

# Capital Journal HOME PAGE

## Cats, Traps, Gas Suggested For Control of Gophers, Moles

By MARK M. TAYLOR

A number of readers have asked for information on ridding a home garden of moles. The home gardener is often plagued by gophers, moles and mice.

The most effective means of ridding a place of gophers or moles, in my experience, is by trapping. When a main run is located, the trap is placed—a scissor jaw or diamond jaw trap being effective. The spear trap has its advantage that one can see when the trap has been sprung.

Moles are our most common rodent pest and, while the idea is not particularly new, I have found the fur-coated type of trap most effective. Cats, if properly encouraged, do a good job in keeping down those colonies. Moles seldom use the same feeding runs twice but they will if their favorite food lies in that direction. Contrary to tales told by many gardeners, moles do not eat plant roots, bulbs or root vegetables. However, frequently mice will use mole runs in their quest for food and will gnaw on bulbs. By far the biggest damage from moles is from undermining plants and exposing roots to the air. Poisoned bait can be dropped in the runs and is often effective, but precautions must be taken where pets or small children are around.

Asphyxiate them

One of the most effective means of getting rid of gophers or moles is to attach a hose to the exhaust of a car, pushing the end of the hose well back into the run. A little kerosene mixed in the gasoline will cause the exhaust fumes to be a blue smoke, so that leaks in the run can be noticed and covered. Whenever using carbon monoxide gas or any of the prepared gas bombs, be sure children and pets are away lest they also inhale the fumes. Running a car motor for 30 minutes will rid you of the moles in that area. Where infestation of moles is very bad and vacant lots or fields are nearby, it is often advisable to sink a 1/2-inch mesh galvanized wire screen completely around the area to be protected. Where this is impractical it is also suggested that wire baskets of such 1/2-inch mesh screen be made in which to

plant valuable plants that are susceptible to mole damage. I have, personally, done this with choice camellias and azaleas, thereby saving many plants. When planting simply line the hole with the screen and then fill as usual.

**Should Use Gloves**

It used to be a common practice to plant castor beans or mole plants (Euphorbia) in various flower beds under the mistaken belief that moles would avoid those plants. Actually they will work right alongside of them as they have no deterrent effect!

Rarely do we find rabbits as a pest in this area. But where young orchard trees are set out frequently rabbits will gnaw on the tender bark. This can be avoided by coating the lower part of the tree with axle grease. Rabbits are, normally, clean animals and do not like grease on their faces. Whatever method you follow in dealing with rodents it is a good idea to wear rubber gloves when handling traps or poisoned baits as rodents have a keen sense of smell and will avoid anything that has been touched by human hands.

## Silk Tree One Of Beauty, Color

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Much comment has been caused in recent years whenever the beautiful tree on the southeast post office grounds, just east of the driveway (across from the Elks Temple) comes in bloom with its feathery, pale pink blossoms carried above the leaves. In fact, a few years ago the comment was such as to arouse the ire of some who declared it had been improperly identified.

It appears to be pretty generally agreed now that this tree is known botanically as Albizzia julibrissin or commonly called the Silk Tree. It belongs to the Pea family but is closely related to the Acacia, with which it is often confused. This tree has often been wrongly identified as a Mimosa which it closely resembles, but which is a separate species.

Albizzia is grown only in the warmer regions, so we can point with pride to this splendid specimen that has survived winters colder than the species is usually accustomed to. Young trees are available from our local nurseries and should be given consideration in our home garden.

Eventually Albizzia may reach 30 or 40 feet in height with its attractive spreading top forming an ideal shady spot in the garden as well as affording colorful bloom when few other trees are in bloom. This tree is very popular in the South with its distinct numerous pinnate leaves, spreading habit and many soft, fluffy, pinkish flowers. It thrives in almost all soils in full sun or part shade and is drought resistant.

## Coming Events

- Aug. 17-22—Yamhill County fair, McMinnville.
- Aug. 20—Production tested livestock auction, Oregon State college, Corvallis.
- Aug. 20-21—Nut Growers Society of Oregon and Washington annual tour, filter day, Aug. 20; Walnut day, Aug. 21.
- Aug. 24-25—Linn County fair, Albany.
- Aug. 28-29—Marion County and City of Salem Fall show, state fairgrounds, Salem.
- Aug. 28-29—Clackamas County fair, Canby.
- Aug. 29-30—Polk County fair, Rickreall.
- Sept. 8-12—Oregon State fair, Salem.
- Sept. 11—Oregon Turkey Improvement annual meeting, Withycombe hall, Corvallis.
- Sept. 21—Youth Opportunity Jersey sale, state fairgrounds, Salem.
- Sept. 24-25—North Marion County fair, Woodburn.

## Remember County Fair August 26-27-28

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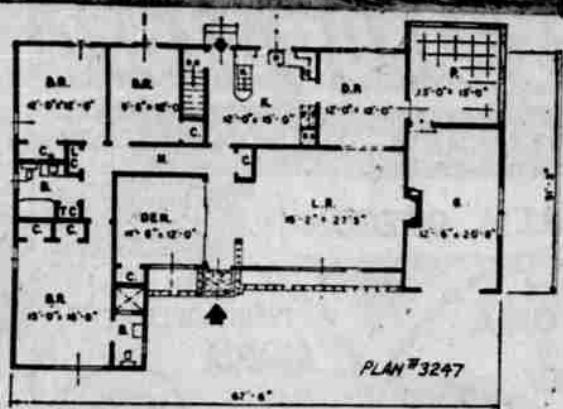
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# HOMES FOR AMERICANS



AP Newstructure

Here is a flexible plan for what the architect calls a "magic all-purpose house". A folding partition or sliding wall can make the den serve as a fourth bedroom, or allow it to merge with the living room in a sweep of almost 40 feet. Broad picture window at the front and in the dining room at the rear afford a through view. This is Plan 3247 by Wm. G. Chirgotis, 968 Stuyvesant Ave., Union, N.J. The house covers 1,800 square feet—a convenient figure for rough local estimates.



## Water Garden Interesting

By MARK M. TAYLOR

Of the many different types of specialized gardens, there is none so interesting or different as the water garden. The plants used in such a garden are entirely different than those used in other settings, enabling the individual to create one strikingly different and original. In the long run, these gardens need but little attention during the growing season.

The first plant anyone associates with a water garden is the water lily. Some remarkable varieties have been developed in recent years, not only in size of flower but also in development of new colors. If you have enough pool space plant both the day and night blooming tropical lilies. In the night bloomers you can have whites, pinks and the usual reds. Both classes include varieties, 10 to 12 inches across—a sight that lends exotic beauty to any garden. The hardy lilies do not develop flowers as large as the tropicals but include all colors except the blues. The advantage of the hardy ones is that they can be left in the pool extra large plants. The tropicals must be wintered over in tubs of moist soil stored in a cool basement. They are tender, of course, to freezing weather.

**Lily-Base Plant**

Using the water lily as the basic planting in the water garden, companion plants can add interest to the setting. There are many different kinds of bog plants for above-water effects and include such favorites as Taro, Papyrus, Pickerel Rush, Arrow Head and Water Canna. These are all shallow water plants which must be planted in boxes 2 to 4 inches below the surface of the water. Keep the pool crystal clear so that goldfish and underwater plants can easily be seen. Oxygenating plants help this process and are planted on the bottom of the pool.

Water plants are easy to grow. Under natural conditions the roots are in rich soil in shallow water of a marsh or pool to full sunshine. Small artificial pools should be at least a foot deep, allowing six inches of water over the tops of the plants. The ideal soil mixture is 3 parts good top soil, and one part well rotted cow manure. After the boxes or pools are planted cover over with an inch of sand on top of the soil mixture. This reduces washing of the planting mixture and consequent dirtying of the water. Water gardens should be planted in June. Don't plant water lilies in cold water or in swiftly running streams.

**Pleasant Effect**

One can make many pleasing effects with a water garden. The pool may be in any shape, round, oval, rectangular or uneven. Pools may be made of concrete or very effectively built of rock which is also used to form a rock garden bordering the water garden. One can even use a large tub sunk in the ground or one of the new plastic pools. There is no end of possibilities if one wants to create a water garden. The variations are limitless. Just let your ingenuity run riot and you will have a world of fun with your "water garden."

## Garden Notebook

By MARK M. TAYLOR

### DID YOU KNOW?

Chapparral Lily is a native of Oregon and California!

The common skunk cabbage (Lysichiton) found in marshy spots along the coast has been hybridized so that there is a variety now without the offensive odor!

Slugs will not cross barriers of hydrated or slaked lime or wood ashes!

Water sprays on trees should be cut off annually!

Some plants like treating weather at some time during their dormant period!

White oil soap was commonly used as a rodent repellent when painted on young trees!

A retaining wall or stone fence can be attractively planned as a separate garden!

Wetland sprouting with potassium cyanide will kill unwanted trees!

The success of a lawn is more than

75 per cent dependent on the initial preparation!

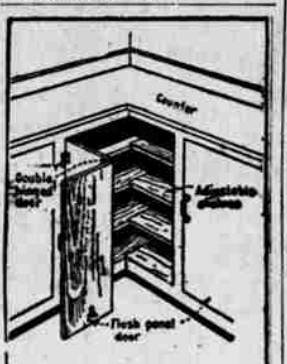
Increase irrigation and cultivation of chrysanthemum beds now!

You should start disbudding chrysanthemums as bud clusters appear now!

You can make root cuttings of Oriental Popples now!

That violets should be lifted and divided every two years!

Root vegetables can be sown now for early spring harvesting!



The difficulty of reaching into the extra depth of corners under kitchen counters often reduces the efficiency of kitchen planning. One way to make use of the corner space under counters is to install double hinged doors that afford easy access to shelves.

**LEGALS**

I have been appointed executor of the estate of Celia M. Robbin, deceased, by the Circuit Court of the State of Oregon for Marion County, and have qualified. All persons hereby are notified to present their claims to me at 402 Pioneer Trust Building, Salem, Oregon, within six months of the date of first publication of this notice. Dated and first published July 22, 1953.

Charles D. Robbin  
E. O. Stadler, Jr.  
Attorney for Executor.  
July 22, 29, Aug. 8, 12, 19, 1953

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# Questions Answered

BY MARK M. TAYLOR

**Questions Answered—HM PG**

Q. Chrysanthemums have large leathery foliage but no buds yet. What care is needed?—B. T.

A. Continue watering. If lateral shoots appear pinch those off. Fertilize with good general liquid fertilizer. When buds form, distud, leaving but one bud to the cluster for larger flowers. This disbudding is for large varieties, of course, as the small or cluster types do not respond. The varieties you refer to may be late bloomers.

Q. Why do my carnations split?—M. E. S.

A. Growing too rapidly often causes splitting. To correct, reduce amount of fertilizer or frequency of application or reduce amount of nitrogen in your fertilizer formula.

Q. I want to keep my roses blooming. How can I do this?—L. S.

A. In picking, cut to an outside eye (bud). Keep old blooms picked off. Water, fertilize and spray regularly and you should be able to have roses until Christmas!

Q. My gladiolus have not done so well this year. Have applied chemical fertilizers, too.

A. You may be overfeeding them with nitrogen. Use an all-around fertilizer for best results. Watch for thrips.

Q. By using sawdust for a mulch do you not gain a fertilizer as well?—B. K.

A. Eventually, yes. However, sawdust takes nitrogen from the soil in breaking down, hence, you lose some fertility instead of gaining. You can supplement this loss by adding ammonium sulphate. True, sawdust is an excellent mulch. If you have access to sawdust that has lain out for two years much of the rotting has already taken place and it is more valuable both as a mulch and fertilizer.

Q. Had lovely violets this year. How can I keep them doing so well?—Mrs. R. K.

A. Divide them now and plant in rich soil.

Q. Have noticed caterpillars on some of our trees lately. Are these harmful? If so, what should be done?—R. G.

A. Yes, these are harmful. Spray with DDT, lindane or nicotine sulfate.

Q. Have one young peach tree that has curl badly. How can I get rid of this?—E. K.

A. It is too late to do much this season. Pick off infested leaves and burn. Use a copper fungicide during dormant season. No spray this late will help. Keep area around tree clean to prevent over-winter-

ing of the fungi that can kill the tree.

Q. Mice seem to infest my carnation bed, is there a repellent that I can use?—Mrs. O. B.

A. Yes, sprinkle chimney soot around the bed. Mice will not cross this as they do not like to get their feet dirty!

Q. I have a small suburban orchard of new trees. Apparently rabbits are gnawing on these and causing damage. I do not wish to trap them. Can I keep them away somehow?—B. B.

A. Yes, putting a coating of axle grease on the trees at the height to which they are attracted. Any rodent will shun that material.

Q. I am bothered by moles in my new lawn. What is the best method of eradication?—B. E.

A. Personally, I have had most success by trapping. Many local home owners report success with poisoned bait or by gassing with the exhaust fumes of a car. One must be careful, though, if there are children or pets around. We have discussed this problem in detail elsewhere on this page.

Q. Can any annuals be planted now for fall bloom?—Mrs. B. K.

A. Yes, plant balsam, cosmos, marigold, morning glory, nicotiana, petunia and zinnia.

Q. How can I restore my old lawn without digging it up and starting all over again?—D. G.

A. The trick here is to seed broom and roll the spring and late summer, about August, year after year. Fertilize each spring and seed spring and fall. Use 2-4-D to kill out broad-leaved weeds. Heavy grass growth will kill out weeds. Sprinkle after each fertilizing or seeding.

Q. How much 2-4-D weed killer is needed to control weeds in a lawn?—B. B.

A. Spray the entire lawn area evenly. One gallon of diluted spray should be suffi-

cient to cover 200 square feet of lawn unless there is an unusually heavy infestation of weeds. Spot applications for weedy areas are recommended especially if lawn grasses include Bent Grass or White Clover which may be damaged too, somewhat.

Q. When should 2-4-D be applied?—B. B.

A. Apply when soil is moist and weeds are in an active state of growth. Do not sprinkle for six hours following application.

Q. What can be used as a soil disinfectant for a garden plot?—G. L.

A. The newest chemical disinfectant available through your dealer goes by the initials DD and is a petroleum by-product Benzene Hydrochloride. Apply according to manufacturer's directions. The old standby is formaldehyde, using 40 per cent type in solution at 1-50 applied at rate of one quart per square foot of ground. Cover with burlap or paper for 24 hours to permit good kill of nematodes, wireworms and larvae. With these disinfectants you can plant in the soil 24 hours after sterilizing. For seed pans, flats or pots, soil may be baked or you can apply a common household disinfectant (with chlorine content) at 3 table-spoons per gallon of water. Seeds may be planted shortly after treatment.

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**ORGANIC HUMUS**

I watched my neighbor this spring as she raked up leaves, weeds and garden rubbish and spread them in layers. Then she came out with a bag of something, and sprinkled some of this stuff over the rubbish. Later I saw her putting in the clippings from the lawn and repeat this process.

Curiosity got me. I went over to see what she was doing. The bag of stuff was a product called COMPOST MAKER and she was making what she called organic humus, or compost, which next spring she would add to her garden soil.

Now our soil is rather sandy and this humus made with the COMPOST MAKER, which she pointed out to me would make the humus very rich in minerals, would be just the thing to loosen up any type of soil. I wondered whether I could start a pile now, and she assured me that by adding COMPOST MAKER and keeping the pile real wet I'd have some good compost to add to my garden next spring.

She showed me the label and pointed out how Miller's COMPOST MAKER could be used over the mulch in the garden, too.

Well, I'm sure going to get some of that Miller's COMPOST MAKER down at...

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