

Huge Sum Spent For Remodeling Homes

Repairs and Maintenance Total 8½ Billion Dollars In 1951

In spite of the fact that a tremendous number of new homes have been built throughout this nation during the past decade, the vast majority of Americans still live in what may be called "old houses", structures built as long as thirty to fifty years ago.

Bringing these homes up to full value as measured by modern standards through remodeling has already become one of the major activities of the nation's building industry and is expected to increase.

Remodeling, including maintenance and repairs, ran up a total of \$8,500,000,000 in 1951. One building material manufacturer is reported to have sold one-half of his total product for use in remodeling in 1950-51, and in 1952 this total was almost two-thirds of his output with present indications that 1953 will be as good or better.

Wonders have been accomplished in remodeling exteriors of old houses to conform with current tastes in architectural style but even greater wonders have been effected by interior remodeling. Such rooms as kitchens and bathrooms are the places most likely to be "dated," because great strides have been made in recent years in streamlining appliances and plumbing fixtures, adding color to them and developing entirely new and varied materials for completely changing the appearance of rooms through refinishing wall and ceiling surfaces.

GUILD TO MEET

The Wesleyan Service Guild of the Edenton Methodist Church will meet Tuesday night, August 4, at eight o'clock at the home of Mrs. Jesse Harrell. All members are urged to be present.

Credit Balance on Husbands

Film Star—"Isn't that a good joke on Mary?"
Director—"Hadn't heard it."
Star—"Her secretary got the records mixed up, so now she finds she has had two more divorces than she has had weddings."



ROBERT SCHMIDT
N. C. STATE COLLEGE

When we have completed the garden planting for the season we usually have a quantity of seed left-over. Will they be any good next spring or should they be discarded now? The longevity, or length-of-life of seeds depends on two main factors: the kind of seed and the conditions under which the seed are stored.

Under the hot, humid conditions in the South, seeds do not retain their vitality as long as they do in cooler climates. Different kinds of seeds vary greatly in their longevity. For example, onion, sweet corn and parsnip seeds retain their vitality for only one to two years, beans and peas for two to three years, cabbage, collards, kale, turnips and mustard for four to five years, okra, parsley and salsify about two years, cucumbers, melons, squash and tomatoes about five years (all of these under favorable storage conditions which means a cool temperature and relatively low humidity).

The difficulty in determining if seeds are likely to be good next spring is that we don't know how long the seed merchant has had the seeds before he sold them to us. In many instances I have found bean seed to be good only for the year that I purchased them. That might mean that the seedsman has had the seed for at least one year before he sold them. If you do keep seed over until the next year, you should have a germination test made before you plant them.

If you are saving any of your own seed this year from your garden, dry

them thoroughly and then keep them as cool as possible during the hot weather. In saving vegetable seed it is very important that the plant itself be used as the unit of measure in selecting and not the individual pod or fruit. In other words, save seed only from the best plants having the most uniform and highest quality crop. For example, it is a common practice to save the seed from the largest watermelon in the patch. But perhaps that melon was the only one on the vine. It would have been better to find a vine with three or four good sized melons and save seed from one of those.

Seed should not be saved from hybrid tomatoes, cucumbers or corn because these are first generation crosses and will not come true to the seed that you save.

Are you getting tired of running the cultivator and wielding the hoe in your garden in a losing battle with weeds and grass? Why not use a mulch? It is surprising how few gardeners make use of mulches as an aid in the conservation of moisture and the control of weeds. A mulch may be any material such as hay, straw, strawy manure, leaves, leaf mold, peat, sawdust, pine straw, or paper which can be put down on the ground around the plants for the purpose of conserving moisture during the hot, dry summer weather. At the same time it will keep down most of the weeds. I recently read of one gardener who collected all the cardboard boxes

he could get at the store, flattened them out, and put them on the ground around his plants as a mulch—and the results were excellent.

Many vegetables, flowers, small fruits and shrubs are good subjects for mulching. Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants and cucumbers may be mulched with straw, leaves or paper. Azaleas, camellias and blueberries which desire an acid soil may be mulched with sawdust, leaf mold or peat. Red raspberries, dewberries and grapes may be mulched with straw or strawy manure.

In all cases the mulch should be applied after the soil has been well moistened by rain or irrigation. If fertilizer is necessary it also should be applied before the mulch is laid down.

You will find that in small gardens a mulch will help solve many of your cultural problems.

August is the month to plant many of our cool season crops for the fall garden. In the extreme eastern portion of the state even such crops as Irish potatoes and tomatoes (plants) may still be planted for a late fall crop with a fair chance of having something to eat. In other sections of the state it would be too late for them.

Turnips, rutabagas, mustard, lettuce, tendergreen, broccoli, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, snap beans, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, collards, peas, onions, shallots, spinach, radishes and kale are some of the crops that may be planted in August with safety. A number of this list may be planted as late as September. Of course the key to success is sufficient moisture and fertility to bring about rapid growth. That, along with proper control of insects, will give you quality which is as necessary for the home garden as for the commercial grower.

I would like to especially urge you to try kohlrabi. The edible portion of

kohlrabi is the swollen stem which forms just above the ground and resembles a turnip in shape and taste. However, it is much milder than turnip in flavor and of higher quality, if grown rapidly.

Another good fall crop is Chinese cabbage. This is not a true cabbage but rather a mustard although it forms a head. The variety "Wong Bok" forms a short compact head while the "Chihili" variety forms a tall slender head. They may be used in raw salads or may be cooked.

Head lettuce does not usually head up well in the fall but may be grown for its leaves, or the regular leaf lettuce should give good results. A good variety is the new one, "Salad Bowl."

A friend should be one in whose understanding and virtue we can equally confide, and whose opinion we can value at once for its justness and honesty.

—Robert Hall.

Vic Vet says

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—Payson.

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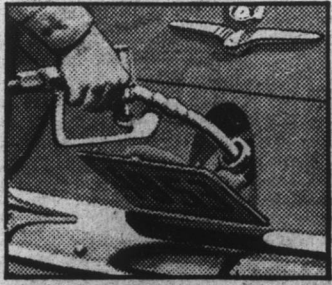
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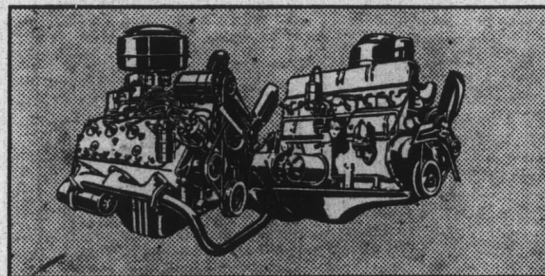
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