

## Seed catalogs often offer "garden helpers" as well as seeds

•March is the month of the Awakening Moon.  
 •Flower of the month is Jonquil.  
 •First quarter of the moon on the 10th.



**BEYOND THE WEEDS**  
 by Jean Winslow

•Sprinkle bonemeal on daffodils, fertilize perennials, four lbs. per 100 square feet.  
 •Start lightening mulch on ajugas, primroses, pansies.

•Apply pre-emergence chemicals to control crab-grass.  
 •Sow in greenhouse or sunny sill: ageratum, china aster, carnation, dianthus, marigold, caladium bulbs, petunias, salvia, stock, allysum, verbena, zennia, nicotinia, stock.

**Unusual Offerings**  
 There's a lot more to catalogs than seeds, and I've found some great garden helpers for you.

Urban Farmers, Inc., POB 22198, Beachwood, Ohio, 44122, offers little thematic entire gardens, such as French, German, Oriental, Windowsill and Dutch. It provides 10 to 15 selections of seeds ranging in price from \$4.25 to \$10.00. It's an excellent deal.  
 Spiff the patio up with Terra Rossa

Italian Ring Pots from White Flower Farm, Litchfield, Conn. 06759. Shaped by hand in small family factories in northern Italy, they are beautiful, expensive, and look it.

Gardener's Eden, POB 7307, San Francisco, CA, 94120, features a clever tool — an expanding aluminum rake that goes from 25" down to 7" wide, perfect for awkward corners and small spaces.

Epicure Seeds, Ltd., POB 450, Brewster, NY, 10509, thinks a lot of its new "Towerpot," interlocking clover leaf modules with 12-ounce water supplies. When you put them all together the tower is 23 inches high and holds 12-24 plants.

Just in time for the 400th: Walter F. Nicke, Box 6676, Hudson, NY

12534, builds a better English Thatched-Roof Bird House, a quaint 18th Century hospice for your 20th century birds.

When buying starter mediums at your nursery or hardware make sure you get the new Jiffy-7 pellet from Carefree Garden Products. This new nugget now contains Canadian spagnum moss. The size is perfect for the bottom of a six-ounce styrofoam cup, besides its usual place in flats, milk cartons, old aluminum trays, etc.

Something else: you can slice on length wise for air layering. There are a few articles that are dead serious, but hit me funny. Like this traveling sprinkler put out by the Clapper Company, 1125 Washington St., West Newton, Maine, 02165. It propels itself across the lawn on a pattern laid out by the supplying hose, cover 16,000 square feet. It has two speeds (G & T, gentle rain and thundershower; I'm joshing...) a neutral and a cut off.

Try to operate this one cold sober. Little buggy-looking thing making steady progress across a large expanse of green, spitting all the

time — you may find yourself trying to pick objects off your sleeve that keep getting away.

Finally, you have to have a Donkey Whirl-a-Gig from Henry Field, Shennandoah, Iowa 51602. This otherwise upright and efficient nursery undoubtedly sells a lot of

these things or it wouldn't offer them. Mounted on the weather vane are a plastic donkey facing one way and farmer, hoe in hand, facing the other way. Everytime the wind changes, the donkey's back feet let the farmer have it in the ol' kiester. A northeaster could provide a laugh a minute, couldn't it?

## Marketing costs cause higher prices

**By JOHN SLEDGE**  
 N. C. Farm Bureau Federation  
 Marketing costs over the years have been the principle factor behind rising food prices at the supermarket. This includes costs added on after the food leaves the farm, such as labor, transportation, advertising and many others.


Although labor costs account for about a third of total food expenditures, there is another marketing cost that is perhaps often overlooked but is a very large factor in food marketing, and that is packaging.

This includes metal cans, glass and plastic bottles and other containers for food products, as well as the boxes and other materials used in shipping.

In fact, out of every dollar the consumer spends for food, approximately eight cents goes for

packaging and container costs. Though food packaging costs run high, they do some necessary jobs, the biggest of which is to protect and preserve the foods they hold from light, heat, oxygen and infestation.

So, a lot of the price of your food and beverage items is set by the kind of package in which you buy it. And that's something over which the farmer, who often gets the blame for high food prices, has no control.



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<p>VEG-ALL MIXED VEGETABLES                  16 OZ. CANS <b>49¢</b></p>	<p>KEEBLER (SAVE 30")                  Krunch Twists 8 OZ. PKG. <b>99¢</b></p> <p>BAMA (SAVE 20")                  Party Shells..... PKG. OF 8 <b>59¢</b></p>	<p>DEL MONTE GREEN LIMA BEANS..... 17 OZ. CAN <b>69¢</b></p> <p>RICHFOOD Waffles..... 5 OZ. PKG. <b>29¢</b></p>
<p>DEL MONTE EARLY GARDEN PEAS                  17 OZ. CAN <b>55¢</b></p>	<p>ECON Pork &amp; Beans                  16 OZ. <b>4/\$1.00</b></p>	<p>DEL MONTE GREEN BEANS..... 16 OZ. CAN <b>45¢</b></p> <p>SUPER FINE SHOE PEG CORN..... 17 OZ. CAN <b>55¢</b></p>
<p>Strawberries..... PT. <b>99¢</b></p> <p>Mushrooms..... LB. <b>89¢</b></p>	<p>LIKE COLA                  2 LITER <b>69¢</b></p>	
<p>FLORIDA LETTUCE..... HEAD <b>39¢</b></p>	<p>SWEET POTATOES                  LB. <b>10¢</b></p>	<p>WHITE POTATOES                  5 LB. BAG <b>99¢</b></p>

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