

Grab Bag

A further sign of society's decline?

A Brooklyn, NY, neighborhood is being plagued by thieves. Plant thieves. And not your run of the mill, "strike at night" thieves. No, these are your "people on their way to work and pulling plants up by the roots" thieves.

Sound bizarre? The residents of the neighborhood think so too. This award-winning block has seen the loss of dusty millers, impatiens and salvia. Not very costly plants.

And the thieves? Well-dressed men and woman who apparently do not know where their local plant nursery is and are then forced into a life of crime in order to stock their gardens.

According to Katherine E. Finkelstein, from *The New York Times*, residents have chased people down the street (picture a man dressed like and accountant dashing down the street holding an uprooted plant, scattering soil behind him) and accosted them in the act (a woman holding a clear plastic bag full of stolen plants). Over a dozen people have been caught red-handed by the beleaguered residents.

Well, 2000 is nearly here; so it's probably another sign of the end of the world. Has anyone checked those Nos-tradamus prophecies lately? There must be something about plant thievery in there.



Want to walk on art? Marty Kermeen, of Artistic Pavers in Plano, IL, can make it happen. Precise cutting created this replica of an 800-year-old French maze in Naperville, IL. The cuts and matches are so precise that the work almost appears to be painted on, but is much more lasting than paint. Geometry, mathematics, concentration and control are all needed to make these works of art. See more examples at www.artpaver.com/mk.htm

Been there, done that

Turf pest problems can vary from year to year, depending on circumstances like weather and cultural practices. LCOs surveyed in some regions of the U.S. ran into these control problems during the 1998 season:

	Northeast	Midwest	Southeast	Texas
pest	%	%	%	%
white grubs	88	97	23	62
chinch bugs	43	32	77	60
sod webworms	29	34	30	2
fire ants	-	-	27	42
mole crickets	-	1	39	-
caterpillars/worms	2	2	16	18
billbugs	7	6	2	-
beetles (various)	2	2	6	5
cutworms	3	4	-	-
all others	16	21	22	20

ROHMID SURVEY OF 312 LCOS

Attention: Liar's Poker players

Ever played "Liar's Poker" with a one-dollar bill? Trace your winnings' roots — www.wheresgeorge.com, will trace where your bills have been, and when.

Enter the denomination, series (year), serial number and your current zip code to see where your bill has been.

Add your own memo of how you got that bill and, if you're really attached to it, have the site keep you updated on where the bill travels next.