

HOME, LAWN & GARDEN

Help your lawn thrive next spring

(NC)—As the cooler temperatures roll in it's time to get your lawn and garden ready for the winter months ahead. Take the time now to protect your yard and you will be rewarded with a lush, beautiful and weed resistant lawn and garden in the spring.

Start by removing any debris and leaves off your lawn before your final cut. Your lawn should be put to bed at the same height it is maintained during the summer - around 2.5 inches long.

Keeping your grass clippings on the lawn will also help return at least 25 per cent of the turf's nitrogen back into the soil. Aerating your lawn will help create passageways for essential nutrients and worms that contribute valuable microorganisms to your soil.

"You can help your lawn grow thick and strong in the spring by overseeding in the fall," explains Scotts lawn care expert Scott MacDonald, "Cool nights,



more rainfall and heavier dew in the fall provide the ideal conditions to repair damage caused by the hot, dry summer."

Bare spots are best repaired by using an all-in-one product, such as Scotts Patch Master lawn repair, which combines grass seed, starter fertilizer and mulch all in a bag for ease of application.

One of the most essential things to do in the fall is to fer-

tilize. Many people do not realize that fall fertilizing is the most important application because it gives your lawn the nutrients it needs to stay healthy. Winter care fertilizers energize turf, producing a strong and healthy root system and ensure they emerge greener than ever in the spring. After your last cut of the year, a fall feeding provides the nutrients your lawn needs to withstand the harshest weather.

Winter care fall lawn fertilizer provides the best ratio of nitrogen, phosphorous and potassium (N-P-K).

The fall is also a great time to prepare your garden for the winter ahead. Remove any debris, diseased foliage and weeds, plant flower bulbs now that will provide welcome blooms at the first hint of spring. Plant bulbs with bone meal using something like Miracle-Gro Organic

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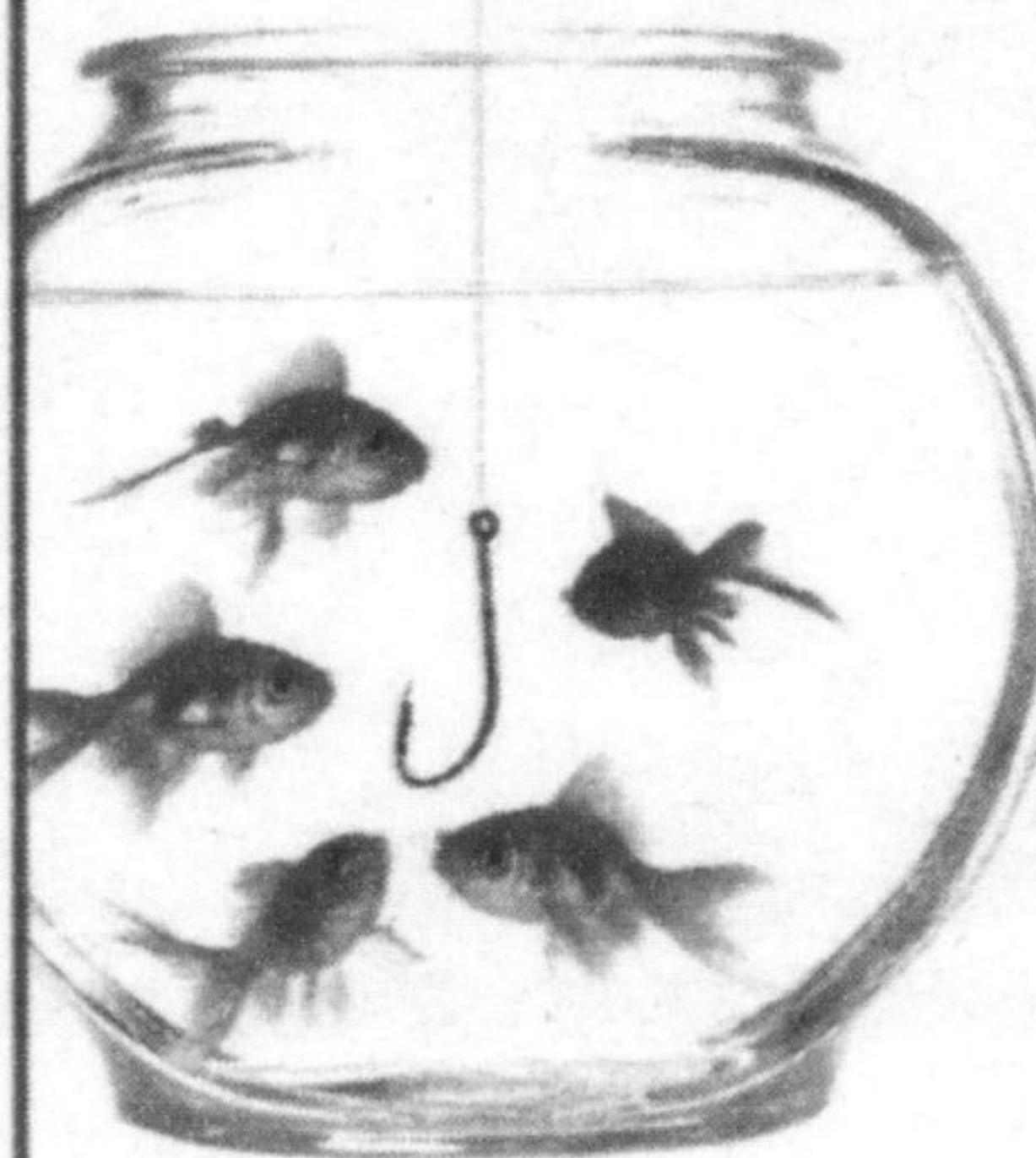
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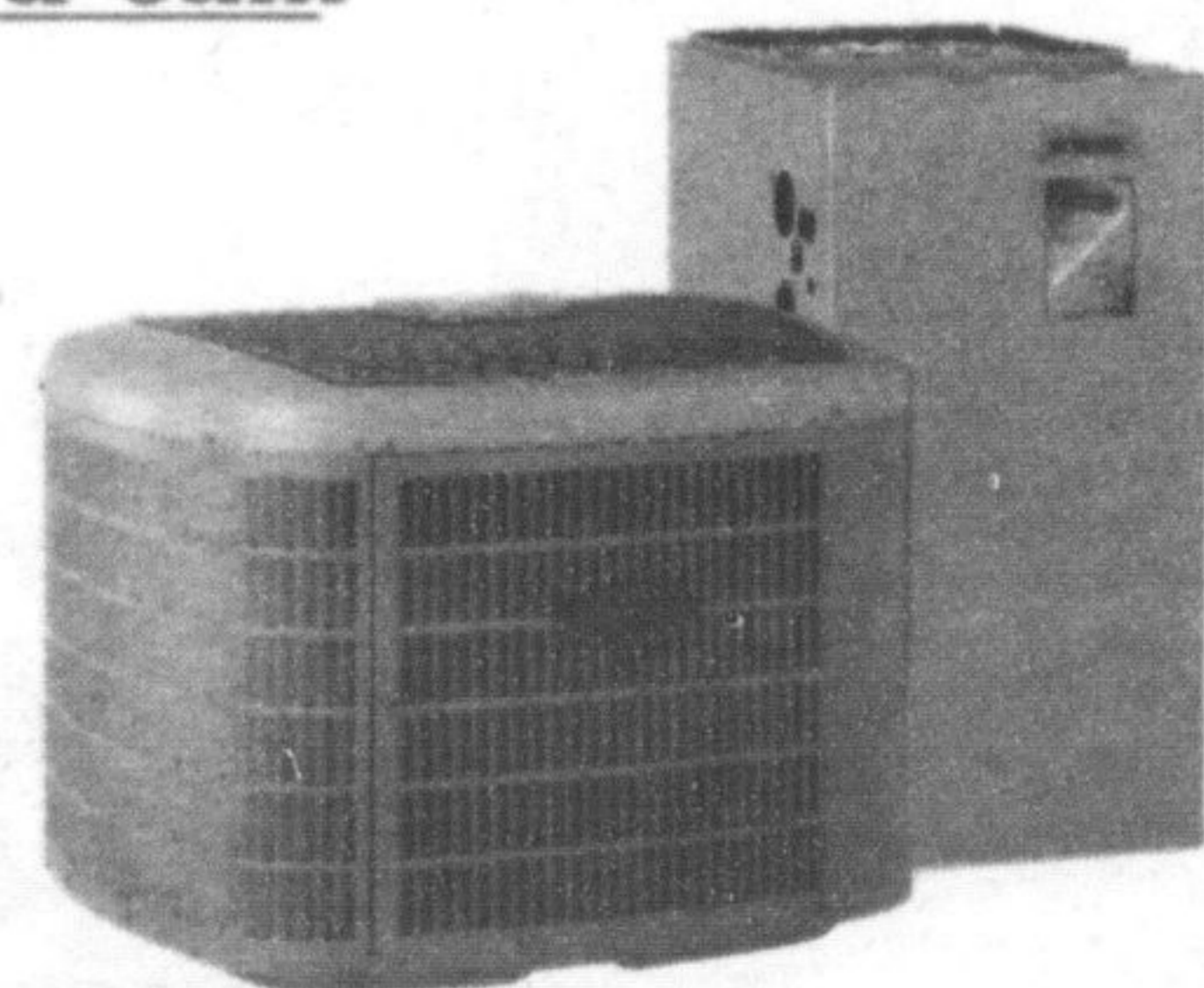
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Choice bone meal to promote healthy plants and bigger spring blooms. Most perennials, shrubs and trees benefit from fall planting, giving them time to anchor and establish new roots. Be sure to add a two to three inch layer of mulch to new plants and rake leaves onto flowerbeds and around shrubs and bushes to create a warm blanket to protect plants against severe cold. Finally, don't forget to thoroughly clean your gardening tools and sharpen your mower so you're ready as soon as spring arrives.

To speak with a Scotts expert on lawn care call 1-866-436-7645. For a Scotts Garden expert call 1-866-436-8477 or visit www.Scotts.ca.

- News Canada