

Gardens Streamlined By Mechanized Tools

Operations Now Mostly Done By Power

By MARK M. TAYLOR
Capital Journal Special Writer

Garden operations, even in the small home garden, are being rapidly streamlined with the use of new mechanized equipment. It is no longer an unusual sight to see a power lawn mower being used on home grounds whereas not too many years ago such contrivances were found only in public grounds or estates with a large expanse of lawn to care for.

This trend towards mechanization means more leisure time for the home gardener to enjoy the fruits of his efforts and indications are that more and more of the gardener's daily "chores" will be done by powered machinery.

The sowing of grass seed, as an example, used to be a hand job and the distribution of the seed was seldom satisfactory. Today, the lawn spreader solves the problem and may be used to distribute fertilizer and weed-killing chemicals.

Hand Mowers Unusual

Hand mowed lawn mowers today are the unusual. The power mowers, operated by gasoline or electricity are generally of the reel or rotary type. The size of the mower depends upon the total area to be cut. Usually, lawns of 4000 to 5000 square feet will be well cared for with a 16-inch mower. Larger size lawns may require proportionately large mowers.

Rotary mowers operate with fan type blades that cut either long or short grass. Attachments may be had, too, that will chop up the leaves or long grass, depositing a fine mulch. New advances in electric, rotary-type mowers make them most attractive to home owners.

The necessary long cord from the electrical outlet to the mower is often, now, equipped with a self-winding reel that keeps the cord out of possible reach of the cutting blades.

Every good gardener knows that neat, well-trimmed edges of a lawn add materially to the appearance of the place. Electric edgers, with whirling cutting blades, make light work of the formerly tedious task of hand cutting with shears or edging with a straight-bladed spade. Corrugated steel edges for beds diminish the maintenance task by stopping the encroaching growth of grass that creeps into the flower bed or border. Practically invisible, these fabricated edges permit mowing right up to the very edge of the bed.

Gardener's Luxury

Automatic sprinkler systems used to be a gardener's luxury, but, today, the average home owner may have this added convenience at very reasonable cost and on a "do it yourself" basis.

Where lawns are already established, a sprinkling system may be easily installed by using the new plastic pipe lines which are inserted in slits cut in the lawn as desired. Pop-up sprinkler heads may be inserted in the lines wherever desired to insure complete coverage of the lawn area or directed to water the adjoining flower beds or borders. The heads, when not in use, settle back to the soil level so as not to interfere with mowing.

For the more advanced, or more enthusiastic gardener, such equipment as compost grinders, to grind refuse into usable compost in less time are popular.

The person interested in raising plants in a greenhouse, finds numerous prefabricated greenhouses on the market, sold ready to assemble on your own property. With the increased use of plastics, home greenhouses are being used. The plastics used in lieu of glass are comparatively inexpensive and most satisfactory in every detail. Even prefabricated hotbeds and cold frames are offered to enterprising gardeners who want to "rush the season."

Big Advance

Soil heat cables, humidifiers and heaters have all advanced tremendously in recent years but, at the same time, have become within the reach of the average gardener's pocketbook.

The aesthetic effect of the home planting has been improved, too, with more and more emphasis on enjoyment of the fruits of your labor. One noticeable advance in this field is concerned with night

HOME OF THE WEEK

McGees Proud of Spacious Home

By JANET TUGMAN STONE
Capital Journal Writer

"We wanted room to grow in and boy, we've got it," said Mrs. H. D. McGee of the home she and her doctor husband built recently at 345 Howe St.

Starting with a hall that leads off in three directions, upstairs, to the den and to the living room, the visitor gets the feeling of the spaciousness that is an integral part of this house.

This hall, tiled in green and white blocks, is as wide as it is long and has an antique love seat and matching table to decorate it. Done in gray and white, a splash of color is provided by an immense purple venetian glass vase, full of greens.

Done in Green

The living room has been done in green with touches of pink and purple. The walls and the carpet are green, the couch is pink and in front of it is a pink marble table. Matching chairs are covered in green and backed with a pink plaid. Two wingback chairs cover the fire and they are in a chintz of green with touches of other colors.

One other chair, in pale green velvet, completes the set except for a "baby grand" piano and an antique violin stand, purchased for \$14 in an antique shop, but worth over \$50.

Purple-velvet cushions are used on the couch which stands in front of a bay window. Across the room is the fireplace which is topped with a four-by-four mirror. This is an antique and is trimmed in the gold scrolls of the earlier period. Another antique that makes a handsome decoration is the barometer which has been complemented with two gold angels on either side of it.

One of the most ingenious notes in the room is a large purple candle with a bunch of imitation grapes pouring down its side. Mrs. McGee created this particular decoration, and it is one of the most interesting in the room.

Off the Living Room

Right off the living room is the dining room. The only separation is a set of louvered doors. In here a provincial table and matching chairs are centered and hanging above is an imported hand drawn amber crystal chandelier.

A buffet holds some purple glass, a china chocolate set and a black iron candleabra. French doors from this room to the patio.

The first thing one notices in the den is the immense fireplace surrounded by bookcases. All of this is paneled. In front of it sits a green and red plaid couch and two matching chairs. An old fashioned rag rug covers the floor. Green here is also the dominant color and the furniture, as in the other rooms, is provincial.

A complete with an arrangement

Your Garden Notebook

DO YOU KNOW?

The Western chestnut is the Chinquapin (*Castanopsis chrysophylla*)?

The Tea Family (*Theaceae*) includes the Camellia, *Stewartia* and *Gordonia*?

The Coffee Family (*Rubiaceae*) includes *Coffea* (coffee), *Cinchona* (quinine) and *Gardenia*?

The Tobacco Family (*Solanaceae*) includes the potato, tomato, eggplant and tobacco?

The common dandelion is sometimes called "the tramp with the golden crown"?

No Larch trees grow on Larch Mountain in Multnomah county?

Tamarix gallica is a splendid flowering tree, 15-25 feet tall?

COMING EVENTS

April 12-13 — Camella Show, Salem.

June 11-14 — National convention, Men's Garden Clubs of America, Portland.

June 10-17 — Rose Festival, Portland.

June Rose Shows (exact dates not announced) — Portland, Salem, Corvallis, Eugene, Seattle.

Lighting of the garden giving more hours of enjoyment.

Weatherproof extension cords with movable outdoor receptacles, where lights, radios or appliances may be attached to make the "outdoor living room" a fact instead of a fancy, are becoming increasingly popular as are lighting fixtures on steel rods that may be stuck in the ground wherever light is needed. Thus, supper out of doors need not be "in the dark." Insect repellent lamps, too, add to the enjoyment of outdoor living.

Yes, we are living in a mechanized age.

Living Room and Den



These pictures show the living room and den of the H. D. McGee home on Rose street. In the top picture is shown the immense antique mirror trimmed in gold scroll and surrounded by a brass fender in the living room. In the bottom picture another fireplace with its paneled wall and book cases is again the focal point. This is the McGee den.

of purple grapes and yellow lemons is a focal point of the room. Above it is hung a lavender, filled with laurel leaves. Another couch, pale green, rests in front of the long front windows.

Decorated in Pink

Included among the downstairs rooms are the kitchen, one bedroom and a bath, all three of which are decorated in pink with green or gray accents.

Accents of interest in all these rooms would include the imported embossed pink wall-paper in the downstairs bedroom and the pink provincial wall paper on the ceiling of the kitchen. In the den a green antique french clock is over the fireplace and on one table is a chocolate set. In the McGee family for years. Lamps in this room show a crest of a lion, which brands them as being made in Russia.

Upstairs a new color has been introduced. Charles, the son of the family, has a room in antique gold with brown accents. Susan, however, has stuck to pink and has the traditional white organdy flounces.

Gold is again used in a guest room and here, white wicker coils stand at the head of the bed, a striking note.

It is impossible to get completely into detail on the interesting things in this house. Let it suffice to say that this is a home that is exceedingly comfortable and filled with touches of ingenuity that more than anything else, make a house distinctive.

Sliding Doors Give New Look

When the "kitchen mechanic" wants to give her "handyman mechanic" a project that will glamorize her old-fashioned cabinets, she can suggest removal of the sliding doors and installation of sliding doors with perforations for an unusual appearance and ventilation, too.

Obtainable at lumber yards, hardware stores, one-quarter inch thick, may be installed with a minimum of work. Two sets of metal channels will accommodate four doors — two for each opening.

Non-Essential Use Cutdown Reduces Cost

Cutting out non-essentials reduces costs in home building. For instance, if you're planning wall-to-wall carpeting or a similar floor covering, why go to the expense of having hardwood floors laid? There is a simple alternative — hardboard underlayment — and its use assures longer wear for the floor surfacing you select.

The underlayment, especially designed for use under flexible floor coverings, such as linoleum, asphalt or vinyl tile, may be installed directly over wood or plywood sub-floors in new construction or over old existing wood finish floors. Just under 1/2" thick and evenly calipered, the 3' x 4' and 4' x 4' panels when nailed in place will bridge the small irregularities and cracks and provide a smooth, flat surface for the finish flooring.

Greater life for the surface flooring is assured by the even, smooth underlayment, and floor-joint cracks cannot reflect through.

In cases where hardboard underlayment is laid over the sub-flooring as a base for flexible floor surfacing, rather than hard wood, FHA recognizes the underlayment as a "finish floor."

Added advantages in having the underlayment are: additional insulation and a decrease in heat losses; less noise transmission to areas below floor; a warmer, lighter floor, particularly over crawl spaces; and greater strength and stiffness in floor construction.

Join Cabinet Together

Factory-made wood base units for modern kitchens are built to be joined together in any number suitable for a given kitchen area, presenting an unbroken, integral line of cabinets. This allows for installation of a one-piece countertop, providing an excellent work surface and eliminating crevices where food particles might collect.

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Fruits Can Be Used to Give Garden Beauty

In Small Area Dwarf Trees Will Work The Best

There is no valid reason why even the small home garden should not have at least a few dwarf fruit trees. Many of the fruits not only produce gastronomic delights but also can add beauty to the home planting.

Where space is limited, the dwarf fruit trees appear to be the answer. Ten feet between dwarf fruit trees is usually considered ample.

It is possible, too, to "espall" some of these produce bearing trees against a wall or fence to further utilize the limited space available.

The question of varieties in fruits depends largely on individual tastes and preference but your local nurseryman can help on this score and, if you want novelty, you might try an apple tree, for example, grafted with two or more varieties of this delicious fruit.

Surely there's a spot in the garden for raspberries, grapes, blackberries or blueberries. Their culture is not too difficult and the effort expended is well rewarded with bountiful dividends of delicious fruit for pies, for canning or eating off the bushes.

But, with regard to the fruit trees, there is added reason for establishing a fruit garden in your home planting. Many of our produce fruit trees have gorgeous spring blooms, making them worthwhile planting for that, if for no other reason.

The fruit itself, when it materializes upon the tree, adds color and beauty to your planting. Frankly, one of the most attractive home plantings I have ever seen included a quantity of fruit trees in the background of the shrubby border. At blooming time, the trees rivalled their more renowned flowering relations in color, fragrance and quantity of bloom. Later, I was told, the fruit yield was sufficient to supply the needs of an average family!

In planting fruits, either trees or bush, attention must be given to the kinds that require pollination. Your nurseryman can advise you on this point and recommend varieties that serve as pollinators. Lack of pollination may be the deciding factor on the tree producing a good crop, even where all else is favorable. Favored varieties for home garden planting for this area include: apples, Winesap, Delicious, Jonathan, Rome Beauty; pears, Bartlett, Seckel; peaches, Rochester, Veteran, Hale, Crawford; cherries, (black) Tartarian, (red) Bing, Royal Anne, and figs, (black) King, (white) Lattarula.

Without doubt, the home garden that includes a few fruit bearing plants pays large dividends.

Questions Answered

By MARK M. TAYLOR

What kind of grass is best for use under trees? C.B.

The bluegrasses, fescues and bent grasses that have been neglected for several years, can I divide them now? R.B.

Yes, it's a good idea to break those large clumps into smaller ones to maintain the quantity and quality of flowers they should afford. Dig the clump, then pry sections apart with a spading fork or pull apart by hand and re-set the smaller clumps where you want them to grow. This should be done as soon as possible as they will get the advantage of the spring rains. Other perennials, such as gemus, gailardias, phlox, anemones, hemerocallis, pinks and pentstemon may be treated similarly. Don't try it on perennials, however, (wait until fall).

Do lilacs require any particular exposure or soil? Mrs. C.R.

Lilacs seem to prefer warm spots in summer and delight in cool winters. Soil requirements are simple: good drainage and biennial fertilization.

Have had lilacs-of-the-valley in a border for some years. The flowers seem to be getting smaller each year. Should I fertilize? If so, what is best? Mrs. O.H.

The plants are probably becoming too crowded. This will result in fewer and smaller flowers. They should be dug up and re-planted in the fall at least every three years. Fertilizing recommended is a top dressing of well rotted manure in the late fall.

Handy Containers

Those little aluminum foil containers used for storing and cooking foods come in handy in the home workshop. When you have a small painting job to be done, pour a small amount of the paint into the container and work from that instead of from a large can. The container can be rinsed with turpentine and used again and again.

Hungarian refugees moving into their American homes report they like brown bread with their meat and vegetables. They regard white bread as something like cake.

What spray materials are recommended for roses? M.C.

There are a number of splendid all-purpose sprays and dusts on the market under various brand names. For the small garden or for general use these controls are adequate. But if some particular factor is favorable for one insect or disease a specific control may be needed until the trouble has been eliminated. For most fungus diseases, the standard fungicide is sulphur, either dusting or wettable. Whatever control method is used, applications must be made frequently to protect the foliage that is

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USING A FILE

DO... as a general rule, use a file with the ridges, or teeth, far apart when you want to cut away a lot of stock... close together when you want to take off very little.

DO... put a handle on the tang (narrow end) of a file this way: place the tang in the opening and tap the handle on a wooden surface until it is secure.

DO... file with a level stroke, grasping the handle with your right hand so that your thumb rests on top of the handle and holding the point or end of the file in your left hand.

DO... remember that the file is meant to cut on the forward stroke only, which means that you must release the pressure as you bring the file back to you.

DON'T... made the common mistake of filing with a rocking motion, which will produce uneven results.

DON'T... forget that, while the stock ordinarily should be at about the height of the elbow when filing, an exception is when unusually fine work is being done, in which case

ring relations in color, fragrance and quantity of bloom. Later, I was told, the fruit yield was sufficient to supply the needs of an average family!

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Wood Popular For Building Construction

Wood, the most popular material in home construction, registered new gains during 1956, according to a nationwide survey by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The survey disclosed, for example, that lumber was used structurally in the exterior walls of 83 per cent of the single-family houses built during the first quarter of 1956. This compared with 77 per cent a year earlier.

The survey also revealed an overwhelming preference for wood kitchen cabinets. Eighty-eight per cent of the first quarter houses featured kitchen cabinets built entirely of wood, according to the survey's findings.

One of the most valuable mineral deposits in Cuba today is nickel. Next to Canada and New Calidonia, Cuba ranks third in world production of this metal. The man who discovered it there was Christopher Columbus.



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