

Create your own version of paradise by gardening

Voltaire concludes his renowned didactic novel *Candide* by having his hero state the opinion that, despite the upheavals in the world outside, "we must cultivate our own garden."

And, based on experience, *Candide* should know. Beginning his adventures ingeniously believing that "all was for the best in the best of all possible worlds," involvement in an amazing series of cataclysms, from a shipwreck to the Spanish Inquisition to the 1755 earthquake in Lisbon, eventually drove *Candide* back to his own private piece of turf, and to the peace and fulfillment which tending it offered.

Like *Candide*, those of us who observe turmoil in the world around often turn eagerly to our gardens for the relaxation, reassurance and even comfort that only tiring manual labor can bring.

What makes gardening especially a labor of love is that it bears fruit, often quite literally, soothes eye and soul with the glories of flowers grown from seed, pleases the nose with the fragrance of fresh herbs, and rewards the palate with tomatoes, apples, raspberries and a myriad of other edibles.

A reaffirmation of the life principle, visible confirmation that the barrenness of winter is followed inevitably by the fecundity of spring, gardening is also an opportunity to escape into a paradise of one's own creation.

And, what could be more appropriate, considering that the very first Paradise known to mankind, Eden, was a garden.

Perhaps all the weeding and digging, the pruning and planting, is an attempt to return there.

Certainly, the children of the sixties, the hippies, took the phrase "back to the garden" as their slogan.

Whatever their other aims may have been, one of their most cherished goals—still valid almost 20 years later—was to simplify life and restore the basic, real values, of which the love of and respect for the integrity of nature was paramount.

Today, more Americans than ever be-

fore are gardening, growing their own vegetables, and filling their houses with the overflow from their flower beds.

Apartment dwellers are learning to use windowboxes and windowsills to capitalize even on the limited sunlight which penetrates through the manmade valleys of skyscrapers.

Homeowners are using backyards large and small to pursue their own visions of paradise—from lush English-style gardens, exuberantly colorful, to regal topiaries reminiscent of the Renaissance, from serene rock gardens which borrow inspiration from the Orient to countrified kitchen gardens where a profusion of flowers, vegetables and herbs, combined with abandon, provides a dazzling, yet homey display as fragrant as it is colorful.

Nor are the changes in America's gardening habits confined to the plants that are being grown.

Time and effort—and, often, a considerable amount of money—are expended in order to provide an appropriate framework for the plantings, which is in itself a pleasure to behold.

Wood picket fences, many painted white, or natural fences of shrubbery, replace sterile chain links. Arbors wreathed with roses or cascading with grapes are appealing additions, and brick or cobbled paths lead through the carefully-tended precincts—a world in themselves—where time is told on a sundial.

Patching holes in wallboard or plaster

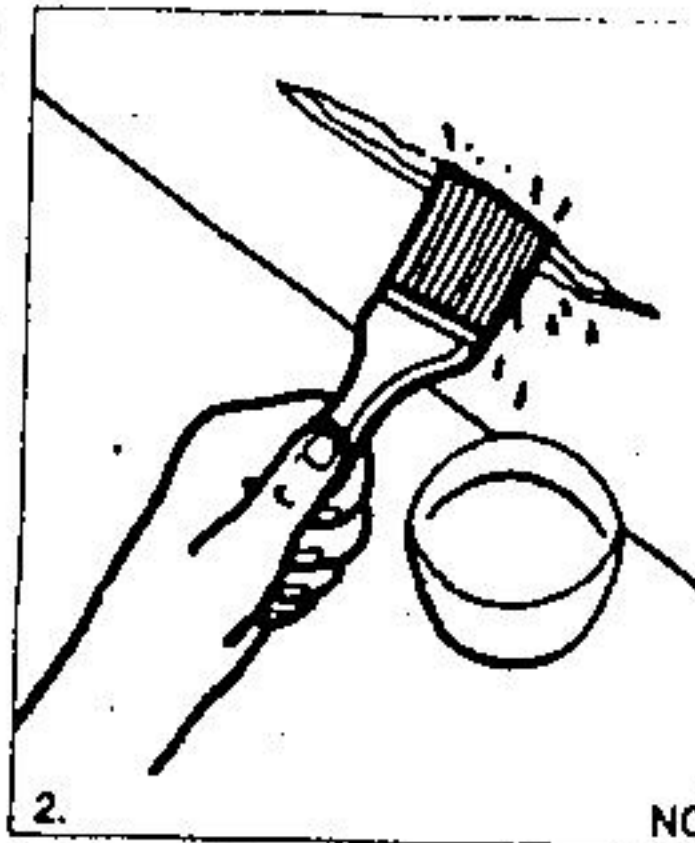
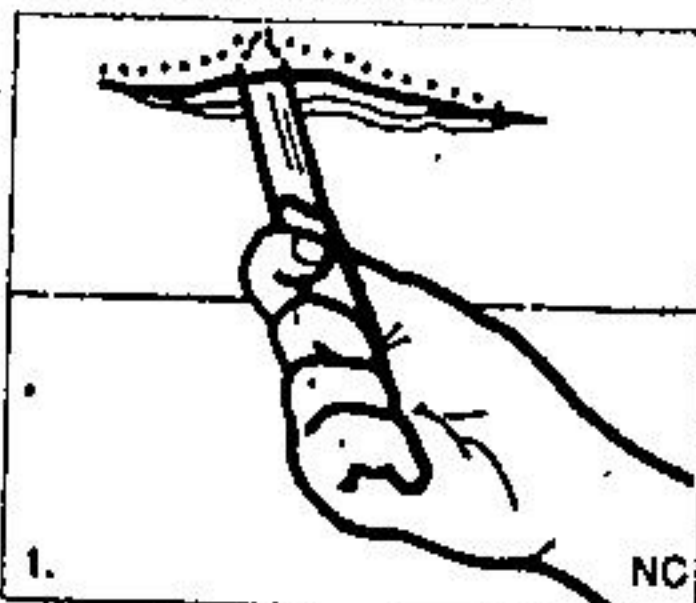
(NC)—Holes or cracks in walls are unsightly. Air moisture may soften wallboard or plaster around holes and they will get bigger unless you fix them. Dust or plaster may also fall out, making your home dirty and unhealthy.



You will Need

- one of the two types of patching compound; (convenient for small jobs but more expensive, it can be bought as a powder or ready mixed), or patching plaster (which can be bought in larger packages and costs less). Both compounds need to be mixed with water.
- putty knife
- sandpaper - medium grit
- old cloth or paint brush

1. Remove any loose plaster. With a knife, scrape out plaster from the back edges of the crack until the back of the crack is wider than the front.

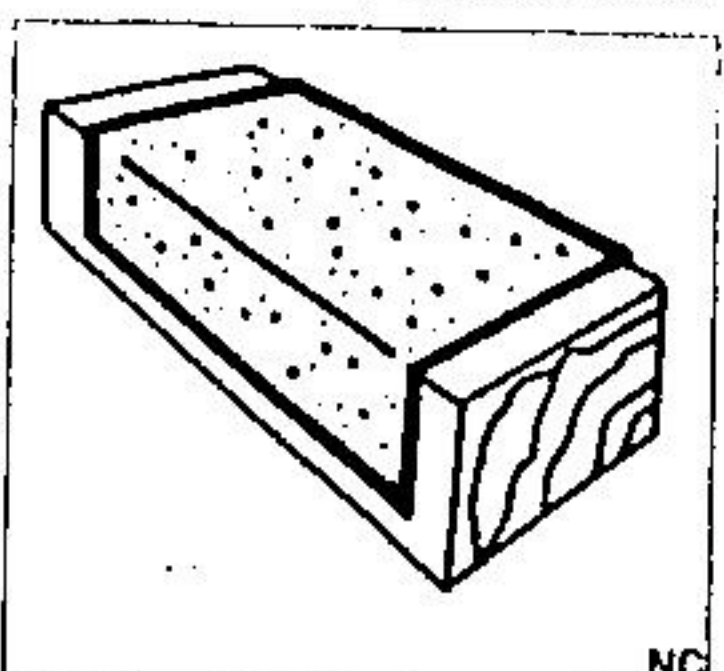


2. Thoroughly dampen the surface of the crack with a wet cloth or paint brush.

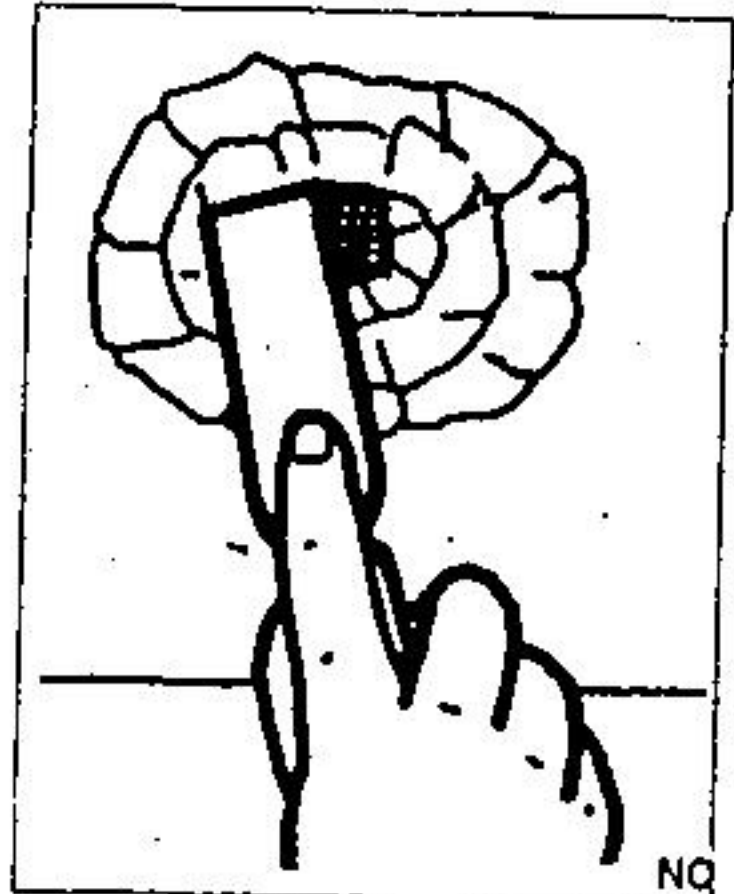
3. Prepare patching compound according to directions on the package. Mix only a small amount the first time.

4. If the hole is small, you can fill it right up with the patching compound. Be sure to press the mixture in until it completely fills the hole. Smooth the surface with a putty knife.

After patch has dried, sand it smooth. Wrap the sandpaper around a small block of wood. This makes the surface



5. Larger holes or cracks should be filled bit by bit. First, partly fill the hole with patching mixture. Let the patch dry. This gives a base for the final fill. Add a second batch of compound, pressing in well on top of the first layer. Let dry. Sand until smooth.



6. You may need to fill very large holes with newspaper first. Crumple up sheets of newspaper and stuff into hole. Start patching with the patching compound by working in from the sides of the hole. Let the first bit dry. Apply a new layer around the new edge and, again, let dry. Repeat until the hole is filled.

After the patch has dried, sand until smooth.

Note: If your walls have a textured surface, do not sand the patch smooth. You can make the patch match the texture of your walls while it is still wet by rubbing or patting it gently with a sponge or comb.

For more information, write CMHC, 682 Montreal Road, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0P7

Gardening Sale!

WILDFLOWER SEED MIXTURES

Select from:

- Eastern Canadian Blend
- Midwestern Canadian Blend
- Rocky Mountain Blend
- Canadian Wildflower Blend

(Contains approximately 50 different species)

\$1.00 Per Package

Package contains approx. 1000 seeds

SOW NOW TO CREATE YOUR OWN WILDFLOWER MEADOW

Cultural Directions Available

GREAT SELECTION OF PERENNIAL PLANTS

Choose from: Daylilies, Iris, Delphinium, Peonies, Camellions, Hardy Geraniums, Coral Bells, Phlox, Gasplant, Columbine, Asters, Woodland Plants and many, many more (close to 100 different types).

4 in. pot (with variety label) - \$2.15 EACH

Any 5 for **\$10.50**

MIX or MATCH Any 10 For \$19.95

WATCH FOR OUR ANNUAL FLOWERS, VEGETABLES AND HERB BOX PLANTS ARRIVING IN MAY!

Protect Your Early Sown Crops From Cold Weather With Quest Select

GREENHOUSE TUNNEL

8 in. High, 8 in. Wide — Covers a Row — 13 Ft. Long

Reg. \$5.49

SPECIAL \$4.79

LIMIT UNTIL MAY 7/1988

BEGONIA BULB SELECTION

FINAL CLEAROUT PRICES

Save Up To **50%** On Our Catalogue Prices

GLADIOLI BULBS

Over 75-Varieties To Choose From. Easily Grown For a Riot of Colour.

ONLY 15¢ EACH

DOMINION SEED HOUSE
COUNTRY GARDEN CENTRE

Corner of Guelph St. & Maple Ave.

877-2460

HOURS — Mon., Tues., Wed. & Sat.
8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Thurs. & Fri.
8:00 a.m.-9:00 p.m.