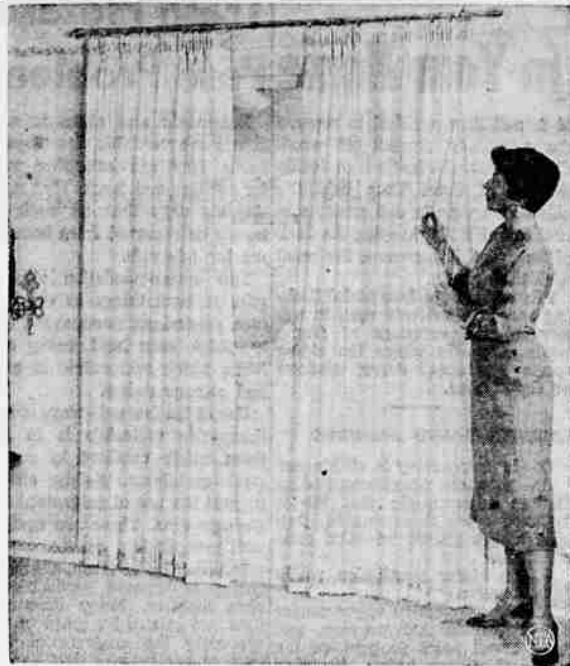




NEW IN DRAPERY HARDWARE this spring is this brass-finished rod-and-rings assembly which conceals the conventional traverse mechanism. The curtains shown are sheer and flecked lightly with gold thread and trimmed with gold braid.

View New Curtains From Many Angles

By KAY SHERWOOD

If our old curtains have had it, the decision to buy or make new ones seem simple enough, doesn't it? However, as every housewife knows, it isn't quite that simple.

The decision must also include what kind of new curtains. Shall we cling to the ruffled, criss-cross type, or the reliable draw-drape, or shall we venture into a new or different treatment?

Who hasn't admired the picture-pretty tiered effects, the gleam of brass rods and ring, the formal swags, the shaped valances, the carved cornices, the interesting combinations of draperies and glass curtains?

The next few weeks will find us weighing the merits of experimentation with new materials against values of tried-and-true items before we go shopping for fabrics.

Factors that will influence our decision will include how many windows have to be curtained, how big they are, how placed in the room, the character of the room and its other furnishings.

Valances, for example, do not always add to the decorative values of windows in a small, low-ceiling room, since they tend to shrink dimensions. Sometimes a valance hung flush to the ceiling and matching walls and drapery will unify an area. It will serve also to cover the hardware that supports curtains.

The formality of furniture design will dictate part of the answer. The formal satin swag with heavy draperies is obviously not attuned to use with casual, provincial or contemporary furniture.

What will also help us make up our minds is the drapery hardware available.

If it's an extra large window, for instance, before a new treatment is worked out, make sure there's available the hardware to support the idea.

A large window such as we have in many modern homes is often most practical when equipped with a traverse rod on which draperies to be pulled are suspended. This used to have a limiting effect on what we could plan for the picture window.

New this spring, however, is a decorative, round brass rod with rings that works on the traverse principle.

The rings are ready to take the hooks of pinch-pleated drapes. The cords and traverse mechanism are hidden in the rod.

Three sizes of the extension rod adjust to fit windows from 30 inches up to 150 inches wide, or about

12½ feet for window walls or wall-to-wall treatments. Adjustable brackets extend rod outward from wall two to four inches.

Another helpful addition to the drapery hardware field is a new hook for use with pleater tapes. Prongs of the hook, slightly more flared than other hooks, pleat the heading almost exactly like a custom-made heading.

If we do decide to invest in new hardware, here's a tip from drapery professionals: put new rods and brackets up before measuring for new curtains.

A more accurate fit will result.

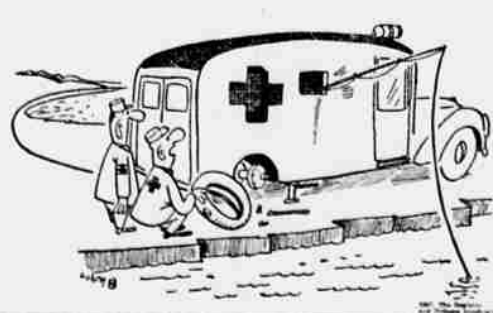
USDA Denounces False Ad Claims

The U.S. Department of Agriculture recently reported that its turf specialists have never tested a product called "Green Plasma," contrary to claims made in advertisements that have appeared recently in a number of newspapers in various parts of the United States.

Promoters of the product have described it as a sensational color-restorer for lawns, discovered by a German scientist, and tested by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The product is further claimed to be "the very same type wonder treatment" used on the Capitol lawn in Washington, D.C.

Scientists of USDA's Agricultural Research Service, who test plant foods and fertilizers, and dyes sometimes used to color plants, point out that they have

OPEN SEASON



"I guess that tumble over the falls didn't hurt him as much as we thought!"

Careful Planning Is Essential For Successful Color Schemes

By CYNTHIA LOWRY

In thinking about making a garden—which is really quite a complicated operation—most of us start with the flowers we like. This is not only natural, but it is as good a starting point as any. There are, however, any number of other good starting points: color (some people like gardens in which white, or blue, or shades of red predominate); maintaining a succession of colorful bloom from spring through the fall; easy maintenance with plenty of color; cut flowers for the house; a supply of vegetables and a number of others.

But in planning for a flower garden, the items to be considered—if possible, in this order—are the width of the border, the height of the various plants, the time of the year in which the plants bloom and the massing of colors.

An experienced gardener knows that there must be some consideration given to the convenience of the person who must work in the beds and among the plants. Thus, a border wider than six feet will be awkward, because the center of the bed will be out of reach unless the gardener walks in among the plants—and often tramples some down. If six feet or less in width, it is possible to work among the plants from either side. In the case of a wider growing area, do make provision for a narrow path.

Roughly speaking, all garden plants are divided into three classes: edging plants, growing from four to 12 inches high; bedding plants, 12 to 30 inches, and background plants, more than 30 inches.

Among the edging plants are ageratum, alyssum, dwarf marigold, dwarf phlox, pansies, portulaca, linaria, dwarf verbena. Bedding plants, for the center area, include snapdragons, zinnias, petunias, California poppies, dahlias, asters and many, many other popular and easy growing plants. Background plants include big zinnias, delphiniums, hollyhocks, sunflowers, cleome, salvia and many more.

More difficult than planning for the height of plants is planning to have a succession of blooms keeping the garden colorful from early to late in the season.

In addition to the early spring beauty of the daffodils, tulips and other bulbs, one may plan on early blooms from many of the perennials and biennials: columbine, forget-me-not, Oriental poppies, pansies, English daisy, foxglove and coreopsis, to mention a few.

not tested the advertised product, and have made no recommendations regarding its use.

The advertisements claim that by sprinkling a small amount of the product on a lawn, the user will never have to worry about a burned-out lawn, nor have to "spend time, energy and good money on 'fast-greening' fertilizers and plant foods'."

The department says its scientists still recommend adequate water, plus lime and proper fertilizers when needed, as essential in maintaining or improving the quality of a lawn.

Midsummer bloom is easiest to achieve, particularly for those who start their seeds themselves indoors during March: marigold, zinnias, cleome, nasturtiums, cosmos, calendula—there are hundreds of possibilities.

And for late bloom there are chrysanthemums and asters, of course, as well as salvias, dahlias and those dependable zinnias and marigolds plus a few more. (Wise gardeners make a succession sowing of some mid-summer bloomers to fill in tired borders and thus achieve a fresh late bloom with some of the good old reliables.)

The business of color is highly individual. Fortunately, nature can



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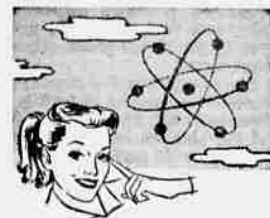
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**"We Need
Our Best
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for Survival!"**

by Evelyn Lauter

What happens to the gifted young pupil in a mass-education system? Is it fair to him—or the nation—to slow down his training to the average class level, or can something be done to spot him early and speed up his studies to his own learning level?

Feb. 16

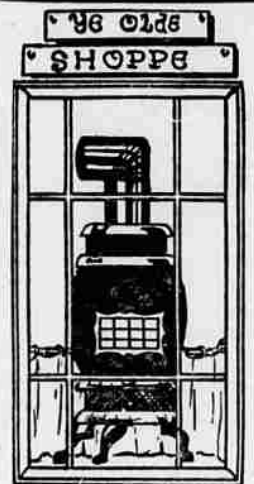
**Family
Weekly**

WITH THE

SUNDAY

Herald and News

mix her colors dramatically and still avoid a garish look. More dramatic effects are obtained by massing colors. But somehow in an old-fashioned, informal garden, all sorts of colors can be put together and the effect remains charming and nice.



ANTIQUE HEAT

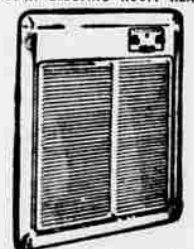
The Pot-bellied stove has come to rest in the antique shop for a very good reason. Radiant heat . . . the principle that made it work (such as it worked) . . . is simply inefficient. And it's just as inefficient in the "modern" heating system as it was in the old pot-bellied stove.

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