painting, staining, washing, sealing — you'll be interested in the easy-care vinyl decking systems now available. Think of the time, money and aggravation you'll save with planks that will never warp, rot or need harsh chemical treatments. "While low maintenance is a primary selling point, we've found that homeowners are drawn to the variety of styles and safety features also offered by our vinyl extruded decking system," states Mark Suchyna, product engineering manager for Bufftech, a quality brand of CertainTeed.

"With no visible hardware, including screws or popping nails that can cause injury, our decks are safe, and they come in white, tan or gray to complement virtually any home exterior. The surface is slip resistant and very easy to clean, and homeowners can choose among several railing systems, including picket styles with very unique spindles and balusters."

Bufftech railings come in two heights, 36 inches or 42 inches, and widths, 72 inches or 96 inches, and can be topped off with a standard two by four or a "T" shaped top rail. "We also offer four choices of post caps, including ball and gothic-style caps," Suchyna adds.



One of local gardener Betty Curley's many floral beds

In addition, the Bufftech railing system meets BOCA railing codes. "The system features a rigid aluminum reinforcement channel within the upper and bottom vinyl rails," Suchyna notes. "This design adds to the system's rigid load bearing strength. The ribbed aluminum channels also grip the heavy wall pickets snugly within the rails, adding to the system's security and safety."

According to Suchyna, installation is similar to wood decks, and Bufftech deck, railing and fence systems are backed by a lifetime non-prorated limited warranty to the original purchaser. The products are available nationwide from authorized dealers. To find a dealer near you, call 800-333-0569, ext. 270, or write to Bufftech, c/o CertainTeed, 2525 Walden Ave., Buffalo, NY 14225, Attn. ARA.

Courtesy of Article Resource Association, www.aracopy.com

Beautification Committee Continues The Tradition, and Adds to It.

Gardens large and gardens small. Gardens fancy and gardens humble. Your garden or the garden of a friend or neighbor.

Maybe one of them is worthy of recognition.

Get ready for the roving judges!!!!

And to make that encouragement more tangible, they are sponsoring a Beautiful Garden Award.

Throughout the spring, summer and fall, residents and business owners may be surprised by the Committee with a recognition of their efforts to beautify their little space in the community. One morning you may wake up and find a pretty little garden stake "award" planted in your yard, designating it as worthy of honor!

The committee will also acknowledge those gardens by publishing the name of the homeowner or gardener (only with their approval, of course). The "award stake" will then rotate from garden to garden—being awarded as often as there is a garden worthy of honor.

Gardens can be nominated by anyone—just send the address and owner's name to Committee for the Beautification of Manchester, c/o A & J Travel, 154 E. Main, Manchester.

The Committee notes that the gar-

dens need only be "improved." It can be the front yard, the back yard, even just putting a hanging basket on the porch!

You might also wish to consider volunteering to be a judge. If so, call Josie at A & J Travel, 428-8307 or Amy Griffin at 428-1853. The judges will look at nominated gardens and also keep their eyes open for those which may, have been overlooked. The garden "space" can be either at home or a business.

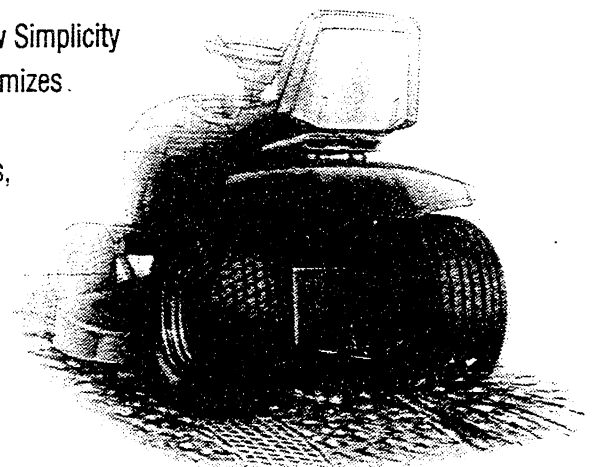
A new twist to the "Beautiful Garden" this year will include a mail box beautification award. Three awards will be presented on August 15th.

Fusilier's Greenhouse will reimburse up to \$25.00 per winner, so save your receipts on your flower purchases from Fusilier's. Take a picture "before and after" and send it to the Manchester Beautification Committee, 154 E. Main, Manchester.

If you would like to wake up some morning to find the "Choice Award" stake in your yard or next to your mailbox, start thinking now about how to make your space just a little bit prettier. The idea is that all in Manchester will enjoy and benefit from our common effort to make the community more beautiful.

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Automatic Controlled Traction™, available on new Simplicity Garden Tractors and Broadmoor Lawn Tractors. Minimizes wheel slippage, producing exceptional traction. Automatically distributes power to both drive wheels, providing better overall traction on slopes, ditchlines, uneven contours and slippery surfaces. The system allows tight turns and reduces turf damage.

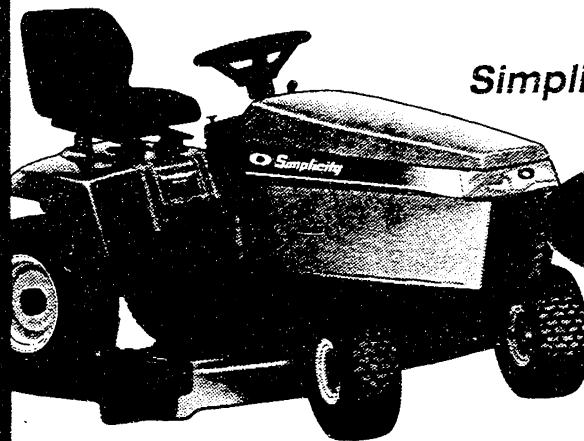


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