How does your garden grow?

I was away last week, visiting with the family during the warm weather, and noticed their grass is much greener, their daffodils are in full splendor, some early tulips are out and their spring is generally more advanced than ours.

However, I came home with one of gardenings most innovative contributions since the hoe, buzzing in my head and have decided to share it with you, because not only have I struggled with this particular problem, but surely the whole nation has at one time or another.

Mother had been away in the fall when all the leaves fell, and then away again early this spring, returning to find leaves in four-foot drifts in some parts of the yard ad just be gan to attack them last week. My sister and I came upon her one afternoon tackling this problem and were amazed with her industry and achievement in less then an hour

First of all, how many of you have struggled alone with leaves and black plastic bags and tried to fill those bags by yourself, without losing your cool and keeping your blood pressure at its normal rate. I know how it is and is usually a futile struggle. But not for Mom, for she has devised a marvelous invention. As she told us, she struggled with the first bag and decided there must be a better way, thereby disappearing into the house, emerging with a coat hanger, which she fitted around the opening of the bag, but decided the opening was too small

Back to the drawing or cellar emerging this time with an old wire sock stretcher, which she immediately made into a hoop by putting one foot on it and pulling. When she fitted the bag around the hoop she decided it was the correct size and to hold the affir together. clothespins were clamped around the hoop. Now much to Mom's advantage, she had a good strong wind, and by holding the bag into the wind, it billowed out much as a windsock at an airport would, therefore holding the bag in the correct position to fill. Holding the bag with one hand, Mom began to rake or scoop with the other and with the aid of the wind which literally blew the leaves into the bag she had over a dozen bags filled in record time.

When we pulled into the drive, she met us and were told about her accomplishments, which we dismissed as being impossible, however, when driving away, I glanced at the East lawn and what I saw nearly made my eyes fall out and arb who was at the wheel almost took us into the nearest hydro pole, for heaped on that lawn was the biggest mound of bags I ever saw It looked like a dump, and there was Mom back at it, having thhe time of her like, having defeated having defeated one of the frustrations in her life. In the process Mother has solved one of my big dilemmas in life too, for it has always been a twoman operation in this household and if you have worked with your husband or wife or kids, tempers are always frayed in no time flat, with snappings and snarlings and hostile thoughts running through your head.

If you don't have stretchers probably two coat hangers twisted together would give you the right size of hoop. doubt if you can find sock stretchers on the market now, what with all the synthetics, so ask around. you might come up with something, needless to say Mother presented me with two sock-stretchers. which are now one of my prized possesions and the family has been told hands off; and the first one to tamper with them will be - Stretched!







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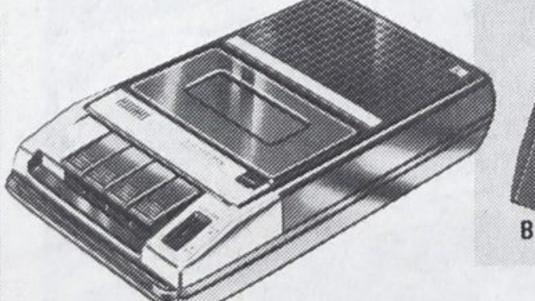
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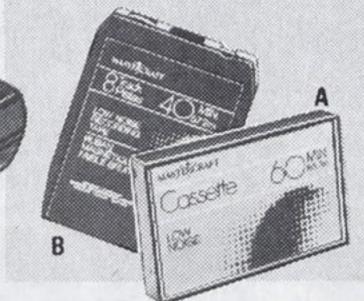
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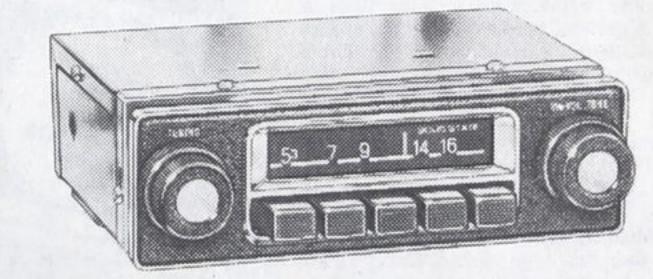
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