

Dear John:



John Deere Answers Your Lawn and Garden Woes

Dear John: I need some flowers to audition for work in a low-budget garden production that doesn't have much light. Any tips?

Dear Garden Director: Impatiens will give a great performance no matter what the working conditions. In fact, their vibrant colors can act their way through most anything. Impatiens steal the show in filtered light with about two hours of full sunlight a day. If that's not possible, they're still a hit without any direct sunlight at all. Impatiens also require less fertilizer than many annuals — too much nitrogen produces lush foliage but few flowers. Impatiens do have one picky clause in their growing contract — they're extremely sensitive to frost and demand shelter if frost is expected.

Dear John: As newlyweds, we're having trouble understanding recipes, much less all the information on a package of grass seed. Can you help?

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Homebody: Reading a seed label is easier if you know what to look for. Each package lists the percentage of grass types found in the mixture. Fine-textured grasses — Kentucky bluegrass or fine fescue or bent grass or bermudagrass are the backbone of a high-quality mix, so you'll want a high percentage of these grass types. "Coarse" grasses, like tall fescues and annual and perennial ryegrass, tend to clump and don't mix well

with other varieties, so they should not total more than 50 percent of the mixture. (The percentage equals the proportion of grass seed by weight, not the number of seeds.)

Look for mixes with weed content listed at less than 1 percent. High-quality seed won't contain any noxious weeds. The "origin" heading on a seed package shows where the seed crop was grown — "nice to know" information that has no bearing on the adaptability of the grass. The germination percentage is the amount of seed that will germinate under ideal conditions — the higher the germination rate, the better the quality of seed. "Inert", or miscellaneous, matter should total less than 3 or 4 percent, and "crop seed" should be as close to zero as possible.

Dear John: What do the numbers on the label of the fertilizer bag mean, and what's a good ratio?

Dear Well-Proportioned: In general, a good lawn fertilizer will have a 3-1-2 ratio of nitrogen to phosphorus to potassium. In the spring and fall use a fertilizer with a high first number (nitrogen). A fertilizer with a high second number (phosphorus) works best if a soil test indicates that it's lacking phosphorus. Always follow label directions and use no more than one pound of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet/100 sq. m. of lawn at each feeding.

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Bidders may tender on any or all locations listed.

Sealed tenders on forms supplied by the Ministry, will be received by the Manager, Administrative Services until 1:30 p.m. local time:

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 1988

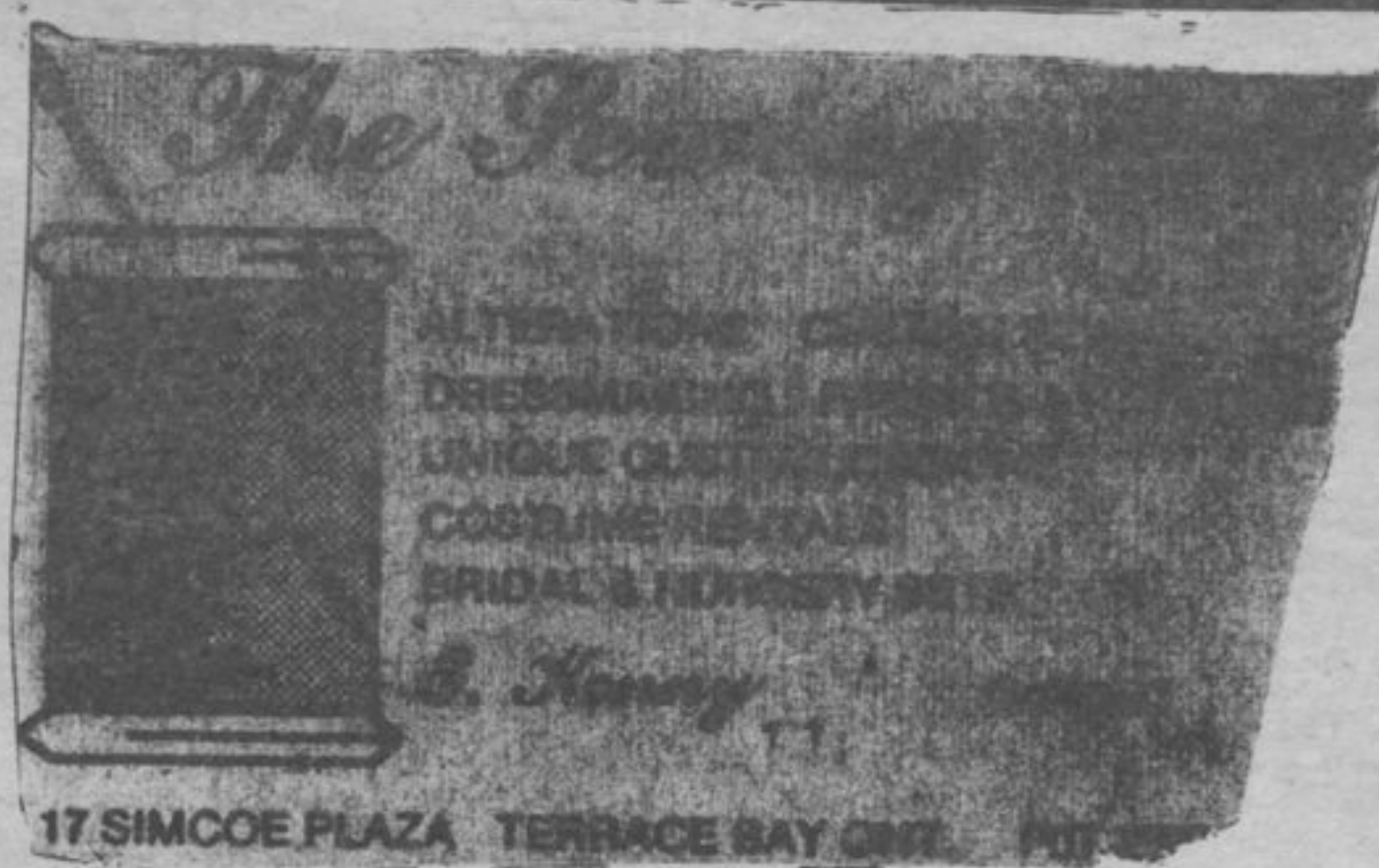
Specifications, tender forms and envelopes may be obtained in person or by mail from, Regional Head, Purchasing and Supply, Walsh at Mountdale Avenue, P.O. Box 1177, Thunder Bay, Ontario P7C 4X9. Telephone 807-577-6451 Ext. 292.

Please specify tender number when requesting forms.

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