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YARD 'N' GARDEN



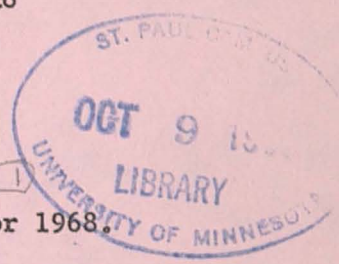
EXTENSION
HORTICULTURISTS

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Note to Editors: This is the last "Yard 'N' Garden" release for 1968.



BUILDING SKATING RINKS ON YOUR LAWN

With a little care and precaution, you can have a successful skating rink in your landscape. But there's always a chance that the grass may suffocate during the winter season. It's not thoroughly understood whether this occurs at the beginning or at the end of the season. So certain precautions are necessary in order to reduce the risk of losing the grass.

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For the greatest degree of protection, a plastic film is recommended over the grass first. The plastics are available from many different sources and are usually quite reasonable in cost.

A level area should be selected in your landscape so that a minimum amount of water is necessary to evenly flood the skating rink. Also, you should be sure to have a place to drain off the excess water when thawing begins next spring. Leaving the water and plastic on the grass when temperatures begin to warm up in the spring can be dangerous.

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A ridge around the outer perimeter of the ice rink can be made by laying down wooden 2 x 4's or by lifting up the edge of the plastic and putting a rim of snow to hold the water in place.

The ice should be built up gradually rather than flooding too deeply at one time. This way defects in the ice can be corrected and you won't affect the immediate soil temperature under the plastic at the time the water is applied.

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It's also advisable to keep a buffer zone of snow around the skating rink to reduce injury to the grass by walking on it while it's frozen.

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