



by Ellen S. Willis
Home Economics Extension Agent

Schedule
Thursday, August 12, 1982, 2:30 p.m. - Allendale-Antioch Extension Homemakers Club Meeting.

Control Mildew

If you've noticed brownish spots on your drapery linings or greenish film on your suede shoes, you may have mildew in your house. What can you do about it?

One thing is to try to control it before it gets worse. To do that you need to understand those molds need moisture and warm temperatures to grow. So you might want to check for too much moisture in the crawl space under your house. You can eliminate some of this

moisture by covering the crawl space with four-mil polyethylene plastic. And don't forget to open the foundation vents for increased ventilation. Then, if you don't have an air conditioner, use a dehumidifier to reduce moisture levels in your home. You can keep closets dry by burning an electric light. Or you could use chemicals such as silica gel, activated alumina or calcium chloride, in your closets.

If mildew already has a hold, clean painted surfaces by scrubbing them with an alkaline solution. To make this solution, use four to six tablespoons of washing soda or trisodium phosphate and one cup of chlorine bleach to one gallon of water. Again, that's four to six

tablespoons of washing soda or trisodium phosphate and one cup of chlorine bleach to one gallon of water.

Apply this solution to the painted surface with a sponge or mop. Leave it on 20 to 30 minutes. Rinse with clear water. Allow the surface to dry thoroughly.

Backyard Fence Adds to Property Value

Building a fence in the backyard will probably add more to the resale value of a home than the planting of trees -- especially if you plan to move within the next five years.

Now that doesn't mean that you shouldn't plant trees for property

owners to enjoy 10 to 20 years from now. But it does mean you can count on recovering at least part of the cost of a fence when your home goes on the market.

If a fence is part of your home improvement plan, shop around. Look for one that will fit your budget, your expectations for function and the character of your home. Chances are you'll find two broad categories to choose from -- wood or chain-link.

If a wood fence is your choice, the alternatives are many. Some are see-through; some are not. Wood fences can give a feeling of ruggedness, with the powerful lines of a rail fence -- or they can offer the home-sweet-home appeal of a white

picket fence.

If a wood fence fits your needs, don't paint that wood. Instead use an oil-based stain. It will last longer than paint and it won't peel and leave you with a lot of repainting problems.

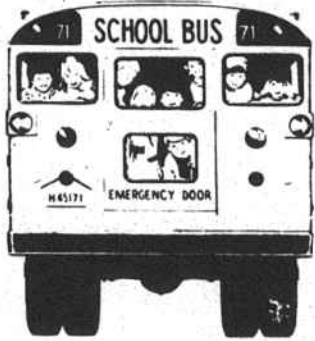
As I mentioned, the other most common choice is the chain-link fence. It's economical, nearly maintenance-free and is efficient at keeping people, animals and objects in or out.

But the chain link fence is not especially pretty and it doesn't offer much privacy.

No matter what your choice, be sure to check on local zoning requirements or building codes.

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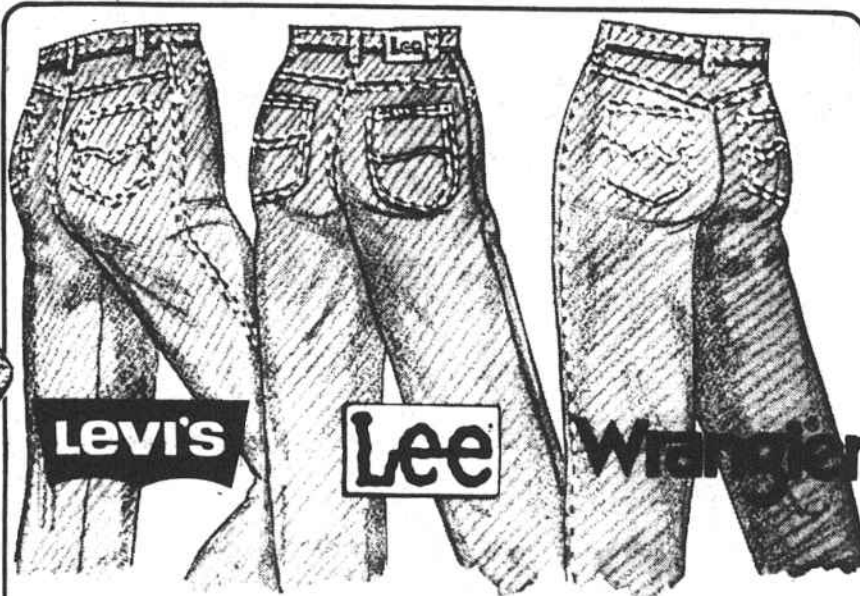


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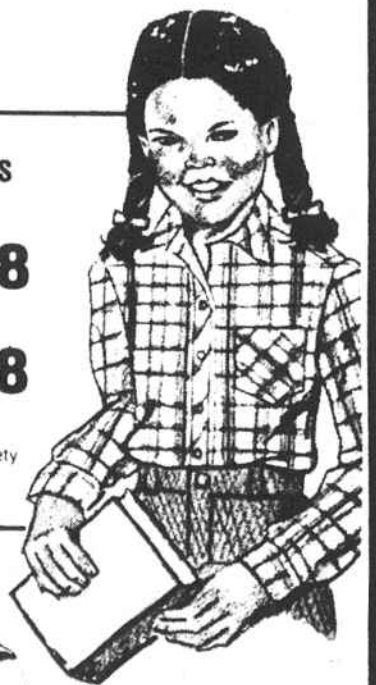
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