

Autumn lawn and garden hints provided

Remember, last quarter of the moon is Oct. 28.
Late summer drought has put great strains on lawns, causing the spread of brown patch in established fescue lawns, even though this condition is usually associated with humid weather.

Check with your county agent on the general condition of your soil. He can recommend proper fungicides for your particular problem.
In the meantime, observe these rules for lawn care suggested by N. C. State horticulturists:
Maintain proper soil pH
Supply low levels of nitrogen in summer
Provide infrequent but thorough irrigation
Mow on a regular schedule
Fertilize in the fall
The following is a list of things you should be sure to do during the fourth week in October.
• Cut faded chrysanthemum plants down to about four inches and mulch lightly.
• Dig dahlias. Store clumps upside down in a cool dry place.

• Many poisonous plants have developed seeds or pods by now. Keep curious children away from pivets, mistletoe, castor beans, yews and wisteria.
• Hollies are prone to harbor scale insects. Readers have asked what to do about them, and right now folks, not much.
But early next spring, start spraying with a graden type oil spray once the temperature gets to 45 degrees and stays there.
We should currently be interested in keeping these pests away from our houseplants, now that they are inside. Check sheffleras and jade plants in particular. Use an old toothbrush dipped in soapy water, brushing the white scaly armour off

with gentle strokes.
Keep checking during the winter as leaves which turn pale and die indicate that the strength of the plant is being sapped.
• A good substitute for the lovely and popular ficus inside your home could be a palm. Obviously many are far too big for a living area — but wait — there are two you can try: the pygmy palm will eventually get to 12 feet in height, but that's years from now, so go ahead and enjoy one.
The parlor palm is a good choice, as it will grow rapidly, but only to about eight feet.
Pygmy palms like diffused light, preferring an east window if possible. Parlor palms will tolerate a dimmer situation.

N. C. horticulturists suggest using a potting soil of one part peat, one part garden soil (sterilized in the oven) and one part sand. I'm not into cooking dirt, so I tried potting soil with a generous lacing of sand, and it

did fine.
The only requirements outside of really being wanted would be to keep the palm on the warm side, sponge its leave regularly to eradicate dust, and let dry out a bit before watering.

BEYOND THE WEEDS
by Jean Winslow



If you can spot webby lesions on grass blades after dew or rainfall you need to correct a few mistakes.

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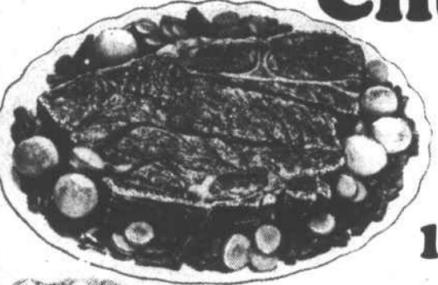
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