

# HOME & GARDEN

## At long last, harvest time

By PAT LEUCHTMAN  
Recorder Columnist

It's mid-July and the garden is producing! In spite of drought and weeds, bugs and the dozens of problems and pitfalls awaiting the garden, we are beginning to harvest. I spend less time in the supermarket and my grocery bills are beginning to shrink. We are also eating more deliciously than ever. Tender salads go on the table, steamed beet greens and chard, crisp radishes and fresh green

### BETWEEN THE ROWS

onions definitely add zing to meals on hot days when appetites can flag. I've even frozen a few packages of peas.

The other night we visited a friend for dinner and he prepared his "Chinese meal." Instead of a frenzied run through the supermarket aisles, we took a leisurely stroll past his raised beds and snipped beet greens, chard, a few outside cabbage leaves, picked snow peas and the few regular peas that the rabbits decided to leave for the garden.

Back in the kitchen we sauteed onions, garlic and sliced ginger, threw in a little cut-up chicken, then the peas. When they had begun to cook we put in the chopped greens, ground chili peppers and cut up tomatoes. Over all that we poured a sauce made of a little cornstarch dissolved in chicken broth, soy sauce and wine. The whole was allowed to steam covered for a couple of minutes then stirred round and round the wok — one of the most savory concoctions it has ever been my delight to eat. This is one of the many joys of gardening — the feast that follows.

Though the harvest is beginning to come in there are still a few chores to do out in the garden. Fortunately we have had some rain, but one way of giving your crops a mid-season jolt is to water them deeply with manure tea. There are many recipes, but as with most things I don't have much time to fuss. I am lucky to have cows grazing in my pasture so all I have to do is gather a few "meadow muffins" and let them soak in a trash can full of water. After a few hours the water becomes a rich fertilizer. I lift aside the mulch to water the lettuce, chard and cole crops and then replace the mulch.

It is also a good time to renew the mulch. As the summer progresses the mulch parks down and breaks up, getting thinner and thinner. It is important to keep it deep enough to keep down the weeds.

In July you still have a chance to put in a second planting of string beans. It is also time to plant rutabagas and kale, both of which improve in flavor after they have been touched by frost. Dalkin radishes are another crop that can be planted now and will be delicious in this fall's Chinese meals.

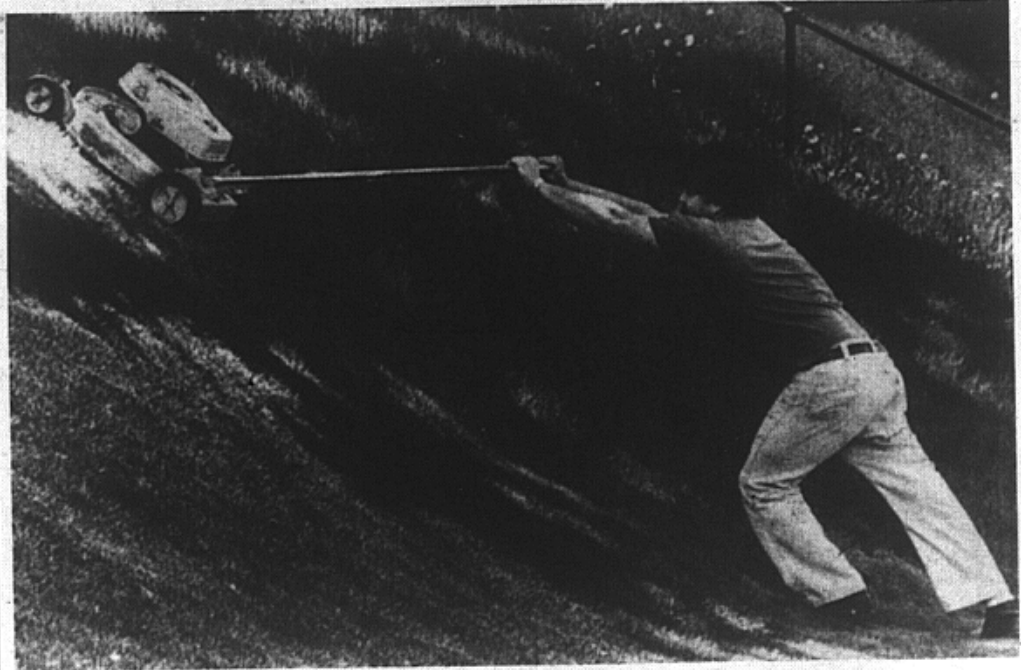
If you have cole seeding and empty pea rows it is time for transplanting. Water them well and deeply before transplanting and remember to keep the new transplants well watered. If you don't have new crops to put in as early ones are finished, don't let the soil lie empty. Even if it is only one row, put in a cover crop-like buckwheat or rye. You will control weeds and enrich the soil when you turn it under in the spring.

July is the time when the whole world seems to be in bloom. Take a few minutes to pick some flowers and dry them for fall arrangements. Yarrow and Queen Anne's lace can be found along the roadsides and they dry well in the air. Even purple clover blossoms can be dried and still retain their subtle color.

In the flower garden pick heather, achillea and baby's breath. Iris and columbine seed pods also make interesting additions to dried flower arrangements. I dry flowers by tying a few together and then tying them to a line in the barn, but you can rig up the same kind of laundry arrangement in any airy, well-ventilated room. Just remember not to have too many in a bunch and do not dry them in the direct sun. When you choose your blossoms, pick those that are not quite at their prime. They will dry most successfully and be most attractive.

Declare a holiday. Leave the weeds and fertilizers to themselves. Smell the roses and admire your handiwork while you enjoy a big bowl of buttered zucchini. It's mid-summer and time to slow down and enjoy — at least for a little bit.

### GARDEN CALENDAR



AP Laserphoto

## Mowing up

They say the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence, but it always seems to be tougher — and longer — on the side of a hill. At

least, that seems to what Louis Cercone found out when he mowed this challenging lawn in Bristol, Conn., on a recent sunny day.

## Use care dealing with insects

By DICK L. BOYCE  
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### THE FRANKLIN GARDENER

It's bad enough to contend with insects in the garden. When they decide to invade our homes, people react in different ways. Some panic, some squirm, and others are just plain annoyed. Then my phone rings.

No one is comfortable with insects running around. Even the entomologist who works with these creatures doesn't care to live with them. I'm not an entomologist, but I do encounter many insect-related problems along with growing plants. They don't bother me as much as they do some people, but an ant running across the floor will take my attention.

I've had several people ask me to write about some of these home invaders, so here goes. Let's take that ant I just mentioned. This insect can be one of the most exasperating insect pests found around the home. You can find them anywhere outdoors or in. Some ant workers look for food, others tend the young and some defend the colony. It's usually those looking for food that give us trouble.

The first step in controlling ants is to locate their nest. Most ant species have certain preferences for nesting sites, but if they can't find what they want, they will adapt to what's available. Thus, the usual outdoor nesting species sometimes make their nests inside buildings. So you have to be persistent by closely observing the movement of the invaders, particularly where they go after feeding. If you kill them, the instant you see them, you are not going to find out where they came from.

Indoor nests are usually found between the floor and sub-floor, in the walls, behind baseboards, or under cracked basement floors. If you find them coming in from nests located outside, you can caulk cracks, use weather-stripping and mend screens. Also minimize their food supply. Keep sugar and similar staples in tight containers. Make your kitchen uninviting to them.

Insecticides can be used outside. These materials are applied to the surfaces over which the ants are crawling. The house foundation wall is a good example. Also treat posts, pillars or pipes outside the house that might provide runways into the house. While you are doing this, don't get carried away. Please observe all of the cautions printed on your insecticide container. Kill the ants, not yourself.

There are also insecticides that can be used inside. You should be even more careful here. Instead of spraying, you

the spray or dust in contact with the nest. I generally find that a dust will filter into a difficult location and be more effective than a spray. If the nest cannot be found, apply your insecticide to crevices and surfaces used regularly by the ants.

Carpenter ant nests may be found in sound wood, but they tend to show a preference for moist, rotting wood around the foundations. Colonies often occur in hollow spaces in porch columns, walls or deck floors. So try to eliminate any high moisture conditions that will create an inviting nesting site. Replace moisture damaged wood and repair leaks in roofing. Don't allow wood to remain in contact with the soil or you are asking for trouble.

I haven't said a word about which insecticide to use. I did this purposely. Pesticides are becoming highly restricted. Our entomologist keeps us informed on the most effective materials to use and the materials that are most safe to apply. Therefore, check with the Extension Service and we will be glad to pass this information on to you. Wherever possible, we try to provide non-chemical control measures for the homeowner. So we'll be glad to give you the latest control for any insect home invader.

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