



FENCE A GOOD BOUNDARY MARKER — A good many landscaping problems can be solved with a fence. It is, for example, the most economical and space-saving means of setting off property lines. The beauty of a handsomely designed fence like this one of rugged western red cedar is not to be denied. Because of the sharp slope of this lot, fence was built in 8-foot sections which step down the hill, and cedar 1x12s form board-on-board pattern.

How To Build A Better Mousetrap

By WILLIAM R. TEAGUE
United Press International

This is a good time to begin planning how to de-mouse your house.

Many of us have been Disneyed into believing mice are humorous, harmless little creatures concerned only with kiddie clubs, talking ducks and goofy dogs.

But the hard cold truth is that mice in America this year will cause nearly one billion dollars damage. In addition, there is the unknown cost of mouse-borne diseases such as typhus, infectious jaundice, amebiasis, and a mysterious modern disease—rickettsialpox, a fever accompanied by severe headache and a rash.

For every mouse in your house you pay \$10 a year. A house mouse may trim its teeth by gnawing a hole in your door or wall, or on the leg of a chair. Books, clothing, papers and insulation may be damaged by female mice seeking nesting material.

Mice mature within three months of birth. A mature mouse can bear as many as 120 offspring a year. This means that one pair of mice left unmolested in your home might multiply several hun-

dred times in 12 months.

A cat is not the answer to the mouse problem. Ordinarily cats serve only to frighten mice into hiding.

Professional mouse-proofing is the quickest way to obtain protection for your home. However, this is sometimes expensive and, in small towns, often not available.

Because of this, such experts as John Beck, a Department of Agriculture representative stationed at Ohio State University, suggest it is more practical for each family to take steps to protect its own home.

Good housekeeping is the first step. Mice thrive on filth. Make sure food is not left in the open and that scraps are placed in covered containers or garbage disposals.

Particular care should be taken to keep the basement clean. Proper lighting will eliminate dark corners and other hiding places.

Proper janitor service and careful attention to garbage disposal is important. Faulty incinerators in basements at Kew Gardens, N.Y., caused a dangerous rickettsialpox epidemic in 1947 which

infested a three-block area.

All openings must be closed. Experts say mice are so plastic they can flatten themselves and squeeze through any opening larger than one-half inch in diameter.

Pipes and wires should be checked at the point where they enter your house. Cement openings around them or cover holes with a strong wire screen called hardware cloth.

Fit basement drainage pipes with tight covers. Sills should be put under doors and windows so mice cannot squeeze under them.

With all sources of entry closed, you're safe from outside mice, and ready to begin eliminating any that have already set up housekeeping in your home.

This is a relatively easy job. Mice spend their lives ordinarily in an area no larger than 15-feet in diameter. They usually locate in cupboards, closets, or behind stoves and refrigerators.

Effective placing of snap traps and poison in these areas will rid your home of rodents.

Traps—cheap enough so that you can buy a dozen without great expense—are most effective when placed in series of three or more. Speed and intelligence will often enable a mouse to evade a single trap.

Adding a two-inch square of corrugated cardboard to trap triggers will enlarge the trapping surface and double the effectiveness of traps.

Use fresh bait. Smear peanut butter over the trap or put down a chunk of chocolate with nuts. Sprinkle oats over the bait to make it more attractive.

Vary the bait so mice do not learn to associate danger with the smell of a particular food. This is easy, since mice like most foods that humans eat.

Arsenic and strychnine are quick killers. But because children or pets may unwittingly eat baited food, these poisons should only be used by professional exterminators.

For the average homeowner, it's safer to use Warfarin, Pival, Fumarin, or D-Con. These are sold at drugstores. They are called anticoagulant poisons because they kill by preventing normal blood clotting.

To cut down chances of secondary poisoning, pets should be well-fed. Care should be taken to make the bait as unattractive as possible for cats and dogs. Never use meat as a bait.

For large infestations, the Department of Agriculture recommends a do-it-yourself bait mix:

Mix 3½ pounds corn meal, one pound oats, ¼ pound powdered sugar, ¼ pound vegetable oil and ¼ pound anticoagulant poison.

Experts say this freshly-mixed potion will have a longer, stronger action in slipping your mice a "mickey."

Sturdy Fence Big Asset To Modern Suburban Home

Now that April showers have done their job to soften and renew Mother Earth, there is taking place a generalized exodus of homeowners from house to back yard. All over the country—California to Maine—a veritable procession of determined-looking men and women streams out the back door lugging shovels and hoes and trundling wheelbarrows in front of them.

Joining this green-thumbed group is another jolly band also migrating to the back yard, but these carry hammers and saws, paint buckets and brushes.

It's not hard to guess the purposes of these two sects; the first is bent on improving and embellishing his home with varied flora, the second aims to protect the fruits of his labor with a sturdy fence.

As well as attempting to deter the wanderings of friendly canines and curious children, the fence builders also have in mind providing a handsome backdrop for their cherished shrubbery and blooms. And homeowners are learning that there's no more attractive compliment to their home than a beautifully designed, well constructed fence.

Riding high as favorites throughout the country are tall, dimensional fences built of rich, rugged woods like western red cedar and

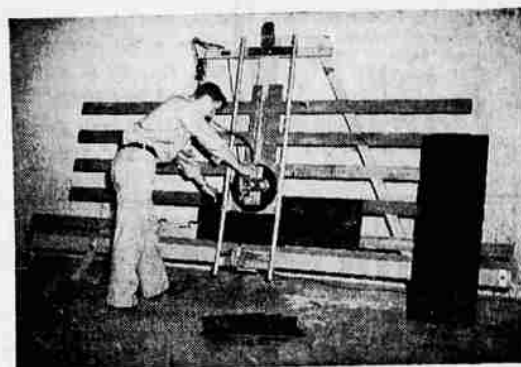
Douglas fir, and the popular patterns are designed to exploit the natural beauties of these woods.

One pattern gaining much attention for its individual attractiveness, as well as its ability to blend with and complement various architectural styles, is the board-on-board. This is constructed with alternating boards nailed on opposite sides of the fence frame, which results in interesting shadow patterns and a dimensional look. Boards are usually either 1x8 or 1x12 inch cedar or fir.

To keep the setting as native as possible, homeowners prefer using rough-sawn boards and either staining them to capture the natural coloring of the wood or allowing the fence to weather naturally to a striking, silvery gray. Both the natural wood color and the weathered hue provide an excellent foil for greenery and flowers.

In cases of a sloping lot, board-on-board fences can be designed in sections which step down the slope of the yard.

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Soil Conservation Laws In Oregon Date To 1870

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — Oregon's first official land conservation act created the town of Clatsop (now Gearhart) in 1870 to keep farm animals from grazing along the sea ridge.

Today, the State Soil Conservation District law covers 57 districts including more than 85 per cent of Oregon's farm land.

Eighty-nine years ago when the Oregon Legislature formed Clatsop, unrestricted grazing on the dunes near the beach was destroying the cover grass and permitting sand to blow over nearby farms.

Boundaries of the town extended 14 miles along the Pacific shore from the Columbia River south to the Necanicum River. A town ordinance empowered the marshal to collect \$1 per head for horses, mules or cattle and 50 cents per head for sheep, swine, goats or other domestic animals found grazing within this area. Additional charges were made for the animals' board while they were impounded by the town.

In addition, if the owner was convicted of permitting his stock to graze in the prohibited area he was subjected to a fine of up to \$50 backed by a jail sentence for nonpayment.

This start toward controlling sand dunes is a good example of

early group action for soil conservation, says Arthur S. King, Oregon State College extension conservationist.

However, the ordinance didn't permanently solve the problem at Clatsop—possibly for lack of enforcement or because it was forgotten when this farming town was reorganized as the resort city of Gearhart in 1919.

The next 10 years or so found both livestock and people thronging over the foredune, destroying the cover by overgrazing, fire and unrestricted travel. The foredune again began to move inland until the federal government was asked for help. In 1933, the Soil Conservation Service started extensive dune control work.

Six years later, the State Legislature passed the Soil Conservation District act. This law had the same basic intent as the act which created Clatsop 69 years before. However, the new law was much broader in scope. It provided for formation of districts responsible for all phases of soil conservation—not just sand dune control.

The Warrenton Soil Conservation District was one of the first to be formed. Its boundaries were similar to the original town of Clatsop. In 1948, this district voted land regulations comparable to those enacted by Clatsop nearly 80 years earlier.