

Garden SPECIAL SECTION

'Scalped' spring lawn brings earlier beauty

In most lawns, grass foliage from autumn is pretty well scorched by the end of winter. Having suffered winter attrition, the grass blades are of relatively little food-making value to the plant and can be removed in very early spring without harm to the grass. This is the one time of the year when the lawn can be scalped safely, i.e. be mowed very low, almost to the crown of the plant. If the lawn were scalped in growing weather, the removal of emerging new leaves might prove fatal.

This is how removal of winter-scorched foliage affects the lawn microclimate: It eliminates much of the insulating blanket that old foliage makes. Sunlight then penetrates more deeply and warms the soil more quickly. The warmer soil encourages earlier and more rapid growth of spring grass leaf. With old foliage gone, the fresh new shoots show up more clearly. Especially from side-view, a lawn scalped before spring growth starts sports a fine green sheen a week sooner than would the same lawn not clipped so low.

A close mowing at the end of winter exposes soil and bare areas that might otherwise be hidden; thus it provides clues as to where bolster seeding is needed. Over-seeding will be successful only if the seed finds soil in which to sprout and does not remain perched high-and-dry atop a mat of old vegetation. The lawn grass population can often be up-graded during overseeding by introducing some of the sparkling new cultivars.

Pre-spring garden jobs

While waiting for our gardens to wake up, we can improve the surroundings with little effort says Russ Gomme, horticultural specialist, Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. A plastic garbage bag, a pair of gloves and a little energy are the main ingredients for a cleanup. Debris of every kind has probably collected in your garden over winter. A general cleanup, followed by a light raking of lawn areas and removal of dead flower tops, will give the garden a new look.

There are several other tasks that can be done before planting time. Broken branches of trees and shrubs should be cut back to larger branches. Apply a light layer of

tree paint to the open cuts. Fruit trees can be pruned. Remove suckers and weak branches but do not prune away more than 10 percent of the branch system.

Don't be in a hurry to remove winter protection from flower beds. Wait until the soil warms up. Early spring heaving of the soil can be damaging.

Now is a good time to order nursery stock. The selection is much greater in early spring. If started early enough, you can also try your luck at growing your favorite annuals from seed. Now is a good time to pot up tuberous begonias. And with stronger sunlight, it's a good idea to move house plants to locations with subdued lighting.

'Native' transplants

Walk through the woods surrounding your cottage and notice the various beautiful native shrubs and wild plants. Look at their flowers, fruit, and foliage. Many of these are just as attractive as the exotic plants sold in nurseries and can be used effectively to landscape the cottage. They also can attract birds and other wildlife for the

family's enjoyment. Try moving some of your favorite small forest shrubs to the cottage border this fall or early next spring. The smaller shrubs generally have the best root system for transplanting. Larger plants may have roots reaching several feet into the soil. Dig and transplant carefully to avoid plant injury. Tribune classifieds are your best market.



The Spring season is flower time. Combined with the Easter weekend, peoples' fancy turns to floral bouquets. And no one knows that better than Hudson Florists, Main St., Stouffville. Shown here amidst a display is 4-year old Tracey Copeman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Philip Copeman of Ballantrae. —Jas. Thomas.

MARKHAM LANDSCAPING
Bill Eeuwes (Prop.)

Professional Pruning...
Fruit trees, shade trees, ornamental trees & shrubbery.

Lawn Fertilizing
Landscape Service
Gardening
Sodding
Stonework
Designing
Contracting
Free Estimates

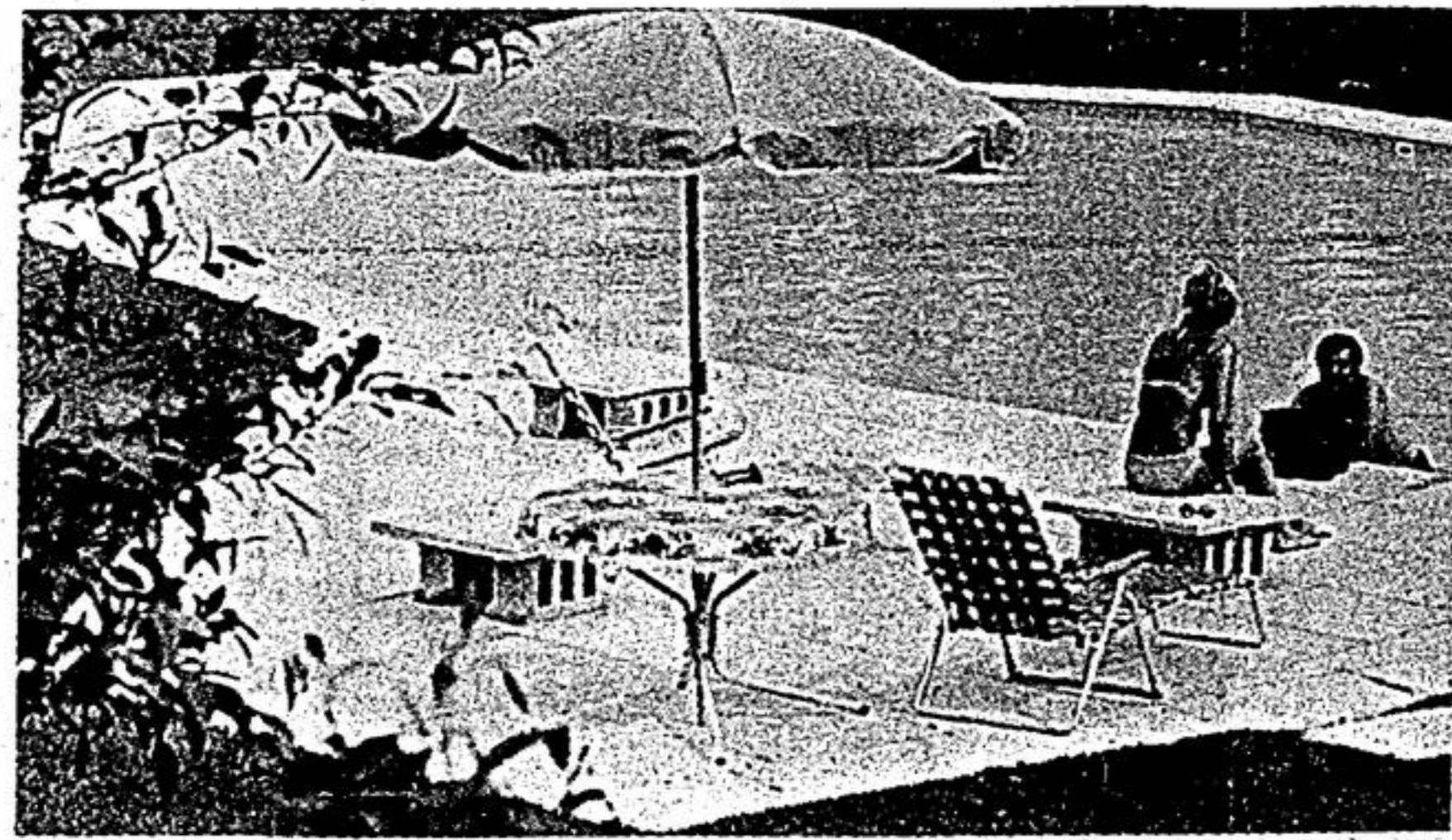
PHONE 294-0300
17 AV. — 2 Miles North of Markham & 1 Mile West of 48

Hedges require careful pruning

Knowing how and when to trim hedges properly will give them a well-balanced, attractive appearance. There is a right way to do it and that little extra care will add the pleasing visual effects needed for an effectively landscaped home.

Two or three trimmings a year are required. Late spring or early summer, early August, and late summer prunings are best. At planting time, the hedges should be pruned back severely to encourage branching out at the base. After that, trim them so the top is narrower than the bottom. The sun can reach all branches allowing uniform vigorous growth. Cut the sides

first then the top, recommend horticulturists with the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. It would be wise to trim during a period of dull weather so the sun won't burn the freshly cut tips. All hedges require some pruning to shape them regardless of their growth habits, so take the time to do the job properly.



AQUARIUS POOLS LTD.

On The 7th Conc., Just Off The Aurora Rd. — Just Follow The Signs

IT'S SPRING AT LAST!

If you **PLAN TO HAVE A POOL IN '72**
Get a full season's use.

Proper construction takes time so order NOW for early completion. Aquarius has the largest variety of shapes and sizes available.

You owe it to yourself to CONSULT AQUARIUS BEFORE YOU CHOOSE.

Our RELIABLE CONSTRUCTION and AFTER-SERVICING is worth more but costs you less.



AS MARCH GOES OUT IT'S **LAWN FERTILIZING TIME!**



Controlled release lawn food...



80 lbs. - \$7.95
Feeds up to 8,000 sq. ft.

40 lbs. - \$4.49
Feeds up to 4,000 sq. ft.

Pre-emergent crabgrass control...



40 lbs. \$8.95
Treats 2,000 sq. ft.

FREE WHEN YOU MENTION THIS AD



NUTRITE EVERGREEN FOOD — NEW
a complete food that strengthens roots and increases winter hardiness 4 1/2 lbs. free with each purchase of 40 lbs. turf special or 40 lbs. feed'n crabcheck.

SPREADER
4 hours free loan with each purchase of 40 lbs. of fertilizer.



PLAN AHEAD -

GET YOUR COPY OF THE NEW 1972 SHERIDAN NURSERIES CATALOGUE. \$1.00 DEPOSIT REDEEMABLE WITH ENCLOSED REFUND COUPON GOOD ON ANY PURCHASE FROM A SHERIDAN GARDEN CENTRE.



SHERIDAN NURSERIES

'Sherway'
700 Evans Avenue, Etobicoke 621-9100
'Southdown'
Highway 2, Clarkson 822-0251

'Longacres'
Highway 7, Unionville 297-2253
'Glenpark'
2827 Yonge Street, Toronto 481-6429

Tool up now

for the best corn weed control you ever had

For good corn weed control, rain or shine, mount a spray rig on your tractor, disc or Danish type cultivator and mix SUTAN and atrazine into the soil as you work corn ground for planting.

This puts your best corn herbicide in the only place a herbicide works... right in the soil where weeds sprout. No gambling on rain to make it work, no loss from sun, wind or erosion on the surface.

Now is the time to get your tank, pump and spray boom hooked up to develop a sure weed control system. Then see your local Chipman Chemicals dealer for your 1972 supplies of SUTAN corn herbicide.

DISTRIBUTED BY CHIPMAN CHEMICALS LIMITED

