

## February Gardening Ideas

by James A. Fizzell

Sr. Extension Adviser, U of I.

February is an anxious month for Midwest gardeners. It's still winter. But, the days are noticeably longer and after the dark days of December and January we have the urge to get gardening. Worse yet, if February becomes unusually mild as it did last year, we tend to get ahead of ourselves, like sowing peas or lettuce. (It did work last year.)

While it is too early for sowing most things, there are some seeds that can be started indoors now, and plenty of other things to keep us busy.

Good gardens don't just happen. They take planning. First, make a scale drawing of your garden. List the things you want to grow and assign them adequate space. Decide how much seed you will need of each variety. Seed catalogs have been arriving for about a month now. Study them as you make your plans, and get your seed orders mailed.

Our office has a list of recommended varieties, too. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to University of Illinois, 4200 W. Euclid Ave., Rolling Meadows, IL 60008, and request the 1987 variety list.

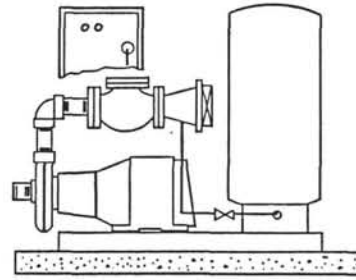
Records are helpful in planning. If you don't have records, start now. Start a gardening notebook. Record the things you planted, where you got the seed, problems, and how you solved them, sprays used, etc. and most important how the varieties performed.

Keep your garden layouts from each year so you can refer to them. It's helpful in planning rotations etc. to know what was where the year before last, etc.

Most of us hate to record failures. Memories are short so if you don't keep track of failures, like the bean variety that was rusty all season, or the tomato that never set fruit, you are bound to repeat them.

Plan to try some new things. Recently, intensive gardening systems such as French Intensive or Raised Beds have become the rage. They aren't really new. We've always grown in beds instead of rows in the greenhouse. Translating this to outdoor gardens just makes good sense, unless you intend to plant and harvest long rows with tractor-drawn equipment.

## TURF • TENDER



WHAT DO YOU  
NEED MOST  
FROM YOUR  
AUTOMATED  
PUMPING  
SYSTEM?

RELIABILITY AND SERVICE WHEN YOU NEED IT!

You only have a few companies from which to choose when you need new pumping equipment and Commercial Pump Service, Inc. is the only pumping system manufacturer that has "Service" in its name. Not only is it in our name — we stake our reputation on it. Our people are highly trained specialists in service and maintenance of automated pumping systems and you can count on prompt and courteous response to your call. As another part of our service, we build our stations the way YOU want them, as simple or as deluxe as you desire. Commercial Pump Service, Inc. prides itself on being a leader in the industry but a servant to its customers' needs.

**Builders Of Energy Efficient Pumping Systems For:**

- Golf Courses, Industry, Agriculture And Municipalities
- Standard Prefabricated Automated Pumping Stations
- Custom Prefabricated Automated Pumping Stations
- Turf Feeding Systems
- Retrolits



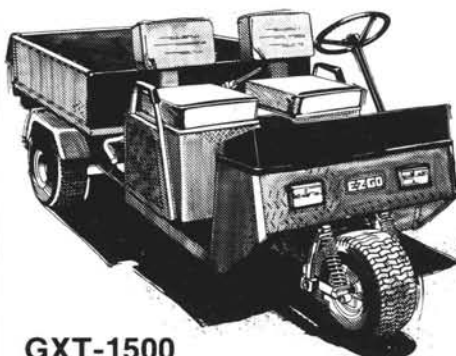
**Commercial Pump  
Service Incorporated**

Your Area Representative For:  
**COMMERCIAL PUMP**  
500 N. Plum Grove Rd. - Ste. A  
Palatine, Ill. 60067  
312 - 991-7430

Intensive gardens are 3½ to 4 feet wide beds, with narrow aisles between them. The beds are turned by hand, two or three spades deep (12" - 18"), and volumes of organic material are incorporated. The beds are worked from the aisles so you never walk on them. Since the aisles aren't turned, the amount of spading is reduced; and since beds aren't compacted, digging is easier.

The crops are grown in rows across the beds or broadcast, making planting, care and harvesting much easier. And since most of the bed is covered by crop, weeds have very little space to grow. What gardener could want more?

## HOW TO HANDLE THE TOUGHEST TURF ON EARTH



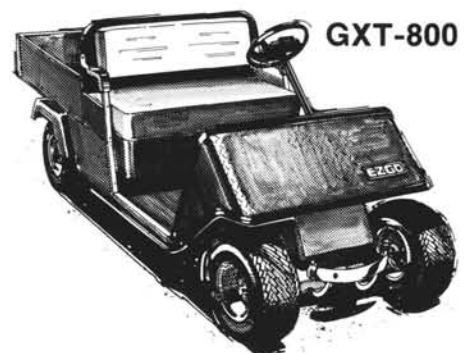
**GXT-1500**

For every job you've got, there's an E-Z-GO designed specifically to handle it — quietly, efficiently and with the least amount of labor. With carrying capacities up to 1500 pounds, a complete range of trailers, and adaptability to almost any accessory, they're a team of superbly versatile workers.

**EZGO TEXTRON**

E-Z-GO Chicagoland  
P.O. Box 548  
24404 N. Highway 12  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Call Bruce Johnson or David Davis at 312-438-5511.



**GXT-800**