

# Questions Answered

BY MARK M. TAYLOR

**Q.** How can I sterilize soil in seed flats or pots without baking?—Mrs. H. W.

**A.** Pour boiling water through the flat until it runs out, let set for 10 minutes, cool by running cold water through it. Boiling water will kill all fungi in the soil.

**Q.** There appears to be a light gray scale on my lilacs. Is this some sort of pest? If it is how can it be controlled?

**A.** This sounds like oyster shell scale. Probably too late to control this season. Use a good dormant spray this winter. A midsummer use of miscible oil spray is effective. In winter use a winter oil emulsion at a rate of 1-7 or 1-8. This scale must be controlled as it does spread and may kill a choice lilac.

**Q.** Should shrubs and trees be pruned now?—Mrs. H. T.

**A.** No, prune now only to remove dead, broken or diseased wood. Pruning of most shrubs and trees is done when they are fully dormant. Spring blooming shrubs should be pruned immediately after they are through blooming to permit setting of next season's flower buds on the new growth.

**Q.** I have seen advertised a bulb that will bloom without soil or water. Is this true and if so, what is the name of it?—Mrs. H. L. N.

**A.** Yes, there is such a bulb. It is *Crocus Autumnale*, a fall-blooming crocus. It will bloom without soil or water by living off of the food and moisture stored in the bulb. The blooms are a pale lavender color. However, they will do much better if planted out and watered. The color will be stronger and the blooms erect. It is a novelty, though, to have a bulb lying on a table or desk come into bloom without care! Try them. You will enjoy them. When through blooming plant them in good garden soil and water to insure bloom next year. I am sure that you can purchase these bulbs locally.

**Q.** Please recommend some fall flowering bulbs. — Mrs. A. Z.

**A.** *Crocus Autumnale*, as described in answer to another question in this issue; *Crocus Sativus* has lilac coloring with bright orange segments;

**Sternbergia** has yellow blooms and is often called fall-blooming daffodils; *Colchicum* has shades of violet, a rosy-purple and tints of mauve and white. Plant each in a sunny location from 2 to 3 inches deep in well-drained soil.

**Q.** I notice in a recent answer to a reader's question you advised using a 0-4-4 formula fertilizer for a new lawn. Would not 0-20-20 be better? Also why not nitrogen recommended?—L. T.

**A.** An 0-20-20 formula is a standard mixture and is essentially the same as 0-4-4. The idea is that no nitrogen is necessary in virgin soil because there is sufficient there to take care of the initial growth of new grasses. The proportion 4-4 or 20-20 merely shows that there should be equal parts of phosphorous and potash, which is essential to sturdy growth. The recommendation 0-4-4 is from one of the nation's leading turf builders and not idle speculation!

**Q.** A neighbor of mine says that rolling of a new lawn is necessary. You have said that it is not. Why is it not?—S. T.

**A.** Simply that you cannot roll out structural defects. Thus, rolling is only to press the seed into contact with the soil! I recommend raking or dragging lightly to insure the seed being covered with a very fine layer of soil. Then when germination takes place you have a firm foothold for a good stand of grass.

**Q.** Should spring flowering bulbs be planted now?—A. T.

**A.** Plant in September or October daffodils, narcissus, tulips, crocus, hyacinths, snowdrops and scilla.

**Q.** What is the difference between Darwin, Cottage, Breeder and Parrot tulips?—Mrs. A. K.

**A.** We have an article coming up on this next week.

**Q.** When should begonias tubers be taken up and stored for winter?—Mrs. A. W.

**Ans.** Wait for the first frost then lift tubers immediately. Let the tuber cure so stem will break from the tuber cleanly. Store in dry peat moss or sand in a cool, dry place until ready to replant in the spring.

**Q.** Is it too late to divide perennials now? Mrs. G. H.

**Ans.** No, peonies, for example, should be divided this month. Most perennials will stand division now and will have a period of growth long enough to set new roots before winter is here but don't delay too long. Work compost into the soil.

**Q.** When should tender plants be potted and moved indoors?—R.M.

**Ans.** Do this before first frost (usually about September 15).

**Q.** How and when should you store gladiolus bulbs?—Mrs. A.H.S.

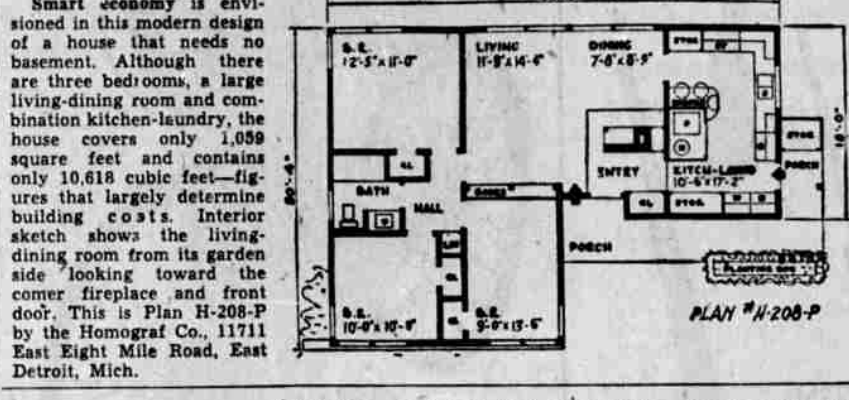
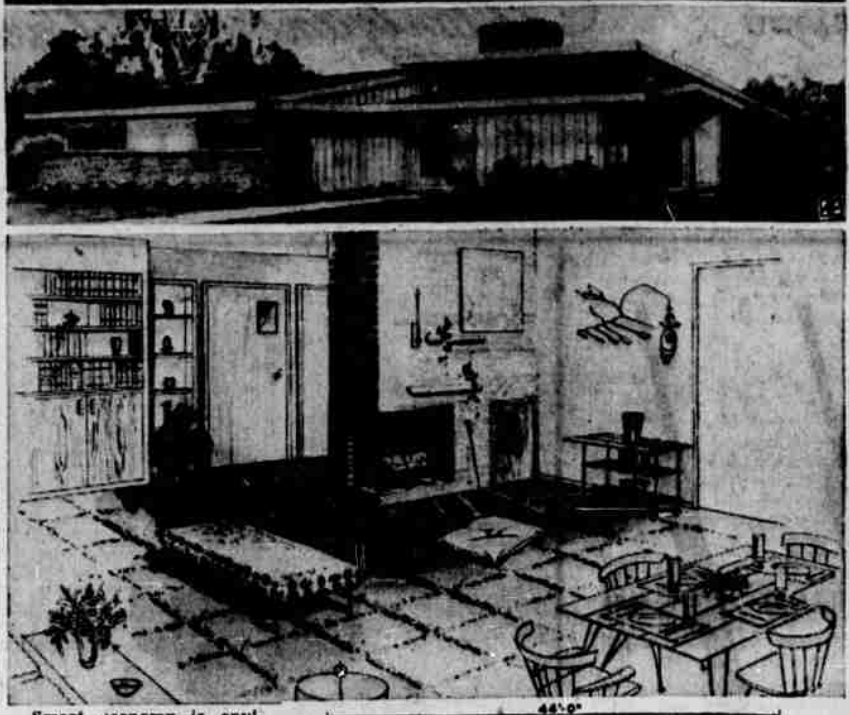
**Ans.** When foliage has yellowed or browned you may dig them. Do this carefully removing all dirt, tops and old decayed corns. Place in dry location with good ventilation. Dust with 5 per cent DDT to kill thrips.

**Q.** How should dahlias be stored?—Please explain how they are lifted and prepared for winter.—Mrs. H.B.

**Ans.** Cut off stalks to about one inch above ground. Lift root, getting all of the rootlets. Do this on a dry day, if possible. Let the soil on the roots dry until most of it will shake off or hose it off gently, then let the tuber dry. Store in dry sand or peatmoss with stems upwards. Keep cool but do not let freeze. Labels should be attached to the stems.

**Q.** Can one plant or transplant coniferous evergreens now?—L.E.R.

# HOMES FOR AMERICANS



## Science Solves Paint Problem

Chicago — Science now has the answer to how often the average home owner should repaint his home. As revealed for the first time in the current issue of *Science and Mechanics* magazine, Dr. F. L. Brown and D. G. Laughman, scientists at the U. S. Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, found, after an exhaustive 15 year series of tests, that repainting your home oftener than once in every six months may lead to costly time consuming trouble which means complete removal of old paint before new paint can be applied.

To conduct the experiments, Brown and Laughman used a dozen paint formulas, with standard commercial ingredients, applied to a test fence at varying intervals from one to six years and exposed to a wide range of weather conditions for a period of 15 years. Since most woods hold paints better than others, four popular species of wood were used to represent typical sidings — Douglas fir, southern yellow pine, eastern white pine and western red cedar.

Of the 12 paints used, four, with government required white-lead-titanium-zinc com-

## Kitchens Need Extra Treatment

Kitchens get the toughest treatment in today's household. Well over half the daily activity takes place in this one room—usually one of the smallest in the house.

Where paneling, cabinets and woodwork of Western Pines is used in kitchens, special attention should be given to the finishing processes. The Western Pine Association advises a minimum of two coats of finishing treatment be applied the surface, or preferably four coats.

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## Big Reward to Boy or Girl

Some lucky Future Farmer or 4-H club boy or girl will be wonderfully rewarded by being on hand the day of the Willamette Valley All-Female Registered Hereford Sale at the State Fair Grounds, October 10.

The reward will be a registered Hereford heifer which is being donated by the Willamette Valley Registered Hereford Breeders. It is understood the only requirement to be eligible for this award is enrollment in any of the FFA or 4-H livestock clubs and to be present the day of the sale.

Approximately 50 registered Hereford females have been entered in this show and sale event and predicted to be a very high quality offering. The show is set for the afternoon of October 9, the sale to be held starting at 1 o'clock, October 10.

Included among the consignors are Harry Harbert, D. S. Pruitt, Clarence A. Chase, Don E. Harmon and Frank E. Calkins all of Eugene; L. D. Gossler and Son, Mrs. Edna Michael and Chester Chase of Springfield; Everett Wilson, Shedd; Glenn Martin, McCoy; L. T. Oehler, Silverton and Roy Robinson, Mt. Vernon, Oregon.

**WOODBURN GRANGE**  
Woodburn — Woodburn Grange No. 79 will meet in regular session Friday, Sept. 4, at the grange hall. Mrs. Albert Schaloc will be program chairman and Mrs. E. W. Odekirik will be in charge of the no host luncheon after the meeting.

Feathers are from six to nine per cent of the live weight of a chicken.

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## North Howell

North Howell — A family pot luck was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meyer, Jr., of Modesto, Calif., who is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Meyer, Sr.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Fosholm and sons, Jerry and Bob, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Satrum and children, Jerry and Sharon, motored to Salem Friday evening to celebrate both couples' wedding anniversaries which occur on

the same day. Mrs. Loren Rolie and children, Rod, Kelly and Rick, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Espe.

Bill Lehman is putting a new roof on his house.

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**A Weedless Lawn**

It won't be long now until we'll be thinking of harvesting the rest of the garden crops. Guess I'll get out today while the lawn is still nice and green and get rid of some more of that Japanese Clover and Chickweed.

I have the Dandelions under control since I started using Improved LAWN HORMOTOX last spring. You really should have seen them turn up their toes!

Now if I can just be ambitious enough to get out the sprayer and the LAWN HORMOTOX and give that Japanese Clover, Chickweed and that other vine, which my neighbors tell me is Speedwell, a thorough covering and get rid of some more of that Japanese Clover and Chickweed.

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