

# Manual for home gardener

Waiting for signs of insects or disease on your planting may be too late for effective control, so preventive treatment is a must, according to ministry of agriculture and food publication 64 — "Insect, Disease and Weed Control in the Home Garden."

The 56-page manual contains vital information on pests and disease

## Gardening

control necessary to grow vegetables and fruits, as well as attractive trees, shrubs and flowers.

Emphasis is placed on good cultural practices as

a way of control — time of planting, hoeing, sanitation, crop rotations and plant density — in addition to complete pesticide and fungicide information.

benefit from the section on spray programs for apples, pears, peach, plum and cherry.

If you're having trouble with weeds in lawns and plantings, there's help in this handy book for you, too.

With 52 illustrations to aid in identifying insects and diseases and the

damage caused by both, this book should get you off to a good start in home gardening for 1976.

Write to Information Branch, Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Parliament Buildings, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario M7A 1A5, enclosing a cheque or money order for 50 cents payable to the Treasurer of Ontario.

### Control crabgrass now

Crabgrass is a problem that can spoil a good home lawn by smothering out better grasses during the hot summer months.

A ministry of agriculture and food specialist suggests the best time to control crabgrass is late in April and early in May, before the seedlings appear.

"Crabgrass is a warm weather, annual grass which grows from seed each spring. It can be found in areas of bright sunlight wherever turf is thin. But by using one of the pre-emergent crabgrass killers before the seed is ready to germinate and grow, we can obtain almost 100 per cent control of this annual pest," says horticulturist R.A. Fleming.

He recommends gardeners obtain a brand of crabgrass killer from a local garden center. They are available in both liquid and granular formulations.

Most effective control is obtained by following the rate recommended by the manufacturer.

Cultural methods that ensure a strong and healthy turf will also help to discourage crabgrass. Adequate soil moisture and regular use of fertilizer will keep lawns thick and lush, providing sufficient competition to smother crabgrass.

A lawn should not be cut so closely that it will be weakened. Mowers set at

1½ to 2 inches cutting height is a good recommendation.

By keeping your lawn in good growing condition and using crabgrass killer when needed, you can avoid that crabgrass purple haze on your lawn in August.

The pros and cons of both methods, and their interrelationships, are discussed; there's also information on parasites and predators, the effects of climate, and identification of damage caused by over-fertilizing.

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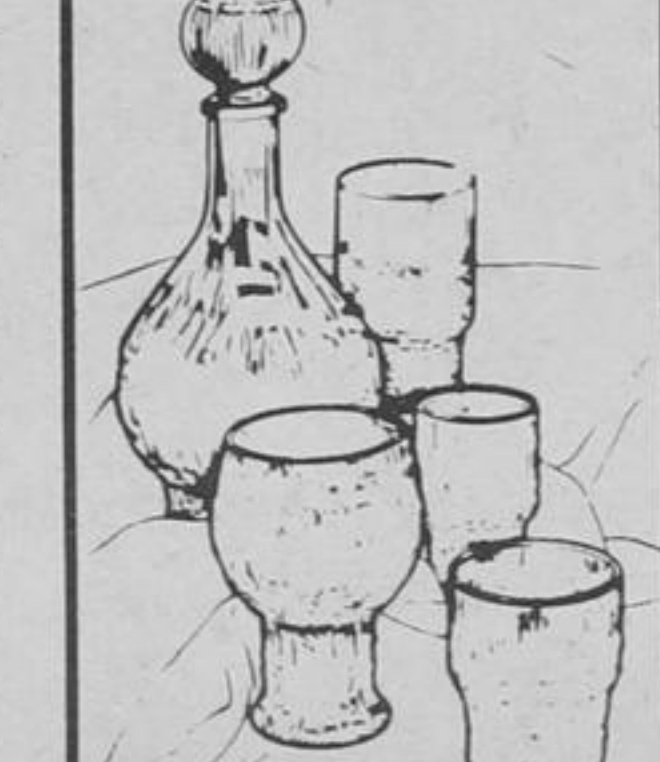
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