

Practical Hotbed, Easily Tended, May Be Constructed in Window of Basement

Hotbed Built Into Basement Casement.

If you have a basement window with southern exposure, it is possible to build a practical hotbed which is more easily watched, aired and watered than the standard type.

In front of the window make a shallow excavation, about a foot deep. The size must be figured carefully, so that a frame set in this excavation can be covered by window or hotbed sash. As in the case of other hotbeds, a glass substitute may be used on the sash, if desired.

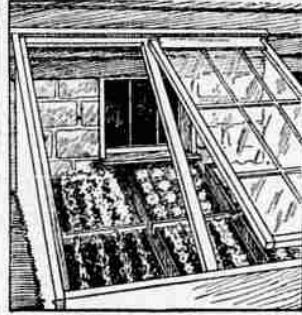
Build a frame to fit in the excavation. The sides must slant sharply from a point above the window, almost to the ground. Fit the sash on this frame, using hinges at the top so the sash may easily be raised for ventilation. Earth may be banked around the frame to keep out the cold; and the sides should be as tight as possible to keep out the wind.

The frame may have to be caulked where it joins the foundation to prevent drafts, otherwise it is built like the garden type, using a standard or odd sized sash as you choose.

Heat is supplied to this bed by opening the basement window, and allowing the heated basement air to enter the bed. The window is left open at night, and may often be closed during the day, when the sun is shining on the bed. Hotbeds of this type have been tried and tested, and

although they do not maintain temperatures as high as other kinds the heat will be more even, and the ventilation much better.

What to sow in a hotbed? The tender vegetables that need



a long season, such as tomatoes, peppers and eggplants, cabbage and cauliflower, a few cucumbers or summer squash in pots sunk into the earth so they may be transplanted readily, all may be started here.

Most of the annual flowers will benefit from an early start here if you do not plan to put them in the cold frame, otherwise use the hotbed only for the tender or slow ones.

The main things to watch are temperatures and drafts. Ventilation is necessary on warm days, and for very short periods on cooler days. Sow seed thinly and water bed moderately when planting; thin out when needed.

growth is made, it is unnecessary to water the plant food in. Late snows and early spring rains take care of this part of the job, and carry the plant food down to the roots where it is ready to be utilized just as promptly as the grass starts growth.

Try an early application of plant food to the lawn this year. You will be pleased with the results secured.

No Lower Home Costs in Sight, Lumberman Says

LOUISVILLE, Ky. — (AP) — Harold R. Northrup of Washington, secretary of the National Retail Lumber Dealers association, predicted that "lumber prices are going to level off" but that "home construction costs are probably the lowest now that they will be in a decade."

Speaking at a convention of the Kentucky Retail Lumber Dealers association, Northrup said he based his belief that a price-leveling was in the offing largely on the assumption that the "peak of (army) camp construction has passed." However, he added that prices "will not be much lower than at present."

He said there was no "bottleneck" in the industry's portion of the national defense program and that the industry's No. 1 problem was keeping up its share of national defense work without affecting the normal building program.

Early Fertilization Will Greatly Aid Eradication of Weeds From Lawn

If you were asked to name your major lawn problem, what would you reply? Right the first time! . . . weeds . . . those pesky critters that seem to spring from nowhere.

Gardeners used to think that nothing but laborious digging would eradicate weeds from the lawn. But we know now that early feeding of the lawn with a complete balanced plant food is a great aid in eradicating weeds.

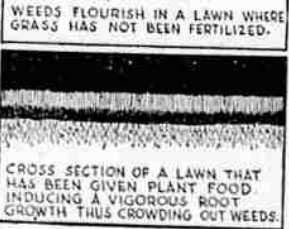
Of course this early feeding doesn't directly kill the weeds. But it does do this: Through supply completely balanced, readily available nourishment to the grass roots, it enables the grass to make such a dense, early, vigorous growth that weeds are choked out.

Grass makes its best growth in early spring, when the weather is cool and there is plenty of moisture in the soil. Weeds do not start into growth until later, when the soil has become thoroughly warm, and higher temperatures prevail.

Therefore to combat weeds, give your lawn an early feeding this year, making application in late February or early March, before the grass shows any signs

of active top growth. Apply four pounds of plant food per 100 square feet of lawn area. Application may be made either with a plant food spreader, or by hand.

Not only is this early applica-



tion beneficial from the standpoint of combating weeds, but it is less laborious for the gardener, because when plant food is applied to lawns before any top

Garden Needs for Early Planting



We know what your garden needs are, whether you are going to plant a small back-yard vegetable garden, or a spreading garden of the rarest species of flowers and plants. Because we have been serving the needs of gardeners—amateur and professional—for more than a generation, you can depend on us for every need.

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