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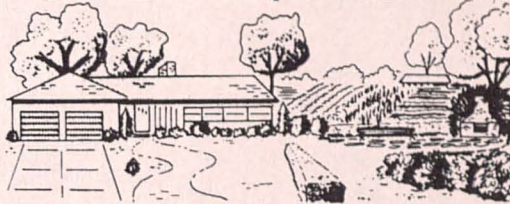
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Yard 'n' Garden

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DIVIDING IRIS

August is the month to divide the iris or to plant new varieties. Old clumps of iris which have been growing in the same place for many years should be divided and transplanted. Rejuvenation will result in more and better flowers.

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Use a spading fork to lift the old clumps. To avoid breaking the roots, loosen the soil around the clump. Turn the clump upside down and wash the soil from it with a hard stream of water. Examine the old clumps for evidence of disease or insects and discard all plant parts showing symptoms.

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The portion of the rhizome with the leaf attachment is the newly formed root and will flower next spring. Cut the foliage to 6 inches.

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For planting, dig a trench 3 to 4 inches deep and 8 inches wide. In the bottom of the trench make a small mound or saddle. Set the iris rhizome on the ridge and spread the roots into the trench. Cover the roots and rhizome with soil to a depth of 3 inches.

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