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YARD 'N' GARDEN



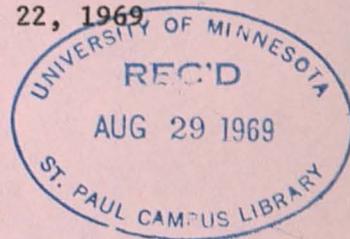
EXTENSION
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SOIL PREPARATION

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Fall is a good time to renovate the flower garden soil since many garden flowers are either dormant or have completed their vegetative growth for the year. This makes it possible to remove them temporarily from the garden area, renovate the soil and then replace them.

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A soil test can help analyze soil problems that may have occurred during the growing season. The soil test can give you an analysis of the phosphorous and potassium content and some idea of organic contents. With this background it's possible to adjust nutrients to appropriate levels for the flower garden.

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Organic matter should be added to most flower garden soils. Tilth is an important part of culture and by adding organic matter you can loosen up some of the basically difficult soils and make them more workable. One wheelbarrow full of organic matter to a 5 foot square is a generous application. Along with the organic matter use a complete fertilizer such as a 12-12-12 at the rate of about 4 to 5 pounds per 100 square feet of garden area. Work all material into the soil before replacing the plant.

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Check plants to be sure they're free of disease and insects. Discard plantings that are in poor condition and don't re-establish them in the flower garden area. After the plants have been reset, water them in thoroughly so they'll begin the growth process and become rooted for the winter.

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Put on winter protection for the season after renovation. Winter protection should be put on after there have been some hard freezes, but before the ground is frozen deeply.

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