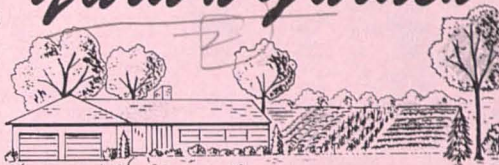


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Yard 'n' Garden

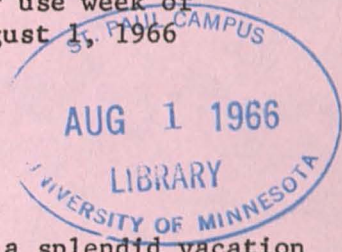


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VACATION GARDEN TIPS

There's no greater disappointment than to return home from a splendid vacation only to find that the garden is overgrown with weeds, the flowers are ravaged by diseases and insects and the lawn parched from lack of water. A few precautions taken before leaving on vacation will help to give the appearance of good grooming to the yard. Here are some suggestions for conserving moisture, preventing weeds and keeping insects and diseases in check.

* * * *

A summer mulch carefully spread over the surface of the flower garden will help not only to conserve moisture and preserve the flowers but also to control the weeds. The mulch should be placed over the surface to a depth of about 2 inches. Such materials as well rotted barnyard manure, compost, buckwheat hulls and commercial peat can be used for this purpose. It's a good idea to weed the garden thoroughly and to fertilize lightly before applying the summer mulch. After the mulch is in place, water the garden thoroughly so the mulch is well soaked.

* * * *

Though this is the time for crabgrass to go to seed, the only suggestion is to eliminate the seeding as much as possible by picking up the clippings. Remember that the most effective way to control crabgrass will be to apply a pre-emergent type crabgrass killer next spring.

* * * *

Use a good all-purpose spray or dust for insect and disease control. For additional protection use a miticide such as Ovex, Aramite, Tedion or Kelthane.

If flowers are in full bloom, it is a good idea before you leave to remove any of the fully mature flowers as well as those that are past their peak of bloom.

* * * *

If you are going to be gone longer than 2 weeks, have someone come in to supplement the watering if rainfall is less than 1 inch. In fact, if you plan to be gone more than a week, it's well to have someone water the lawn. Have the hoses and sprinklers located in a convenient place so that they can be easily used.

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