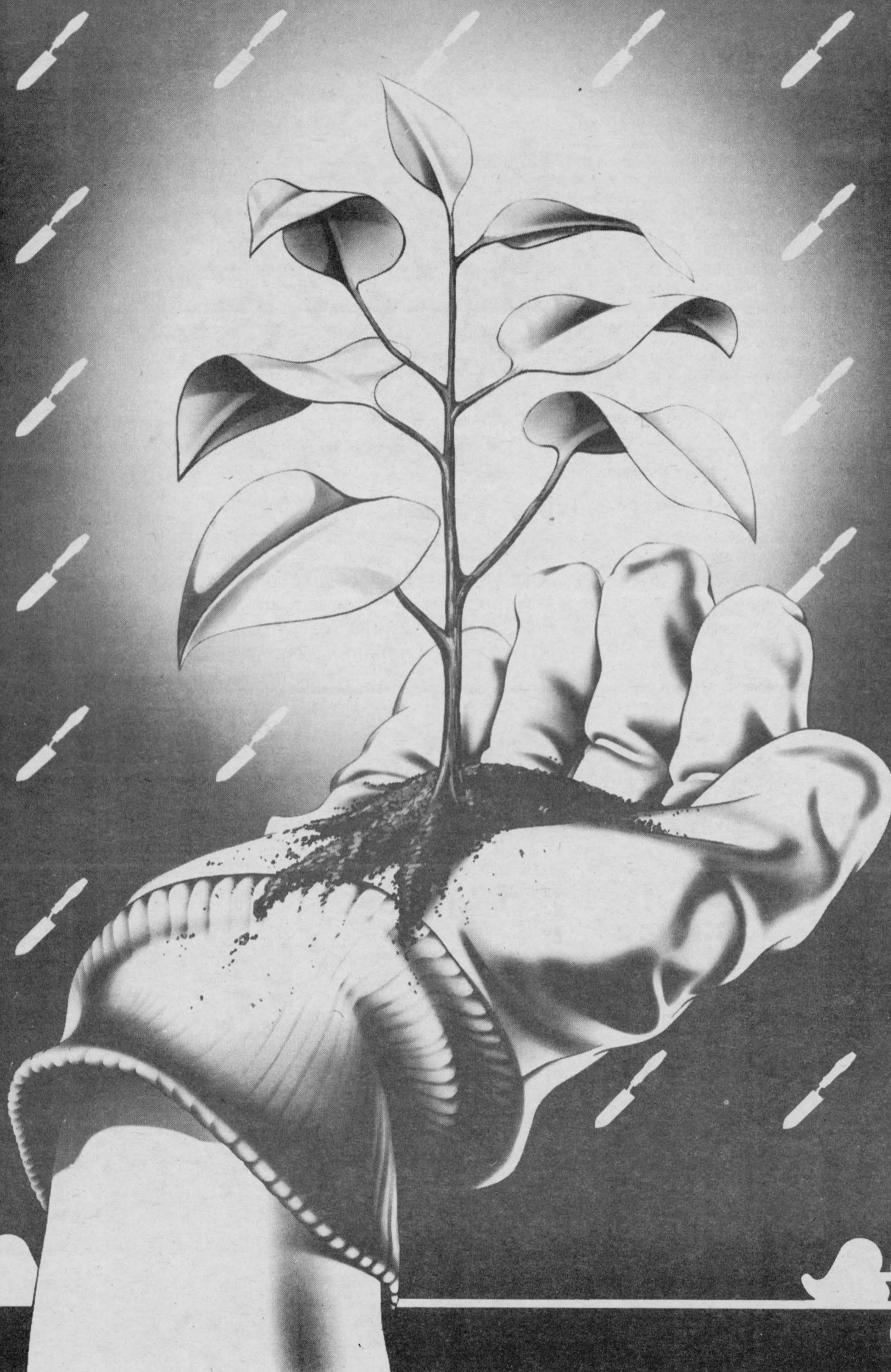


THE CHESTERVILLE

RECORD



Yard
and
Garden
GUIDE

Wednesday, May 13, 1987

Small hobby becomes a Cannamore business

CANNAMORE (Staff) - "She wanted a small greenhouse for a hobby and the neighbors and friends started coming in," said Paul Beauchamp from the office entrance to Cannamore Nursery and Greenhouse.

"It just mushroomed into a business the following spring."

Today the nursery, which opened in the fall of 1984 and is operated by Beauchamp and his wife, Winnie, is preparing to erect a third greenhouse and raise some of its own seed.

It doubles as a resource centre for gardeners, stocking pamphlets on plant care, soil testing, landscaping and Ontario-grown produce.

"Our motto is service to our community and friends and quality is our produce," Winnie said with pride.

What may have begun as a hobby is now a full-time business. Beauchamp described the decision to turn it into the couple's sole source of income as "horrendous". As with an fledgling business, she said profits are returned immediately to the enterprise.

Greenhouses, she added, must pay high insurance premiums because they're made of plastic.

She said the greenhouse has attracted customers from as far away as Gatineau and Cornwall. She said one recent customer was from England, who was visiting Canada and wanted to purchase a plant for Mother's Day.

She smiled and said he had found it hard to believe he was visiting a Canadian greenhouse; the English have beautiful gardens, she noted.

For the second consecutive year, she said the nursery has handled the Embrun UCO's Mother's Day plant promotion. This year it also supplied the Brockville UCO with plants for its Mother's Day display.

She's discovered that the greenhouse industry has its political side. The current free trade negotiations with the U.S. could affect Canadian growers, bringing into the country plant varieties not necessarily suited to Canada's harsher climate, she said.

Some of the seeds Canadian growers rely on are imported from the U.S., United Kingdom and Holland; the research into new varieties is lacking in Canada, she said.

The Cannamore nursery's business has continued to expand. "We hope to be growing our own winter hardy rosebushes," she said.

Already a member of the Canadian Ornamental Plant Foundation the Beauchamps plan to join a provincial landscape association, working on behalf of both landscapers and bedding plant industry, when funds permit.

She's happy to see a burgeoning interest in landscaping and gardening. "You people are really keen and it's great to see it happening," she said. "It's interesting to see that people are educating themselves to continuous bloom."

She's noticed a trend to the planting of perennials, two of the more popular varieties being silver mound and shasta daisies.

Leading grower

Ontario, Canada's largest strawberry producing province, harvested over 20 million quarts of strawberries, valued at approximately \$14 million in 1986. Production was down from 1985 by about 10 per cent due to the wet weather conditions.

But contrary to popular belief, she said perennials, which reappear each year, take at least as much care as the annuals which must be replanted each spring. Without proper attention, she said perennials can take over a flower bed.

For homeowners seeking a beautiful lawn, she offered the following advice: "Take it easy and go slowly and plan your landscape. Get one or two items a year."

She also stressed the importance of testing soil and warned that soil type may vary from one side of the home to the other.

The nursery is doing what it can to encourage even more youthful gardeners: each child receives a small plant and instructions for its care. Winnie said she has also visited Morewood Public School during Education Week to speak to students.

One of the greenhouses is also graced by a small vegetable plot, already boasting a head of cauliflower, vines laden with green tomatoes and a couple of zucchini.

"I've had a little vegetable garden every year. The children love to see it."

She hopes to one day have baskets of fresh produce available for sale.

Unfortunately, she said, the nursery leaves her little energy for a garden of her own. "I wish I had time for it," she said.

But she enjoys her work in the greenhouse. "It's good therapy, working in the soil," she said.

"The February blahs, I can't get them because you've got the sun in here."



A small vegetable plot in a corner of a greenhouse is the only garden Winnie Beauchamp has time for when spring arrives. The Cannamore Nursery and

Greenhouse, which began as a hobby, has grown into a business comprising three greenhouses, plant supplies and a gardener's resource centre.

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Gardening club still blooming

MORRISBURG (Staff) - Graham Wells has a simple explanation for how he became interested in the Morrisburg and District Horticultural Society.

"I married a woman with a green thumb."

Wells is the current president of the more than 25-year-old society and has been president of the club on two other occasions. Although the growing society averages between 100 and 125 members per year, attracting youth is its biggest problem, he said.

It tries to get younger people interested, focusing mainly on public school students, he said, but most club members are more mature.

Some of the club's objectives include getting members interested in growing flowers, improving their lawns and growing vegetables.

The club serves the village of Morrisburg, Iroquois, Riverside Heights and Williamsburg Township, Wells said. It has members from Morrisburg and area and even a few from Ingleside and Chesterville.

It holds seven or eight meetings per year, taking a break from late June or July to September, and holds its annual meeting in November. A potluck dinner is usually held at the annual meeting, followed by the closing up of business and the election of officers, Wells said.

To help promote interest in the horticultural society, it has a "fun night" every February, organized by club members and community members, he said. "We try to make it as interesting as we can," he added.

One of the highlights of the



Evelyn Wells, of the Morrisburg Horticultural Society, checks her tulips to see how they survived the wind the night before.

society's year is its Spring Show. The annual event is to be held May 14 at the Civic Centre in Morrisburg. After the annual show a "penny auction" is held, with members auctioning off surplus plants to raise money for the society.

The second big event for the society is its annual flower and vegetable show, which will be held at the Morrisburg Civic Centre Aug. 22.

About 30-35 members take part in the show each year, entering more than 200 plants and

vegetables, Wells said. Various awards are handed out at the competition for the best flowers, vegetables, decorative displays, hanging baskets and lawns.

The society also has a bus trip to Corby Rose Gardens in Belleville for this summer, he said.

In order to spice up its regular meetings, a \$10 door prize is awarded to a member every meeting and flower competitions are also held, Wells said.

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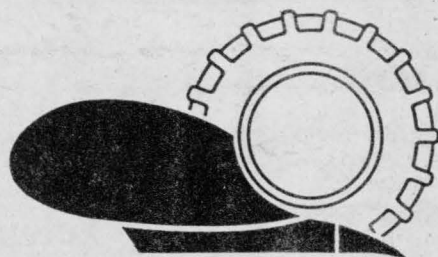
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Strawberries don't need pastry and cream to taste good

While June may mean to some Ontario residents the return of summer, to those with interests closer to culinary matters it's strawberry season.

Although elegance was once synonymous with rich ingredients the term today has a lighter touch. Fruits such as strawberries are savored for their natural beauty and sweetness.

The following recipes supplied by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food highlight the fresh strawberry taste rather than masking it beneath layers of pastry and cream.

STRAWBERRY SAUTE WITH CREME FRAICHE

Sauteing plump strawberries in a light sugar-butter glaze transforms a modest dessert into a grand finale. For added convenience, prepare creme fraiche the day before serving.

- 1/2 cup whipping cream (125 mL)
- 1/2 cup sour cream (125 mL)
- 3 tbsp. butter (40 mL)
- 2 tbsp. sugar (25 mL)
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice (15 mL)
- 1 quart Ontario Strawberries, (4 cups) (1 L) washed and hulled

To prepare creme fraiche, whisk together whipping cream and sour cream. Cover and let stand at room temperature about 2 hours, until slightly thickened. Chill for at least 2 hours or overnight.

In medium-size frying pan over medium-high heat, melt butter. Stir in sugar and lemon juice and bring to a boil. Add strawberries; saute for 1 to 2 minutes, just until heated through. Serve immediately, topped with creme fraiche. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

Preparation Time: 8 minutes
Cooking Time: 3 to 4 minutes
Standing Time (Creme Fraiche): 4 hours
Calories Per Serving: 203 (6 servings) 303 (4 servings).

STRAWBERRIES WITH RHUBARB SAUCE

Dress up fresh strawberries with brandied fruit sauce for a low-fat dessert. If not counting calories, top with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

- 1/2 lb. rhubarb, cut into 1-inch (2.5 cm) (250 g) pieces (2 cups-500 mL)
- 1/4 cup honey (50 mL)
- 2 tbsp. brandy (25 mL)
- 1 quart Ontario strawberries (4 cups) washed, hulled and halved
- vanilla ice cream, if desired

In saucepan, combine rhubarb, honey and brandy. Cover and bring to a boil; simmer for 5 to 8 minutes or until tender. Cool. In food processor or blender, puree until smooth. Chill.

To serve, spoon rhubarb sauce onto dessert plates, top with strawberries. If desired, top with a scoop of vanilla ice-cream. Makes 5 servings.

Preparation Time: 10 minutes
Cooking Time: 5 to 8 minutes
Chilling Time: at least 1 hour
Calories Per Serving (without ice cream): 100

Microwave Instructions:

Combine rhubarb and brandy in 2-quart microwavable casserole. Cover and cook on high power for about 4 minutes, or until tender, stirring halfway through cooking. Cool and proceed as above.

Cooking Time: 4 minutes

STRAWBERRIES 'N CREAM

Here's a quick idea for

strawberry lovers. Coriander adds a new and delicious flavor to this fresh-tasting version of a traditional favorite.

- 1 quart Ontario strawberries (4 cups) 1 L washed and hulled

- 1/2 cup plain yogurt (125 mL)
- 2 tbsp. brown sugar (25 mL)
- 1/4 tsp. ground coriander (optional) (1 mL)

In food processor or blender, puree 1 cup (250 mL) straw-

berries. Blend in yogurt, sugar and coriander, if desired. Chill until serving.

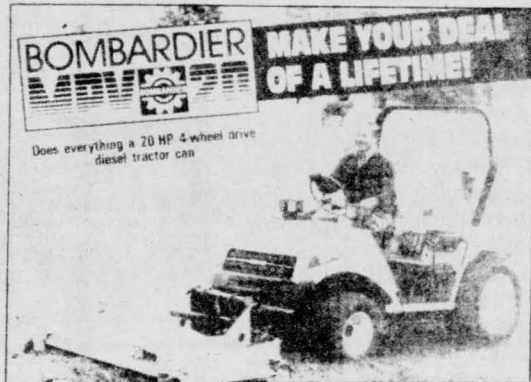
Slice remaining berries; chill until serving.

Makes 4 servings.

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After 11 years, Garden Centre has solid roots

CHESTERVILLE (Staff) - On a cool May morning, the rain splattered plastic snaps in the wind and obscures the view outside.

But inside the greenhouse at Connaught Garden Centre midway between Chesterville and Berwick, the temperature is comfortable enough for long sleeves and the air is fragrant with lush growth.

Glancing about the greenhouse, owner Christine Cormier jokes, "It saves a trip south in the winter."

Connaught Garden Centre is open for its eleventh season. Working amid the hanging flowering plants and flats of flowers and vegetable cuttings, Cormier said the business has grown through trial and error.

The original greenhouse has been extended from 60 to 100 feet and a second one was constructed some seven years ago.

"As business has grown, we have grown with it," she explained.

Her stock also reflects the area's diversity. "European families have added a lot of spice to our life, in cooking and everything," she explained. Thanks to requests from former European residents, she's added leeks, kael and celeriac (a root used for soups) to her stock.

While there are no plans to build a third greenhouse, she said she would like to expand her line of trees and shrubs.

She laughs when she remembers her first year, when she stocked 1,500 dozen tomato plants on the advice of a friend. She sold only about 400 dozen.

"That was about the first mistake and there have been a lot

since," she said.

Her planning for next year began in March, when she had to place orders for stock that would be in great demand.

Seeding itself begins in January in her home where she has a homebuilt plant unit of shelves equipped with lighting. She said the unit can save about three weeks' bills of heating the greenhouse.

The greenhouse is opened mid-March and plants are transferred to a table where heating cables are buried in soil. For the first couple of years, she said she tried to heat the entire greenhouse to 80 degrees to keep the soil at 75; the heating cables, she later found, keep the soil warm for the young plants more efficiently.

To "harden off" the maturing plants and train them to withstand the outside conditions, she allows the greenhouse temperature to dip in the evenings. But if it becomes too cool, an alarm alerts her to turn up the heat.

Ventilation is important, she said. On cool March days, she said the greenhouse doors are closed and gases are trapped inside. "As I say, the (the plants) get zapped -- they turn white and brown."

Work usually starts at 9 a.m. and ends at 4 p.m. but she says she's always on duty. Cormier can manage the greenhouses with the part-time help of her husband and her mother.

"The last two weeks of May are the busiest. Some days I have ten people standing waiting," she added, although she knows many only by their faces.

She usually closes the green-



At a time when most Canadians are crying the February blues, Christine Cormier, owner of Connaught Garden Centre, looks forward to opening her greenhouse. "It saves a trip south," she explains, laughing.

house in July when the stock has been sold.

She's researched the business through reading and contacts she made while working on the retail end of an Ottawa greenhouse three years before

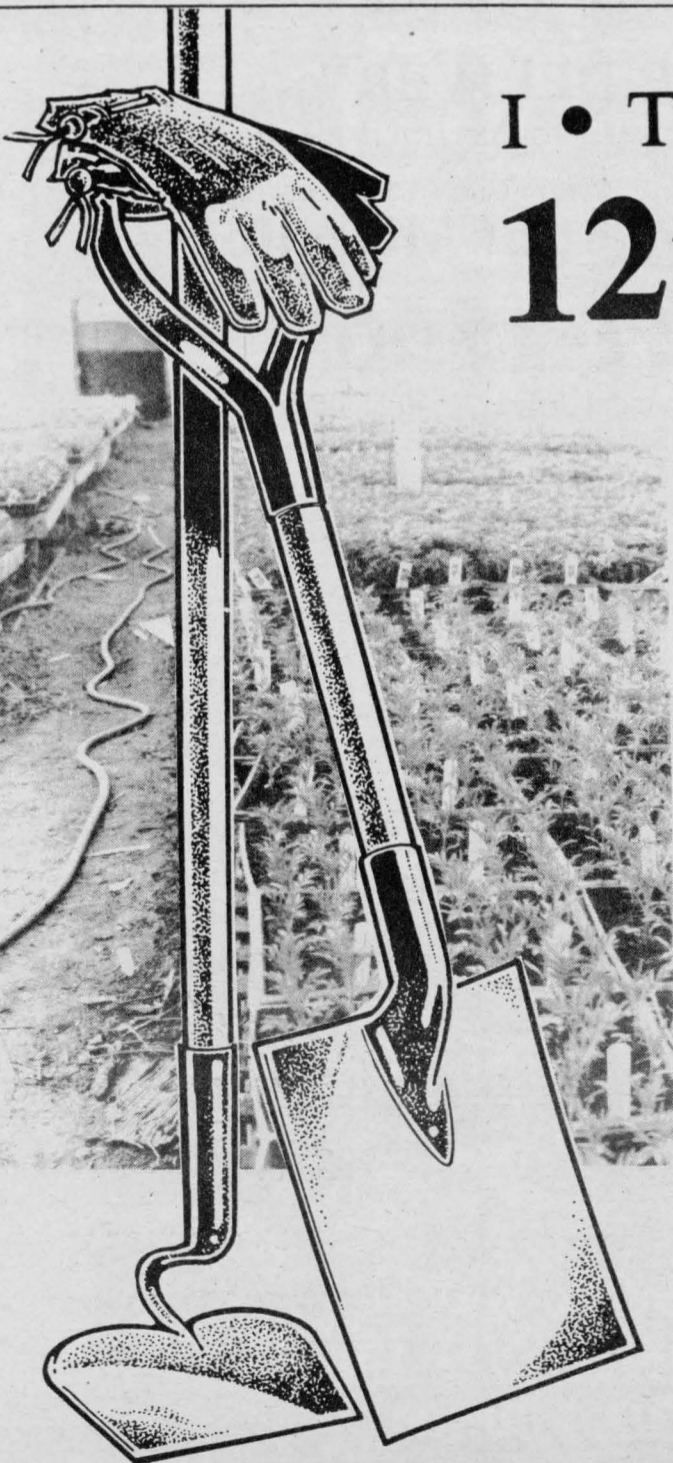
starting her own.

Her work has brought her a lot of satisfaction. "Come the middle of February, you're looking forward to getting out here," she said.

"You can come out here

some morning in March and the greenhouse looks different just overnight."

"It's very satisfactory to have customers come in and tell you how well your stuff did the year before," she added.



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Pick-your-own on the increase

Pick-your-own (PYO) is a relatively new retail method. Consumers have been picking and buying their own produce from the fields only since the mid-1960's.

"Some say the industry began because of adverse weather conditions," declares Bob Cobbledick, a Ministry of Agriculture and Food spokesman. Apparently apple growers, whose crops were damaged by hail, opened their orchards to public pickers rather than pressing the apples into juice. As well, PYO seemed to be the answer to labor shortages within the strawberry industry.

Consumer response was tremendous and today farmers grow high quality crops specifically for PYO.

In 1986, crops harvested by consumers had a farm gate value of \$22 million -- 7 per cent of the total Ontario produce marketed.

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seasonally available at pick-your-own farms. Apples, strawberries, raspberries, beans and tomatoes are the favorites of pick-your-own enthusiasts.

Without a doubt, the most sought after crop is strawberries. Since 1979 the number of farms has doubled to 265. Over 20 million quarts of strawberries were produced in Ontario last year. Of this 70 per cent was harvested through PYO.

This dramatic increase in strawberry PYO operations has meant more competition among the growers. Cobbledick says, "It used to be that operators were concerned about 'crowd control' and 'what to do when you go picked-out.'" Today, operators are advertising and conducting market research.

Elderberries, added to the Foodland Ontario Pick-Your-Own list in 1984, is the newest fruit crop available for picking. Two farms are listed in the 1987 PYO list.

Blueberries are rapidly becoming a popular PYO crop. The number of farms listed (23) has quadrupled over the last five years.

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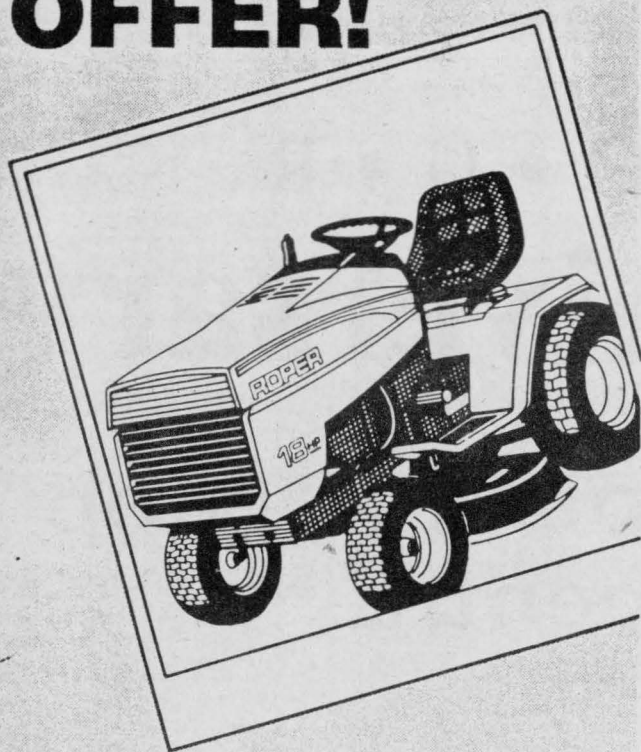
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Students' interest in plants growing at Tagwi

AVONMORE (Staff) - With a new furnace, 16 eager students and begonias for the first time, Jim Jordan's horticultural class is off to another growing start.

This will be the 13th growing season for the Tagwi greenhouse which was constructed with the school in 1974.

"It's nice to get it growing," said Jordan who teaches the 16 Grade 9 and 10 basic level students the growing art.

The students planted a variety of flowers this year including begonias, petunias, marigolds, geraniums and snapdragons. The vegetables include peppers, cabbage and tomatoes.

The course runs from January to June, but the plants don't get into their see-through glass home until March, when the heat is turned on.

The students start the semester mixing and sterilizing the soil, planting seeds and doing transplants. Jordan said he waters the plants himself most of the time. If the students do it, they use so much water that

"everything swims," he said.

In early February after the seeds are planted, they are germinated and moved onto a heating table with overhead lights, Jordan said. In March the plants get moved into their real home, the greenhouse.

Once the plants are at their peak they are put up for sale. The students' parents get first pick, staff members get second choice and what's left is sold to whoever else wants them, Jordan said.

Proceeds from the sales are used to cover the cost of seed and fertilizer. He estimated that seeds alone cost \$400 for the course.

The students are also using their blossoming talents to help the local 4-H club this year. The students grew plants from seeds bought by the 4-H club and the plants in turn will be sold to raise money for its exchange student. The various types of flora will be sold at a fashion show, plant sale and bake sale Saturday at the Berwick Community Hall.

The other plants raised by

the class should also be ready for sale soon, Jordan said. "If all goes well, we'll start selling this week," he said.

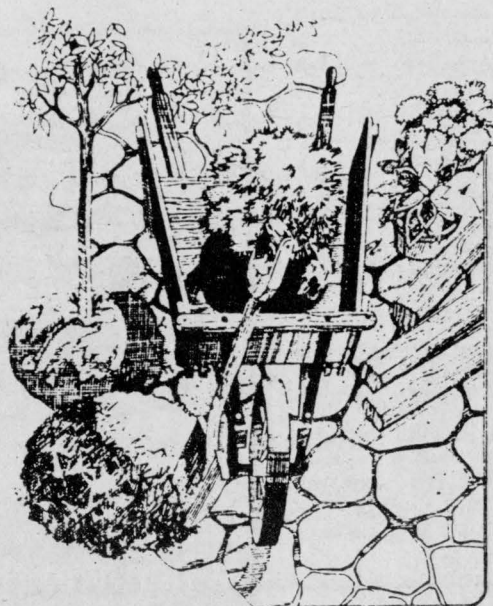
The quality of the plants is alright and they're not that expensive, Jordan said, but added he doesn't want to steal the

market from local private greenhouses.

Jordan, who also teaches drafting, learned the art of growing through correspondence courses. He's learned a lot since he started teaching the course and "you sweat a bit too," he

added. One mistake and a person could lose a whole year's work, he explained.

But teaching the course also has its rewards, he said. When he comes in and looks at all the growing plants, "it's kind of neat", he explained.



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Budding enthusiasm

Ronald Parisien, left, a Grade 9 student from Moose Creek, and Priscilla Haystead, a Grade 10 student from Ingleside, look over plants in the greenhouse at Tagwi Secondary School in Avonmore. Constructed in 1974, the greenhouse is used for the school's course in horticulture.

Record Photo - Riley

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Soil preparation key to green thumb

The real dirt on the green thumb syndrome is that much of what passes for gardening magic can be traced back to proper soil preparation before planting.

Because roots require nutrients, air and water, vegetables will grow the best in soil that is well-drained, loose and has some organic matter.

Sandy, sandy loam and gravelly loam soils are classified as early soils because they warm up quickly in the spring. They lose moisture rapidly during dry weather, however, and require organic matter like compost or manure to reduce the moisture loss.

Clay loam or clay soils warm up later in the spring and are more difficult to work with. Digging, plowing or cultivating these soil types when they are too wet or too dry causes lumpiness. Adding organic matter helps in the preparation of a weed bed.

If it can be found, well-rotted manure is an excellent soil conditioner. In addition to improving the soil structure, it supplies some minerals for the plants. Manure or compost makes wet or dry conditions less extreme.

The plant food or mineral content of manure varies widely, depending on the type of animals that produce them and the animals' diets. Sheep and poultry manures are richer in nutrients than are pig, horse and cow manures. Poultry manure requires care, however, because it is so concentrated that too much can kill the plants.

Cow manure is widely used because of its availability.

Where manure is not available, artificial manure can be prepared from vegetable matter decomposed in compost piles. Good materials for the piles are hay, straw, peat, weeds, grass clippings, leaves, garden refuse that is not diseased and even domestic garbage.

To speed up the decomposi-

amount of nitrogenous fertilizer such as ammonia sulfate with some ground limestone into the pile.

To begin a pile, spread the material on the ground to a depth of about 20-30 cm. Over this sprinkle the ammonia sulfate and the ground limestone at a ratio of 2 kg of sulfate and 1 kg of limestone per 40 kg of plant material. Unbleached wood ashes can be used in place of limestone.

Adding a little bit of fertile soil to each layer of the compost heap will also speed up the decomposition. If the material is dry, add a cupful of water to each layer.

The compost should be ready to be incorporated into the soil in three to six months.

Commercial fertilizers may also be used in the garden. Fertilizers are available in a variety of mixtures such as 5-10-10, 5-10-15 and 10-10-10. The first number refers to percentage nitrogen, the second to phosphoric acid and the last to potash.

After digging up the soil in the garden, scatter the fertilizer over the surface and work it into the topsoil with a harrow or rake to a depth of about 10 cm. Fertilizer should not be allowed to come into contact with roots or the tops of young plants because it may burn them.

If possible plan the garden so that tall plants such as corn, staked tomatoes and pole beans will be at the north side where they will not cast shade on smaller plants.

Rotating crops will reduce the build-up of disease or pest organisms that occurs if the same soil is planted with the same vegetable every year. An ideal rotation (if you have the land to do it) would be to garden in an area for two years and then grow grass sod or alfalfa there for two years to improve the soil structure.

Cukes go back to Romans

The history of greenhouse cucumbers dates as far back as the Romans. They dabbled in growing cucumbers, out of season, in large pits covered with slabs of talc.

The green seedless tube was developed on the island of Guernsey, where it sometimes reached lengths of four feet. The Dutch took over the strain and refined it into the cucumber we know today.

Ontario greenhouses produced approximately 2.4 million dozen seedless cucumbers in 1986. Keith Malott of the Greenhouse Vegetable Producers' Marketing Board estimates the 1987 crop to be approximately 2.5 million dozen.

According to Malott, consumers can expect to find seedless cucumbers of excellent quality in the stores from February to November. Given that greenhouse cucumbers are protected from environmental foes, such as wind and rain, quality is consistent and the appearance of the cucumbers is always excellent.

The most important centre in Canada for producing greenhouse cucumbers is Ontario. It contributes an impressive 70 per cent to the \$20 million Canadian greenhouse cucumber industry. The majority of Ontario's cucumbers are grown in the Leamington area.

The U.S. eastern seaboard is

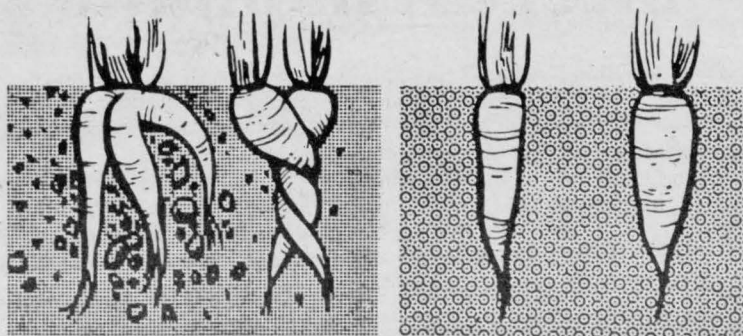
Ontario's major export market. In 1986, approximately \$1.5 million worth of seedless cucumbers were sold to areas such as Boston, Chicago and Michigan. Ontario also ships cucumbers across Canada, from B.C. to Nova Scotia.

Today, seedless cucumbers are bred to be uniformly green and bitter free, with a thin edible skin. Also as a result of breeding, these cucumbers can claim a high "burpless" rate.

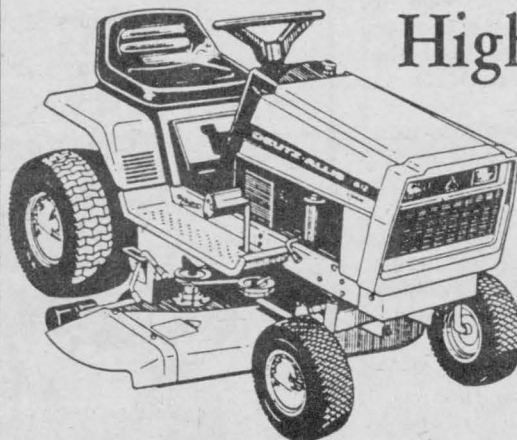
Critical to growing seedless greenhouse cucumbers is preventing pollination and using only female flowers. This means keeping bees and male cucumber flowers out of the greenhouse. If pollination occurs, the cucumbers become clubbed at the end, develop a bitter taste and form seeds.

Aside from flavor and color improvements, other advantages of growing all female flower cucumbers are less pruning, earlier availability and more cucumbers throughout the season.

Innovative greenhouse production techniques include biological control of insects (no insecticides) and growing plants in a non-soil medium. About 20 per cent of greenhouse cucumbers are grown in a material called "rockwool" which holds more water than soil. This, coupled with better fertilizer control, results in increased production.



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A schematic garden

When setting out a garden, tall plants such as staked tomatoes and corn should be planted on the north side so they do not shade smaller plants. Vine crops should be planted in the middle of the garden with two rows of early vegetables along the edges of the vine crops.

38

Garden layout can help growth

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food offers the following tips for the layout of your garden.

If possible plan the garden so that the tall plants, such as corn, staked tomatoes, and pole beans will be at the north side where they will not cast shade on smaller plants.

It is advisable to run rows across a slope to help prevent water runoff and soil erosion. To allow for cultivation place asparagus, rhubarb, and other perennial vegetables and fruits at the edge of the garden, about 1 metre from the grass line.

Plant the vine crops in the centre of the garden, and the other crops on each side with two rows of early vegetables along the edges of the vine crops. These will be harvested and out of the way when the vine crops spread.

A square or almost square garden is usually easier to handle than a long narrow one. However,

if a garden tractor is used in a square garden, more space at each end will have to be sacrificed.

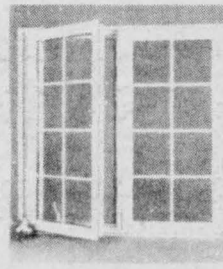
If possible, rotate your crops so that the same kinds of plant do not occupy the same portion of the garden year after year.

Rotation, or cultivation of areas of the garden with different types of vegetables in successive years, is done to reduce the buildup of disease or pest organisms that occurs if the same soil is planted with the same vegetable very year.

An ideal rotation (only possible if a large area of land is available) would be to garden in an area for two years and then grow grass sod or alfalfa there for two years to allow the sod or alfalfa to improve the soil structure.

Root crops should not be planted in a soil that has had sod on it the previous year.

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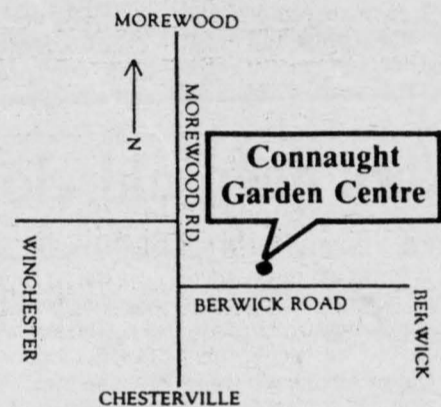
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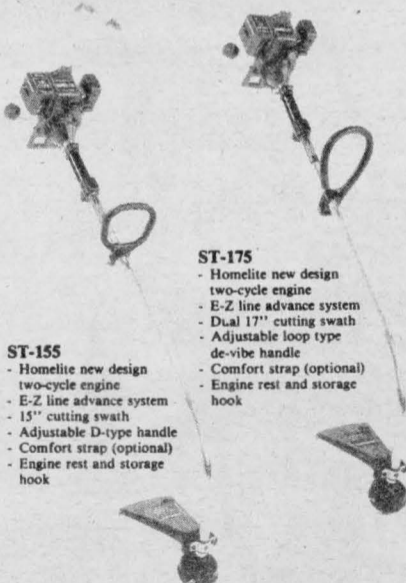
The Great Canadian Bean Company Inc. is a leader in the edible bean industry in Ontario and is dedicated to production, processing and marketing of the produce. Our aim is to service farmers in the area and Mr. Vandenbosch will be pleased to provide information and assistance in the production and harvesting of your 1987 white bean crop.

J. Vandenbosch & Sons Ltd. will be receiving white beans this fall and will be making the initial payment to producers. We still have limited supplies of white bean seed suitable for your growing area.

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Cultivation worth the effort

It can be a long row to hoe, but the benefits of cultivating the garden make it worth it.

Hoeing removes emerging weed seedlings and breaks up crusting of the surface to permit better soil aeration.

Generally, for a smaller garden it is better to kill weeds by physical means than by using herbicides. The reason for this is that the residues of herbicides used safely one year may be poisonous to a different type of vegetable grown the next year in the same place.

Also, the quantity of herbicide needed in a small garden is so little that a fair amount is probably wasted in preparing sufficient quantities for spraying.

When hoeing, a light, shallow raking or scuffing of the soil is an effective means of killing weed seedlings. At this stage, the weeds are easy to remove and they are not competing with vegetables for sun, moisture or nutrients. The shallow depth of cultivation or hoeing is important to avoid injury to the roots of vegetable plants.

Begin hoe cultivation as soon as the row of young seedlings appear, or immediately after the young seedlings appear, or immediately after the young plants have been set out. Hoe beside the rows during bright sunshine to destroy the weeds completely, but pull weeds by hand from within the crop rows (only when the soil is moist).

Avoid working around such plants as cabbage and beans when they are wet because there is a danger of spreading plant diseases.

Only a few simple tools are need for the small garden.

To be well-armed, the gardener needs only a spade, digging fork, hoe, rake, trowel, planting line and hand weeder.

In a larger garden, a hand duster or sprayer, wheelbarrow and wheel-hoe are also useful.

Pickers need old clothes

GODERICH (Special) - Tell people not to wear their good shoes. That advice from Leslie Lassaline, Lassaline Orchards in Goderich, is just one suggestion Foodland Ontario collected from pick-your-own operators in Ontario.

The number one tip, according to Jacqueline Barnabe, Bearbrook Gardens in Navan, is to call the farm ahead of time to check for produce availability. Pickers often don't realize that there may not be anything to pick. Unpredictable weather conditions or an eager lot of early-bird pickers are said to be the culprits.

A call to the farm will also determine whether containers will be available for sale, or if they should be brought from home.

"Wear your oldest clothes," advises Lassaline. From head to toe, picking garb should include a sun hat, loose comfortable clothing, and appropriate footwear -- boots may be necessary in wet fields.

"In the summer there may be mosquitos," adds Lassaline. A light mist of insect repellent may be in order.

Wearing sunscreen on summer days is always a good idea whenever outdoors. Bring along a straw mat, old towel or newspaper to kneel on when picking low-growing crops such as strawberries.

Strawberries are the most popular pick-your-own crop and every strawberry picker is seeking the biggest and best berries in the patch. "You have to get down on your knees and push the leaves aside to find them," instructs Henry Hooistra, Norbrad Farms, in Bradford.

Once the luscious berry has been spotted, Robin Witheres of Butt's Berry Farm in Noval suggests pinching the stem with your fingernail just above the berry to free it. "Pulling strawberries from the bush bruises them."

"Once picked leave the hull on," adds Bob Wolfe of New Liskeard. The hull preserves and locks in the berry's natural moisture.

"Bushels are bad for picking strawberries," says Witheres. She has watched many pickers walk off to their cars, bushel of berries in hand, oblivious to the juice being pressed out of the bottom. Bring low containers, loosely packing berries about four or five deep.

But remember, the pick-your-own season doesn't end with strawberries. Fruits and vegetables such as blueberries,, raspberries, tomatoes, peppers and apples all follow.

A final tip from Foodland Ontario...don't get caught without a pick-your-own list. Order a copy today.

'Dying' pines only need water

"What is wrong with my evergreen trees?"

This is a question that will be asked as we move into spring. Evergreens may look like they are dying. The needles are brown, dry and falling off, and it looks like the tree is finished. Fear not, the trees are only suffering from an internal water shortage and they will soon be green again.

This spring has been characterized by warm days and freezing nights. When the days get warm and bright, the needles begin to produce food. The production of food requires large amounts of water. When used, the water evaporates out of the needles.

At the same time that water is leaving the needles, the roots are trying to draw up more. This cannot be done effectively, since the ground is still frozen.

Essentially, the leaves use up all their water, are unable to replace it and they dry out and turn brown.

These seemingly dead spots should not be pruned off. The buds at the end of the injured shoots are still alive. They will open at the regular time, when the root system is able to provide the needed water. This occurs when the soil is fully thawed and contains water in its liquid form.

At the end of the summer your tree will be none the worse for wear and tear. Winter browning is a natural occurrence when we have mild early spring weather. It is nothing to be concerned about.

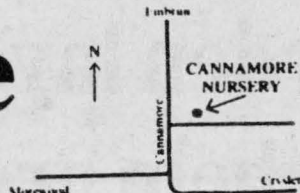
This article is presented by the Private Land Forestry staff at the Cornwall District. For further information, contact the Ministry of Natural Resources office nearest you at 933-1774 (Cornwall district), 342-8524 (Brockville district) or 258-3413 (Kemptville regional office).

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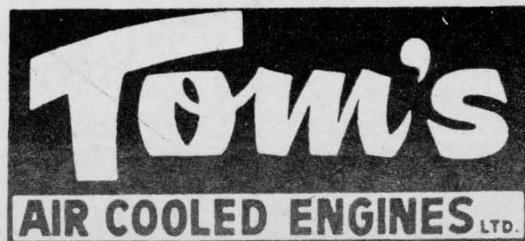
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Poor growth can be traced to nutrient deficiencies

MOREWOOD (Special) - Your garden's poor growth can be traced to deficiencies of essential plant nutrients in the soil.

Symptoms of the ailments range from yellowed leaves to retarded growth.

Cannamore Nursery, operated by Paul and Winnie Beauchamp, offers the following tips on identifying and treating deficiencies of essential nutrients in soil that inhibit plant growth.

Soil Nutrients
Nitrogen is one of the elements necessary for plant growth. With a good supply, plants grow sturdily and mature rapidly; their foliage a rich dark green. In cereals, nitrogen is responsible for increasing the percentage of protein.

Phosphorus is a major element in plant nutrition. Phosphorus is essential for healthy growth, strong roots, fruit development and greater resistance to diseases.

Potassium is also needed by growing plants, is usually referred to as potash when fertilizer is discussed.

Soil Testing

Taking a soil sample is the first step in making a soil test.

A dry day in the early fall is the best time to sample your soil.

Dig a small hole, removing the earth from 6 to 8 inches. Take a thin slice about an inch thick from the straight side of the hole. Place in clean, clear plastic bag and tie. Mark on the bag the sample's location.

Take about three different samples from different locations. Do the same as the first sample and send off to your local agricultural laboratory for testing. Most agriculture offices across the country will supply you with the complete kit. There are two categories for samples. Ask either for (1) garden, (2) field crop kit.

Nitrogen Deficiency

A deficiency of this essential nutrient is characterized by slow growth, slender fibrous stems, and yellowing of foliage and stems.

To treat it, use animal fertilizers; rabbit and poultry manures are best. Blood meal is

expensive and sometimes difficult to buy. It has a very high nitrogen content. Fish scraps and sewage sludge are other sources of nitrogen.

Potassium Deficiency

Plants suffering from too little potassium show reduced vigor and poor growth. Frequently, leaves turn ashen and curl, later becoming bronzed. Severe deficiencies almost always result in poorly developed root systems.

Simply placing 6 inches of green matter to every 2 inches of manure in your compost heap will help supply adequate potassium for gardening purposes. Once the moisture of the green plants is eliminated and the material is broken down, a great percentage of the solids consists of potassium.

If your soil is low in potassium, add potash rock, granite dust, wood ash or some other potassium-rich organic material to the compost or directly to the soil.

Calcium Deficiency

Plants are retarded in growth development and develop thick woody stems. Leaves and branches are often deformed. The roots of many plants turn black and die.

To treat it use any good grade of ground natural limestone; 60 mesh is a good grind. Where available, gypsum, oystershells and basic slag can be used.

Copper Deficiency

Usually confined to peat or muck soils. Signs of copper deficiency are slow growth or complete cessation of growth. Shoot tips are affected first and eventually die back. Organic materials, natural rock fertilizers, and the soil itself supply enough copper for most plants.

Iron Deficiency

This particular deficiency is characterized by spotted, colorless areas on young leaves. Yellow leaves appear on the upper parts of the plants. Too much lime causes iron deficiency to develop.

Plenty of manure, crop residues, dried blood and tankage are the best materials to use in correcting this problem.

Magnesium Deficiency

Widespread in sandy soils deficient in magnesium plants are late to mature and do not mature uniformly. They are poor market quality and exhibit yellowing between the veins of older leaves. Leaves may develop

bright colors. Add a quart of seawater to each 100 pounds of compost or use dolomitic limestone since this contains quite a bit of magnesium.

Zinc Deficiency

Zinc is often lacking in peat soils. It's characterized by leaves

which are abnormally long and narrow. Leaves may also turn yellow and be matted with many dead areas. It's closely related to iron deficiency symptoms. To treat a zinc deficiency use plenty of manure. Phosphate rock also contains traces of zinc.

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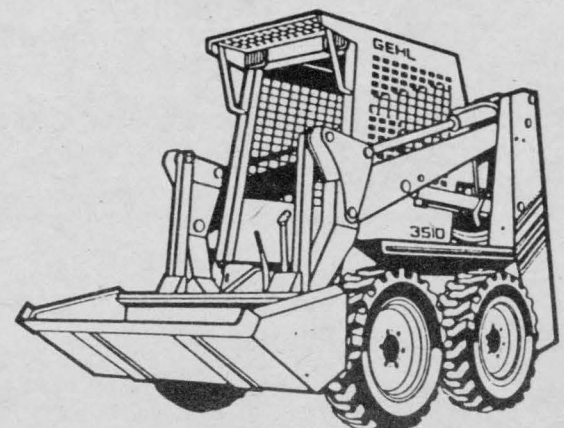
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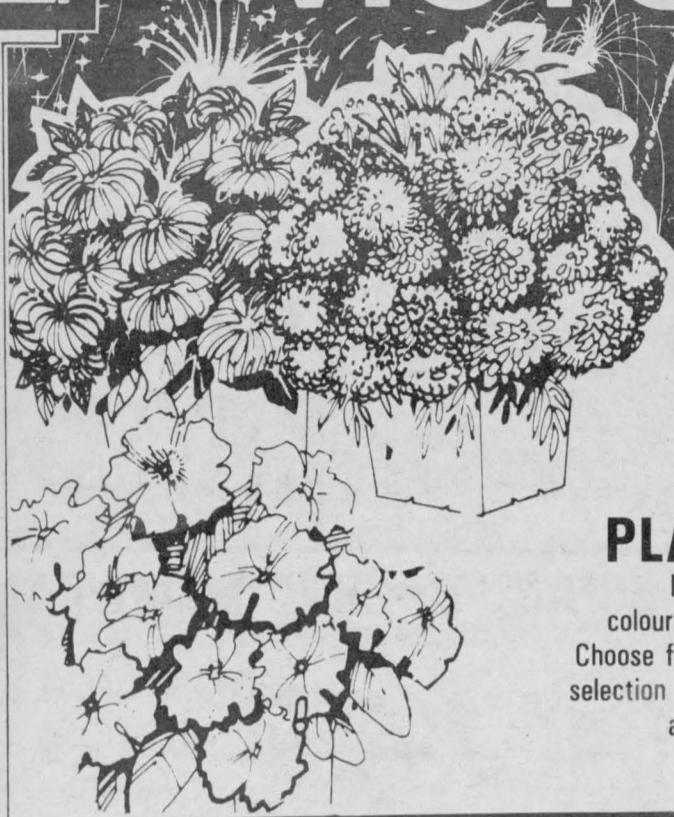
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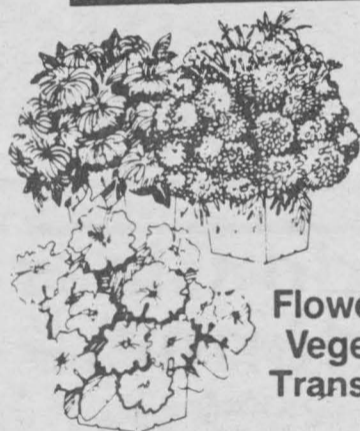
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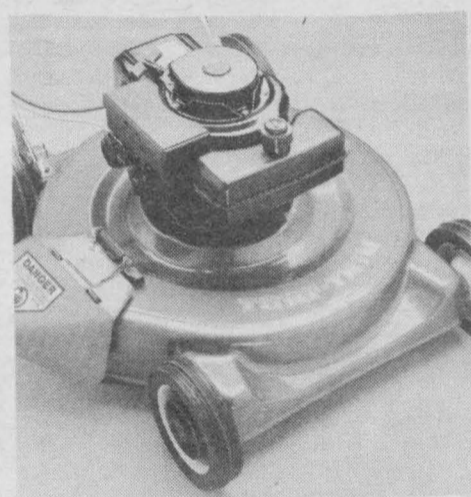
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