

Home & GARDEN

Simple preparation steps for winter's arrival

(MS) -- Homeowners have many preparatory steps to take in anticipation of winter's arrival. Weatherproofing the deck, taking in the patio set and making sure the snowblower works should all be done before the temperature starts to drop. However, maintaining the comfort of your home interior should be a top priority. Winter weather can pack a nasty punch in most areas, and you don't want to feel the brunt indoors.

Here's a winter-prep checklist, courtesy of Northwest

Manufacturing, so you can head off potential winter woes:

*** Inspect the roof:** You want to ensure protection overhead. Even a sound roof can leak if certain conditions exist. Clogged gutters and downspouts, ice buildup and flashing wear around chimneys can cause water to seep in. Clean out gutters regularly. Insulate your attic so warm interior air doesn't cause the snow on your roof to melt and refreeze into an icy mess.

*** Assess your heating needs:** No homeowner wants to be

stuck without heat when two-foot snowdrifts blanket the ground. If your heating system is not up to par, consider making the necessary repairs or changes. A woodburning stove is a viable option for many homeowners. In most areas, wood fuel is more cost-effective than other types of fuel, such as oil or propane. Used alone as your main heating source or in conjunction with your existing system, a furnace provides high efficiency and consistent heating for most of the year.

Many woodburning products are located in the home and may compromise living space and make a mess indoors. However, the WoodMaster Outdoor Wood Burning Furnace from Northwest Manufacturing (www.woodmaster.com or 1-800-932-3629) is a self-standing unit that resides outdoors. The furnace warms water to its optimal heating temperature, which is constantly maintained by automatic controls. The heated water is then piped throughout the home and is easily integrated into your existing heating system. The product boasts minimal creosote buildup, fast cleanup and a heat-baffled round design.

When using a woodburning appliance, be sure to order wood early in the season so you'll be sure it is dry and ready for use. If you burn your own wood, you can heat for free.



Rescue My Bathroom Contest

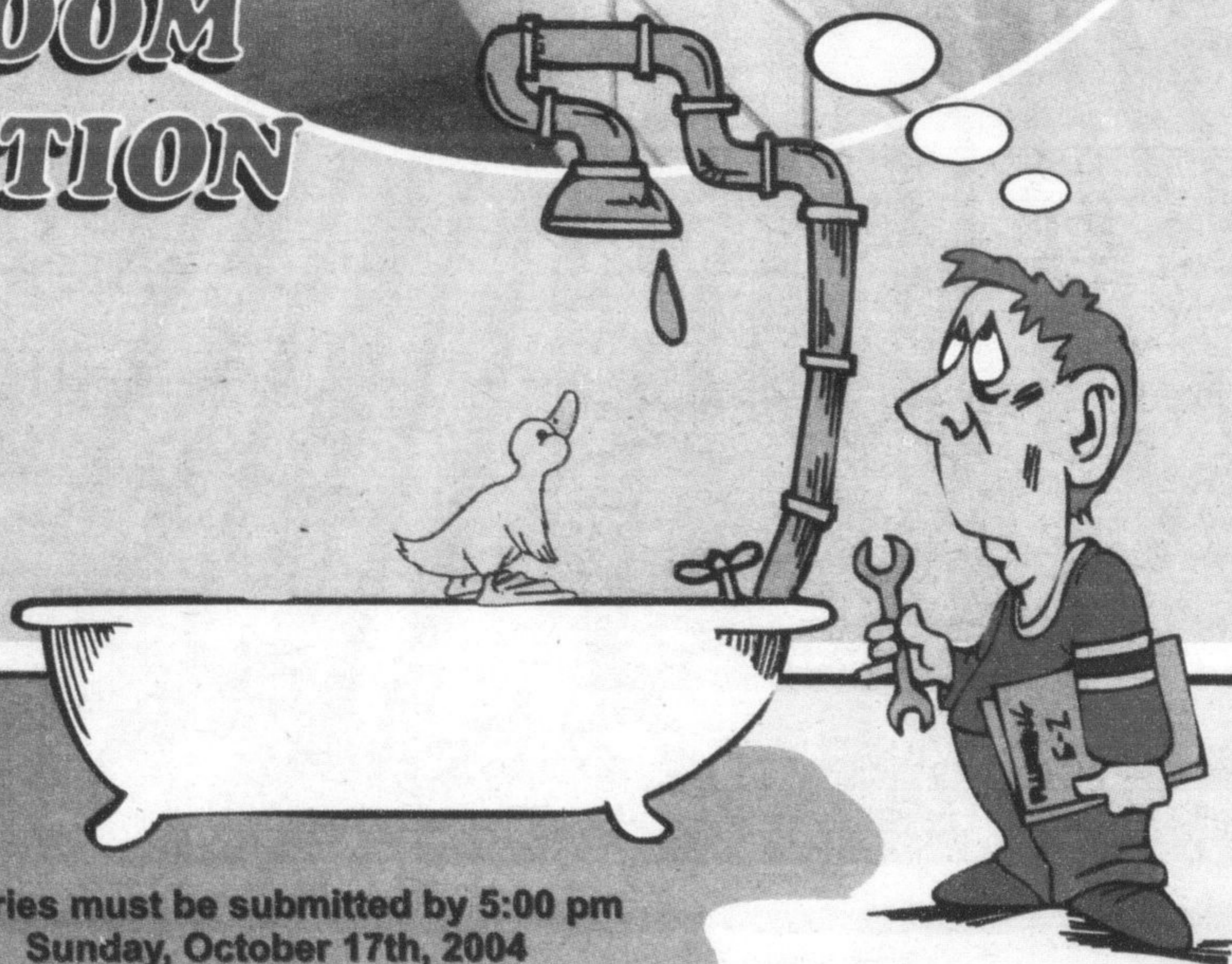
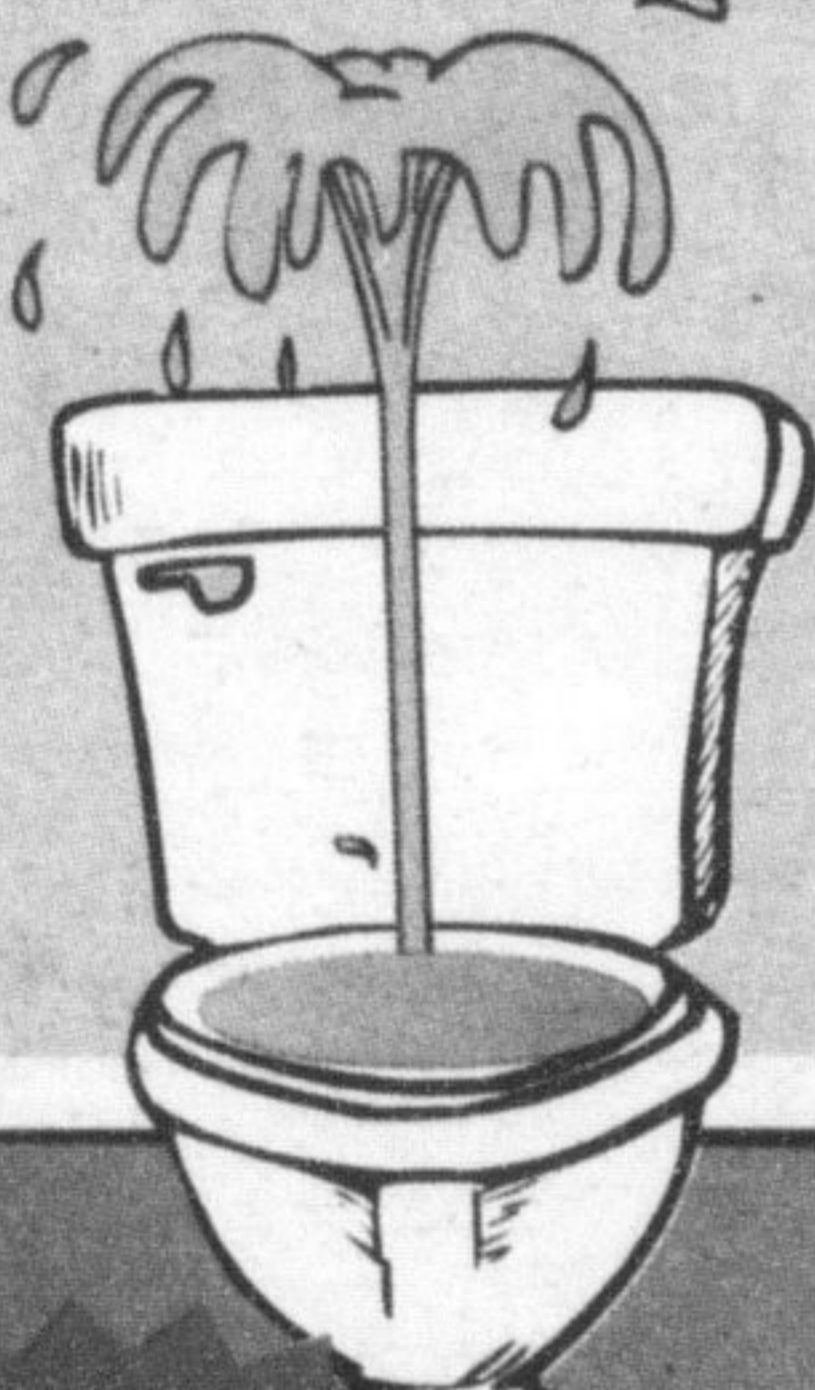
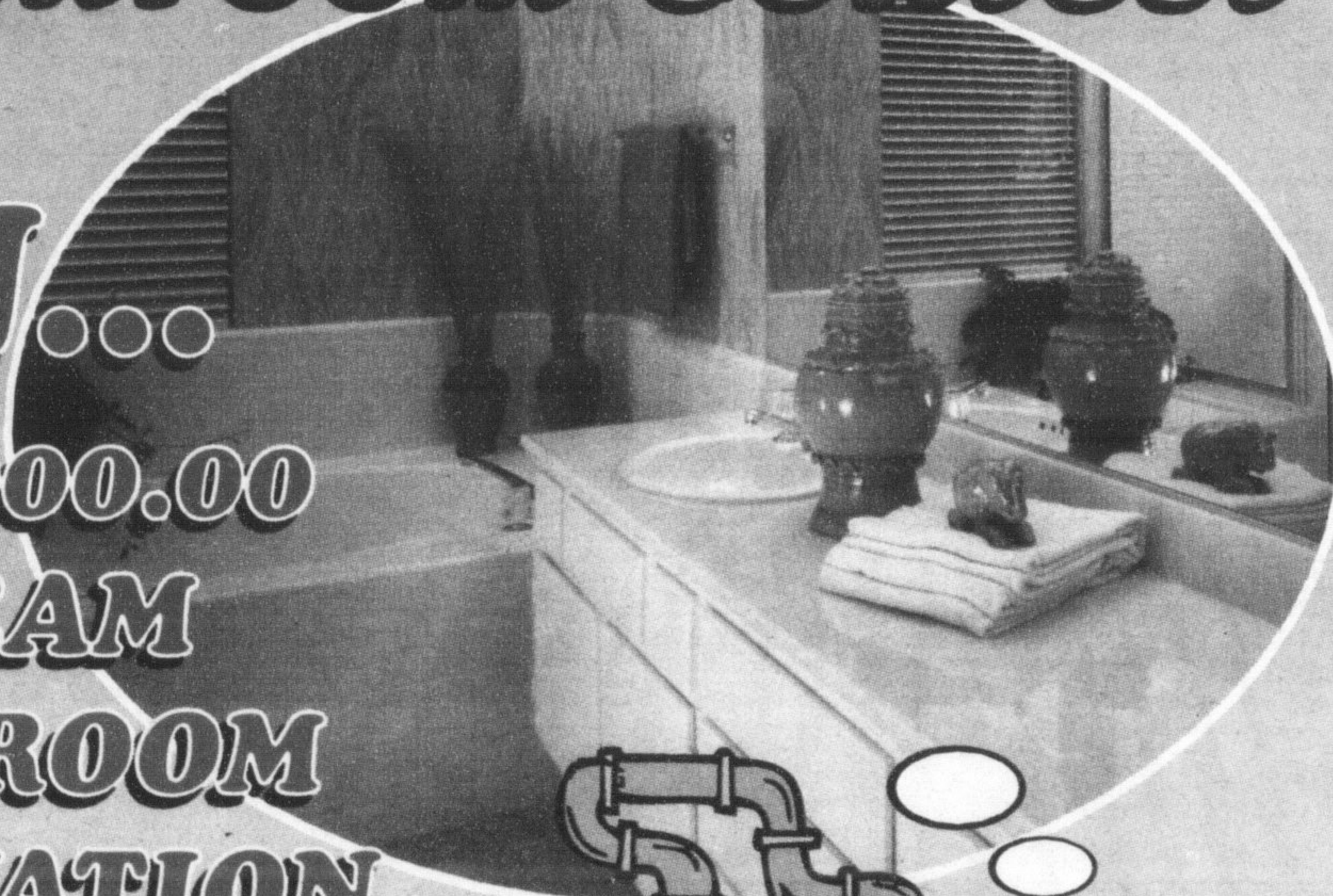
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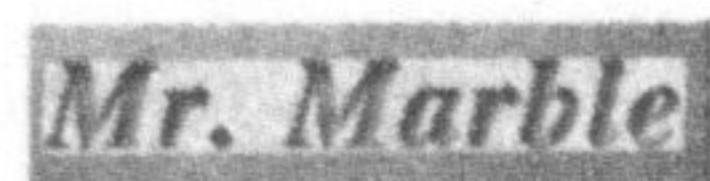
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RENOVATION



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Entries must be submitted by 5:00 pm Sunday, October 17th, 2004



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TERRA Trends GREENHOUSES

Fall Into Perennials

Just because autumn is here doesn't mean your perennial garden is finished for the season. Fall is a great time of year to fill in some holes and add some fall interest to the garden. The fall perennial is the subject of this week's TERRA Trend.

There are a number of great perennials for fall. Sedums, Turtle Head and Russian Sage are a few of them but the most sought after perennials for the fall garden are ornamental grasses. Grasses add a great deal of colour, structure and texture to the fall and winter garden. They are easy to maintain, most are drought tolerant and grasses are best pruned back in the spring.

Go outside and check your garden for the perfect space for a fall addition and stop by one of our garden centres this week to check out the selection of fall perennials. Remember there is still plenty of time to plant.

Listen to



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