

Weeds Are Still Weeds—Even Out-of-Sight

True or false? A Potamogeton Crispus: a) a thin, delicate beauty; b) a snag on a jitter bug; c) a curlyleaf pondweed; d) a daddled nuisance.

It is all of these. And if you've even untangled one from an outboard propeller, or contemplated it and its countless kin from your cottage porch, you undoubtedly have your own special term for P. Crispus.

THE CURLYLEAF pondweed is only one of many, many plants within the general title, aquatic weeds. Rare is the Michigan lake that doesn't have them in some degree of profusion.

Southern Michigan lakes, especially, can be plagued with them and frequently are.

To the fisherman, the presence of aquatic plants generally means the presence of fish. Bass, for instance, seem to want a roof over their heads; the type lily pads would provide, or watershield (Brasenia Schreberi), if you like being a bit technical.

LITTLE FISH like water weeds too. They like to eat the insects on the plants and they like the escape routes the weeds give them when big fish are around.

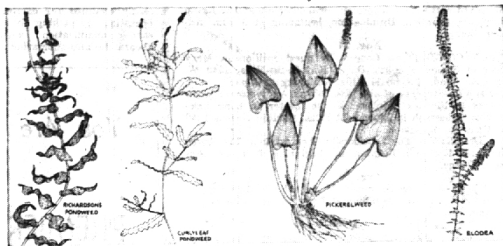
And big fish come around when little ones gang up—another reason for the fisherman to fish where the weed growth is.

The trouble with water weeds is it doesn't take many to be too many. If weed growth is dense, big fish can't get at the little ones to weed them out. Then comes the all-too-familiar problem. The little fish take over and before long Michigan has another weedy lake full of stunted panfish.

AND THESE stunted fish stay stunted forever, it seems. They just never grow up.

They spend their lives in abbreviation, always on the lookout for tiny bass or pike just out of their eyes. These they gobble up quite thoroughly.

Result: no bass or pike, just stunted perch and/or bluegills. Little wonder then, that control of aquatic weeds is a familiar topic



RARE IS the Michigan lake, especially in the southern part of the state, that doesn't have weeds. They can be a nuisance to swimmers and boaters, and may even create an over-population of "stunted fish."

through a pipe covered with barbed wire or by using one of the simple mechanical devices, you could rake the weeds with a garden rake.

UNWITTINGLY, however, these very like valuable property owners often contribute materially to the growth of the water weeds they deplore.

All plants require nutrients for growth, and the fertilizer that many people spread on their lawns often comes to use, not on the lawn, but in some nearby lake or stream. Many fertilizers break down slowly, and any good sloshing rain will be sure to wash large amounts into waterways.

Phosphorus is especially important as a nutrient for aquatic weeds. It cannot be manufactured naturally in the lake, and water weeds depend on their supply from shore.

Septic systems near lakes also contribute heavily to weed growth by supplying nutrients to the water. Often as not, shore residents depend on such systems for sewage disposal.

THERE ARE two approaches to this control problem. One is mechanical, the other chemical; both effective, both have drawbacks.

Mechanical control could include the use of a floating sickle-bar type of mower. Or you could drag

New Product Allows Coats To 'Breathe'

Something else is new in the raincoat business besides styles, colors and fabrics. The biggest news is the appearance of a revolutionary finish for raincoats, a finish that really waterproofs coats yet allows them to "breathe."

While the new finish is not widespread on the market yet, Michigan State University clothing specialist Margaret Reed says you can begin to watch for it.

"The new finish is made of specially treated poly-vinyl chloride," Miss Reed says. "It waterproofs instead of making the coat just rain-resistant. It's a honey-combed plastic with billions of minute pores allowing it to breathe."

"Normally raincoats are divided into two categories—waterproof and water-repellent," Miss Reed comments. "However, the new finish combines the best qualities of both and eliminates their disadvantages."

Waterproofed coats, usually of the plastic, plastic-coated or rubber variety, keep the wearer dry no matter what the weather. Their protective quality is permanent. But such coats are not porous and do not allow free circulation of air. The result is that they can be very warm in hot weather and clammy in cool weather.

WATER-REPELLENT rainwear, on the other hand, is porous and more comfortable. Such coats have been treated with a finish that sheds moisture. But they are not 100 per cent leak-proof, and in the hard rains, they may lose their effectiveness.

"Water-repellent coats often are not permanently resistant," Miss Reed cautions. Such coats often must be retreated each time they are dry cleaned and this process costs anywhere from \$4.00 to \$1.75.

However, garments labeled "permanently waterproofed" usually remain effective much longer, according to the National Institute of Dyeing. But this is true only if they are not badly soiled before being cleaned.

BEEF RIB STEAKS are a popular barbecue choice. These cost less than tenderloin, T-bone and club steaks. They're cut from the rib section of the animal.

Blade steaks, cut from the same area of the shoulder as blade chuck roast, are less tender than other beef steaks but they are even lower in cost. You may wish to tenderize blade steak before cooking time.

You can also broil a whole chuck roast if you choose U.S. Choice grade or comparable quality. The arm chuck roast is best for the grill because there is less bone and lots of it.

PORK RIBS, fresh or smoked ham, pork steak, ham steak or a boneless roll of loin or shoulder are excellent choices. Inexpensive ham breast makes tasty riblets too, or select a boned lamb shoulder roast. Steaks cut from lamb leg are favorites for those who like lamb and lots of it.

Kabobs made with cubes of lamb, beef or pork cubes are alternated with vegetables or fruits. These are favorites with most folks.

PERIANS CHICKEN is your family choice for the grill. Look for fryers that give the right size eating pieces when cut into halves or quarters. These range from one to one-half to two-and-one-half pounds in size. Allow one-quarter to one-half a fryer per person when grilling.

One of the hottest times to be out in the yard is between Aug. 15 and Sept. 15. It's also the best time to seed your new lawn.

Weather conditions are ideal at this time and those hot temperatures are excellent for proper seed germination, according to a Michigan Cooperative Extension Service soil scientist. Also, there are few hard rains which can wash away the seed during this period.

THE SOIL NEEDS to be moist to develop a good stand of grass. "Don't let the surface soil dry out before the seed has a chance to germinate," cautions the specialist.

The development of good turf is much easier with generous fertilizer applications.

A soil test will accurately determine just the kind of fertilizer to be used. One pound of nitrogen per 100 square feet of lawn should be applied to Kentucky Bluegrass three times during the growing season.

These show no direct effect on fish or warm-blooded animals.

For algae and moss-like plants, copper sulphate is effective and found to be harmless to fish, wild-life, and people—when used according to manufacturers' specifications. But a permit is required.

For cattails and rushes, 2,4,4-T is good. And for those broad-leaved floaters like pond lilies and water-shield, you might consider 2,4,5-T again or 2,4-D.

The Department's fish division can help with information on all types of aquatic weed control and it would be wise to get in touch before you tackle Potamogeton Crispus and its friends.

Peach Season Looks Peachy

It's peach season. With peak loads now and soon to be on the market, it's smart to know what to look for when you buy.

Ripeness is the best clue—peaches must look good to be good. Quality peaches are firm, well-formed and free from decay and injury.

MICHIGAN peaches have yellow skins and flesh; look for a creamy or gold color under the red "blush." (The blush alone is not a sign of ripeness.)

Firm ripe peaches will be full-ripe in three to four days at room temperature. When full-ripe, they should be kept in the refrigerator.

IF YOU PLAN to freeze or can them, it is good to know which varieties are most suitable.

Sunhaven are medium to large in size, bright red in color and recommended for freezing only.

Rothaven are brilliant red, have a firm flesh, are fine grained and good for either freezing or canning.

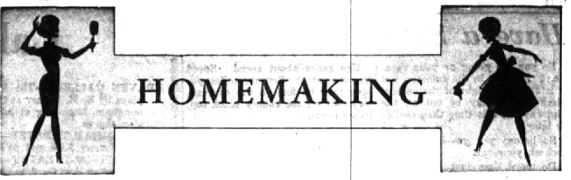
Richhaven are large and nearly round, having a bright golden background color overlaid with bright red blush. They have a medium texture and can be used for either freezing or canning.

Halhaven is good for either freezing or canning; however, when freezing them, use aseptic and because of their tendency to darken.

Kalhaven is a well-colored fruit with equal amounts of bright red and clear yellow and a firm fine grained flesh. It can be either frozen or canned.

Reskin is a red peach (not a haven variety), which can be either frozen or canned.

Elberta has a yellow color with a faint red blush. It is recommended for canning only.



HOMEMAKING

The Back-to-Nature Surge Takes Helm on Sundecks

Millions more American join the back-to-nature movement each summer as they find new ways to enjoy outdoor living in their own back yards.

How to turn ordinary back yards into things of beauty and utility keep architects, landscape designers and small contractors busy much of the year.

This healthy return to nature, says one architect, is not just a passing fad; actually, people are finding a new dimension of living. The best part of this, he said, is the low cost.

SOMETIMES, THE architect pointed out, just the installation of a bench with a high back creates the nest for a cozy corner where the outdoors can be enjoyed.

Actually, most outdoor installations which make this new form of family life so attractive are much more elaborate, but not necessarily costly.

BY FAR THE most popular outdoor unit is the wood deck. This can be attached to the home, easily accessible to the kitchen, he said.

It can be a tiny deck off a bedroom, or a spacious lovely unit with built-in benches, electrical outlets for cooking, lights and television. It can be a square, circle, crescent diamond or any interesting shape.

NEXT MOST popular outdoor unit is the detached desk, sometimes called a gazebo, garden deck or patio deck and this is generally away from the home for more privacy.

Both of these decks are built sturdily of good framing joists and the usual deck boards used are two-by-fours, laid either flat or edgewise, and two-by-sixes.

For long life, Douglas fir or western red cedar are recommended and a good many decks are now being built of west coast hemlock.

DECK BOARDS should be spaced slightly to allow rain runoff, the architect advised, but the cracks should not be wide enough to catch a lady's heel.

Pergolas are also coming back into style and these take on a variety of shapes. Generally, he said, they take the form of a trellis installation with benches arranged along the unit.

The pergola can be used to divide use areas in a yard, such as a cutting garden from the more formal areas.

SCREENING FENCES are also a device used to enhance the livability of a yard.

The fences can serve as a backdrop for lounging benches and as a background for plants and shrubs. Western red cedar is commonly used for fences, although feel at home.

Douglas fir makes an ideal wood for this use.

It is generally advisable to dip fence posts in a preservative covering that portion which will be exposed to the ground.

IT DOESN'T TAKE very much of a project to change the entire use pattern of a yard, the architect stated. The big thing is to make it easy to loaf and play by providing even the most simple facilities, such as benches, or decks to get up off the ground.

Above all, the architect contended, make this a place where all the family can congregate and merrily used for fences, although feel at home.

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