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America Is Blooming Out All Over

Folks out to see "America first" are getting quite a surprise these days. For, where they formerly had to drive through dirty, dingy looking cities to get to the nation's mountains and lakes, they now find these same cities slick and clean and a mass of flowers and shrubs.

Civic pride has taken over. And across our country, people working in groups or as individuals, are making definite efforts to beautify their towns and cities. In many cases they are doing this very inexpensively by planting annual flowers from seed. A flower box planting contest, conducted among the 6,500 citizens of the small town of Neosho, Mo., brought the town national fame. More than 820 entries were submitted, and the people became so enthusiastic about beautifying the city that the contest turned out to be of secondary importance.

A CURIOUS thing happened when the flower boxes started to appear on the streets in late April. Suddenly the whole town started to clean up, paint up and polish up. Today, Neosho is a garden spot of flowers with tourists coming from all over the United States to see it. Neosho even has flowers growing out of the city trash cans.

These flowering trash cans were later adopted by the city of San Antonio during a city beautification program. Through a tie-in promotion with a local seed company, they also distributed 20,000

packages of flower seeds to city residents as a public service. From coast to coast, in practically every city and state in the United States, public service programs are being carried on to stimulate interest and pride in making America truly beautiful. Among the groups and organizations at work in this most rewarding city.



Town Project

The whole town is at work raising flowers in Sandwich, N.H. It's just one of thousands of Communities throughout the nation where civic pride has taken over and people are making efforts to beautify their towns and cities.

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**Use Caution When
Conditioning Lawn**

In all likelihood one of the last things you discussed with your neighbor last fall was the new, dynamic and up-to-date approach you were going to carry out this spring on your established lawn.

Actually, getting the established lawn off to a good, vigorous start is an orderly project that requires a minimum of effort and offers a maximum of reward. Regular fertilizing, proper liming and correct cutting make up the main ingredients of any good lawn. The home gardener has two main responsibilities: to know the order and manner in which to use these ingredients and to take time and care in reading and understanding the directions governing their application. Lawn care authorities suggest the following simple outline as a guide to maintaining and improving the established lawn in the spring.

CHECK THE LAWN to see if it requires rolling. The main object in rolling a lawn is to press back grass plants that have been heaved up by alternating frosts and thaws—look to stifle flatter the lawn. Then go over the entire lawn with an aerator to loosen up the turf and top soil and improve circulation.

If investigation discloses small burned areas where grass has thinned or disappeared altogether, the region should be loosened with a rake and reseeded. In the event this new grass has trouble taking hold, inquire about one of the recommended re-vitalizers. As for the feeding of the lawn, bear in mind that well-fed grass grows thickly, choking out weeds. Undernourished grass invites weed growth.

MOST WELL-ESTABLISHED lawns require liming at least once every two years. Some are limed in spring and again in the fall. An application of 50 to 75 pounds of ground limestone per 1,000 square feet is recommended by experts. Ground limestone can be applied at any season, and its benefits are produced over a period of time. In contemplating use of various brands of weed killer, grass vitalizer and similar compounds on a freshly limed lawn, check the manufacturer's directions to see if the particular compound will react with, or perhaps even neutralize, the effects of the lime.

IF THE LAWN is sufficiently watered, a fertilizing in spring and fall should give the grass its greatest nourishment. A complete fertilizer contains nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium. Application of 20 pounds of a 10-10-5 mixture per 1,000 square feet, or a 10-6-4 compound is recommended for maximum lawn improvement before summer. If the lawn is extremely thin, a third application may be made in the fall. Avoid excess fertilizing to prevent overstimulating the grass. Begin your lawn mowing when the grass has reached a height of 2 1/2 inches; set the blade at a height of 1/2 inch and follow a clockwise cutting pattern from the

outside of the lawn to the center.

IF YOUR MOWER has an attachment, you will not need to rake the clippings. The attachment keeps moving the clippings toward the center of the lawn, while at the same time they are being cut over and over again. This technique supplies valuable mulch for lawn nourishment, while eliminating the risk of burned areas occurring under clipping piles.

The home gardener then has two things left to contend with: watering and weeds. In both instances, expert advice moderation. Establish a water schedule that provides one good soaking a week, by letting a sprinkler run for two or three hours. Water during daylight hours, since the dampness of the soil invites fungus. Don't water just prior to mowing. The best time to cut your lawn is when it's dry.

YOUR GARDEN supply dealer is the man to discuss your weeding, killing problems with. Chemical weed killers and lawn foods are very effective when used at the right time, in the right proportion and in the right place.

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ing of projects are local chambers of commerce, garden clubs, boy and girl scout troops, churches, schools, and national and business organizations.
BUT LET'S NOT sit back and let George do it. Let's get in and do our share to make this country a delightful place to visit. And what better place to start as an individual than in your own front yard. Plant some flower beds and flower boxes of annuals from seed, and see how much pleasure those around you will receive from your efforts.

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