



Staff photo by Kelly James

Kay Gailey, left, models a jacket dress with lavender linen jacket. Dianna Roberts, right, models a jacket dress with white linen jacket and red dress with lavender floral design. The clothes are from Gresham Girl.

Mild winter causes some shaggy lawns

Many home lawns in Western Oregon are already getting shaggy because of recent mild winter weather. Unfortunately this early rapid growth creates ideal conditions for the fungus disease "red thread" to infect lawn grasses.

"The red thread fungus may cause the lawn to have a red or pink cast instead of the normal green color," says Ray McNeilan, Oregon State University Extension home gardening agent.

The disease may start with a series of irregular shaped yellow patches that gradually take on a dead look. The blades of affected grass may be bound together with a pinkish web or you may see tiny red horn-like growth on affected grass blades.

Red thread usually occurs during wet humid weather in winter and early spring, especially on fine fescue lawns.

Another lawn problem home owners may notice at this time of year is the light green color of new growth in lawn grasses.

"This lighter-than-normal color is the result of a loss of nitrogen from the soil," McNeilan says.

Nitrogen is the "greening element" that is needed several times during the year to maintain grass color and vigor. It is a mobile element and can be flushed out of the root area with water.

Soil nitrogen loss occurs frequently over the winter months, especially when rains are heavy.

"Both these problems can be controlled with a balanced fertilizer program," McNeilan notes.

When weather permits, mow the lawn closely and rake off and dispose of the clippings. Then apply enough nitrogen fertilizer to the lawn and supply one pound of actual nitrogen per thousand square feet of area.

As new growth begins, mow the lawn often enough to keep the lawn no more than an inch high for bentgrasses and around 2 inches tall for other grass varieties.

Clothes will be more feminine

by Andrea McNicholas
for The Outlook

A focus on youthful femininity is the key to fashion for women this spring.

For Gresham Girl's Sheila Namhie, spring and summer are her favorite seasons. "I enjoy those times for clothing," she says.

According to Namhie, the romantic look is returning. And dress sales are better than ever.

"I believe in dresses," she says. "Our biggest business is dresses."

Jacket dresses are fashionable this spring. Lavenders, greens, pinks and pastel shades are popular.

Sandi Morgan of Gordon Stone's Key to Fashion in Gresham says gauze fabric is making a big comeback. "It's a natural look," she says.

According to Jeanee McCaulou of McCaulou's Contemporary Clothing, "Gauze is not perfect, that's the nature of it. The weave is rough and it has natural flaws."

"Its price is right," she adds. "It is cool, comfortable and takes dyes well."

Other natural fabrics such as linen, canvas and lacy, open-work knits are popular as well.

General trends this spring include big, shirly shapes that allow cool air circulation, lower waistlines and

shorter, mid-knee length skirts. Feminine is replacing the Preppy look.

Dresses will have drop waists, easy T-shirt shapes, asymmetric seams and one-shoulder styles, tiers of ruffles, blouson and wrap styles and romantic detailing. Peasant tops and dresses and border prints are strong from last year.

"Earthy tones with bright raspberry and lilac were well-liked," says McCaulou.

Skirts are softly gathered, tiered, flounced or ruffled, pleated or wrap.

Jumpsuits in a variety of styles, fabrics and lengths are one of the biggest seasonal items.

Pants are an imaginative variety of shapes and lengths. The reversed silhouette pant, with the narrow hip and ankle, are popular among juniors, according to McCaulou. Denim pastel jeans with pinstriping are also in demand, she says. Pants are almost all belted. Shorts will be longer in the leg or "walking length" and pleated or wrap-style.

The safari, jungle or fatigue look is again showing itself this spring. Ron Bergeron and Faye Harry of W.R. Hicks Co. say that it is still in the test stages and may become even more popular in the fall.

"Jungle prints are not quite as drastic as last year," says Morgan.

"Khaki and jungle prints are popular," says McCaulou. "The military fatigue look is trying to come in."

Ardis W. Koester, textiles and clothing specialist, finds "South Seas" patterns and prints — large, splashy florals, jungles, ferns, palms and camouflage — a major trend.

One-piece swimwear of Lycra-Spandex in bold geometrics and tropical flowers is a favorite for spring. A high French cut over the hip is the style.

"Of course, there's still the die-hard bikini-wearer," says Morgan.

Shoes will be sporting shorter heels and bendable bottoms, according to Morgan. Natural jute and leather are fashionable. "They feel pretty," she says, "and will probably carry over into the fall."

Randy Stone of Gordon Stone's Key to Fashion says of women's clothing: "In the past, women had few fully-constructed garments. They were 'X' makes, or in the five stages of quality workmanship, the bottom of the line. Suits and blazers are becoming far more superbly tailored, like men's suits."

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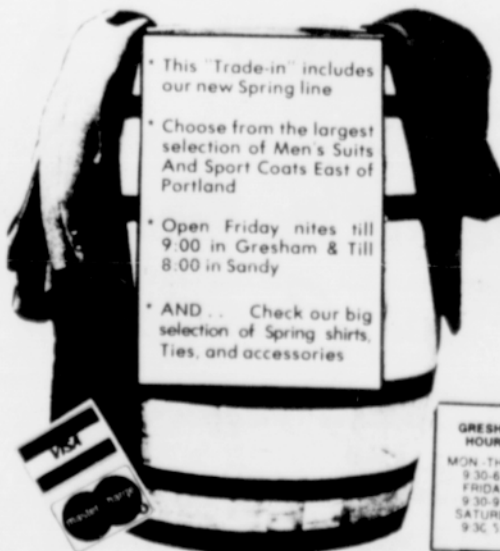
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