Start Off Gardening Projects With the Right Tool for the Yard

(MS) — Spring and summer are prime times to use a chain saw to handle tricky cutting jobs around the home. However, faced with shelves full of electric and gas-powered chain saws, many people find the choices are daunting: which model is right? Like so many things, it all depends on what use is intended for the saw.

"If I am going to do light trimming around the house, and be no more than 100 feet from the house, then an electric saw may be the best choice," says Chris Smith, product manager for Poulan, a leading manufacturer of chain saws. "If trimming and cutting is something someone does only occasionally, then an electric saw is the choice, because of its light weight and lower price."

However, experts say that when more mobility is required, like cutting brush in a large field or lot, a sturdier, more mobile gasoline-powered model is the better choice.

"A good rule of thumb in choosing the size of a chain saw is that the cutting bar length should be twice the diameter of the item you plan to cut," says Smith. "For normal use, you easily can cut an 8-inch-diameter tree with a 16-inch saw. Matching the bar length to the task will get the most use and power from the engine. Otherwise, you soon will wear out the saw — not to mention, the operator. For more frequent cutting or larger jobs, we recommend a step up in length and engine size to get best results from the saw. Theoretically, you can cut a 20-inch tree with a 14-inch saw, but that taxes the saw. If you continually cut large items with an undersized saw, you are asking it to do more than it was intended to."

In addition, many saws have automatic oilers, eliminating the annoying and sometimes messy chore of oiling the bar and chain. All Poulan gas-powered chain saws have automatic oilers.

Another must-have feature is an anti-vibration handle which is isolated from the bar and the engine with metal springs or rubber grommets, reducing fatigue and making cutting much more comfortable for the operator.

Chain saws should also have a reduced-kickback guide bar and reduced kickback chain to prevent accidents. All Poulan saws have these features, and meet Underwriters' Laboratories listings and the current National Safety Institute requirements.

You should look for a chain saw with large, easy-to-fill fuel and oil caps that are easy to access and are not obscured by the handle. Look for a saw with ample handle spacing that allows the operator maximum control and leverage.

Consumers should expect to pay $79 to $299; electric models are less expensive. Most saws sold are at the 16- to 18-inch bar length and cost $129 to $189. Many saws are sold with convenient carrying cases and may include accessories like gloves, chain sharpeners or lubricants.

With these tips in mind, all the mystery of choosing the right chain saw should disappear as quickly as removing unwanted brush from the back lot. For more information on chain saws, visit www.poulan.com.

Gears have been used for centuries to smoothly amplify and transfer power. Now, Fiskars introduces a hedge shears to the PowerGear family of gardening tools. The unique design uses two gears to amplify the cutting force instead of just one or two pivot points. The gear mechanism and lightweight Nyglass® composite reduce cutting effort and provide excellent leverage the entire length of the blades, even at the very tip. From the unmatched cutting power of the bypass hand pruner to the compact and lightweight loppers, these tools will help take some of the work out of gardening. For more information about the FISKARS® PowerGear® family of tools, call the customer service department at (800) 500-0649 or visi www.fiskars.com.

Breathe New Life Into Your Landscape

(MS) — Did you know that simply by adding a few flowering shrubs or new plants to your yard, you can actually give the outside of your home a whole new look.

Gardeners everywhere admire the bold foliage and abundant, showy flowers of azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons. Many areas of the United States support the beauty of acid-loving plants. Having these beautiful shrubs in your yard can be easy as long as they're properly cared for.

To help maintain ideal conditions for these plants it's important to fertilize them. A good way to do this is by using fertilizer spikes.

When shopping for fertilizer spikes for azaleas, camellias and rhododendrons, horticulturists say you need to be careful. Avoid using general garden fertilizers. Seek out fertilizer spikes specially formulated for acid-loving plants and be sure to follow directions carefully.

Those with a green thumb will be pleased to know that Jobe's®, the brand so many gardeners turn to time and time again, has developed fertilizer spikes especially for these unique flowering plants.

Jobe's Fertilizer Spikes for Azaleas, Camellias and Rhododendrons take all of the guesswork out of fertilizing. The special premeasured formula will help your shrubs get the exact nutrients they need, thus encouraging spectacular blooms.

After picking out some flowering shrubs, you may want to add something else to your yard. Page through gardening magazines and check out the Internet for ideas that might enhance your landscape.

Keep in mind that new plantings and transplants need special attention.

SPECIAL FLOWERS require fertilizing products designed specifically for them.

Jobe's Root Stimulant Spikes promote vigorous root growth so your plants will thrive and get a great start. This safe fertilizer can be used year-round and is specially formulated to ensure that there's no danger to young plants.

The spikes are easy-to-use. By simply inserting them just below the surface of the soil, you can be assured that your new plants or transplants will receive the exact amount of nutrients they need.

Jobe's products can be found at local garden centers, hardware stores, your favorite chain retailer or by calling (800) EASY-INC.

Spring is a great time to plant, so take advantage of the season. By selecting some spectacular new shrubs and plants and caring for them properly, you can really liven up your landscape and keep it looking good for seasons to come.

Many Faces of Shade in the Garden

Not all plants thrive in a sun-filled environment. In fact, many including ferns, hostas and impatiens prefer the coolness of a shaded area. However, due to the varying angles of the sun throughout the course of a day, there are different kinds of shade which require individual types of maintenance to produce healthy plant life.

It is important to understand the particular shade types, their permanence and density when choosing plants that grow in differing light conditions. Here is a breakdown of the types of shade, courtesy of "American Horticultural Society Gardening in Shade" (DK) by Linda Hawthorne.

LIGHT AND DAPPLED SHADE

The two easiest shade conditions in which to raise plants are light and dappled shade. Even plants that are normally grown in sun may thrive in these types of shade, although they can become leggy as their stems grow tall in search of light.

Light shade is the type of permanent shade that is cast by a building or wall on sites that are otherwise open to the sky. It also occurs at woodland edges or at the margins of a tree canopy.

Shade that occurs beneath deciduous vegetation will be dappled, forming a moving patchwork of varying intensities of shade that changes with the sun's daily movement.

PARTIAL SHADE

As the sun moves across the sky, a site with partial shade may receive between two and six hours of direct sun daily. This situation is ideal for plants that tolerate sun but little shade. In fact, only the most committed sun-loving plants fail to thrive in such conditions. The distinct advantage of partial shade is that it may alleviate the burning effects of midday or afternoon sun.

DEEP SHADE

This type of shade occurs beneath dense, evergreen trees or shrubs, at the base of high walls, or in passageways that run between tall buildings and may be near-permanent if little or no direct sunlight strikes the site. Where plants are grown in deep shade cast by trees or shrub cover, they may also need to cope with poor, dry soil.

DRY SHADE

The most difficult garden situation for gardeners and plants alike is that of dry shade, which occurs in the rain shadow of walls and beneath the canopy of dense or evergreen foliage, especially where shallow-rooting trees and shrubs are taking all of the moisture.

Relatively few plants are able to thrive in dry shade, which restricts the scope of planting designs, so it really helps to improve the dry soil with organic matter.

Prevent Lunching on Your Landscape

They're lovely, they're graceful ... and they're lunching on your landscape.

More and more homeowners are discovering that deer have been visiting their communities. Due to overpopulation and habitat loss, many deer have been forced to forage in backyards and gardens.

"You name it and they eat it. Deer feed primarily on buds, leaves, branches, and the fruits of trees and shrubs. However, they'll also eat grasses, some field crops and vegetables. In fact, experts say that if deer are thriving, they'll add almost any plant to their diet.

Unfortunately, deer are creatures of habit, and once they find the delicious offerings in your yard they'll return to it repeatedly. What's a homeowner to do?

The best defense is to erect a barrier to keep deer out. Don't worry — creating a "barrier" doesn't mean you have to spend thousands of dollars on permanent fencing.

There are products on the market that can make creating a barrier simple. DeerBlock® and Deer Barrier are two economical and smart ways to protect your yard from deer.

DeerBlock, by Easy Gardener, is an almost invisible lightweight UV-treated, mesh fence. It comes in easy-to-use rolls, and can be used to cover plants or to create a seven foot tall fence to keep the deer out.

To simply cover vegetation, just lay DeerBlock over the plants and secure with landscape fabric pegs. Building a fence with the product is just as easy. All you do is drive wooden stakes into the ground six feet apart and then secure the mesh to each stake to make a fence.

Deer Barrier, also by Easy Gardener, is a heavier mesh than DeerBlock. This durable black plastic fence can be used as effective protection for your entire property or garden area and the color blends into the surrounding environment.

The lightweight fence won't rust or corrode and is easy to install. It measures 7 feet tall to help deter the deer from jumping over. Deer Barrier requires no maintenance and is UV-protected so it will last for years.

There's truly a no more effective way to keep deer out of your yard than by creating barriers for them.

With products like DeerBlock or Deer Barrier, you can be assured that the lovely creatures won't be lunching on your landscape any longer. These products can be found at local garden centers, hardware stores, your favorite chain retailer or by calling (800) EASY-INC.

Classified Deadline is Noon Tuesday

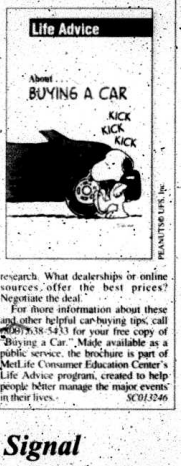
Before Buying a Car, Consider These Tips

With the multitude of make, model and package choices available today and the option to "click and buy" online, purchasing a car can be both challenging and confusing. And that's before you've even waded through the wide array of financing arrangements.

Whether new, leased or used, doing your homework before you make a commitment is essential to making your car-buying experience a positive one. To help you on your way, MetLife Consumer Education Center is offering a free brochure called, "Buying a Car."

Produced with assistance from the American Automobile Association (AAA), "Buying a Car" outlines key factors for your consideration when purchasing or leasing a car, including:

- **Know your car style.** What are your preferences for transportation? Will a car, truck or SUV fit your needs?
- **Get educated about your choices.** Once you have a clear picture of what you like, a little research can go a long way toward saving you time and money. The Internet, for example, can provide a wealth of information, but which sites are for you?
- **Figure out finances.** What can you afford? Inquire about all of the costs involved in getting your next car. If you need help, visit a financial advisor.
- **Shop around.** Compare sticker prices with estimates from your research. What dealerships or online sources offer the best prices? Negotiate the deal.



For more information about these and other helpful car-buying tips, call (800) 638-5433 for your free copy of "Buying a Car." Made available as a public service, the brochure is part of MetLife Consumer Education Center's Life Advice program, created to help people better manage the major events in their lives. *SC013246*

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MARATHON

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"What Saith the Scriptures"

Let's begin today by looking at two texts. *"Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."* Col. 2:12. *"Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."* Rom 6:4. In both of these texts Paul teaches the proper "mode" of baptism, which is to be a burial, an immersion. Even if one did not know the meaning of the Greek word "baptizo" (which means to dip, plunge, to make whelmed, i.e. fully wet) we can still know this from our 2 texts cited. The problem with several sects is that they seek to follow human wisdom and church tradition in practicing sprinkling and pouring as "baptism." But if we are going to be pleasing God, we must be baptized as he described it to be done. Everyone knows how we bury people at the cemetery, they dig a hole about 4 feet deep, and they place the casket down in the ground and completely cover them over with dirt. This is the way we baptize people, we bury them down under the water. How do you all baptize people, is it as Paul describes it???

PROVIDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dan McKibben-758-9316 - E-mail: DanMckibben@Juno.com

Web Site: www.WhatSaithTheScriptures.com

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Wednesday 7:00pm Radio program, Sunday 8am, 1460 AM

Extra Specials

Environmentally-Safe Cleaning Option for Cars

(MS) — To help put a stop to pollution in the new millennium, clean your car in a professional car wash rather than in your driveway at home. Automatic and self-service car washes use water efficient equipment like computer controlled systems, high-pressure nozzles and pumps to clean cars thoroughly while also conserving water — much more than by simply using a garden hose.

Find the nearest car wash in your area by visiting www.carwashes.com.

Natural Car Wax Shines Through Effectively

(MS) — Many commonly used wax products can actually dull your car's mirror finish. They use a combination of wax or silicone and a harsh abrasive polish which causes tiny scratches. The scratched paint can't reflect light as well as new paint. This results in an overall reduction in shine.

The best waxes are made with imported Carnauba wax. One company that markets a blend of true Carnauba waxes is the Malm Chemical Corp. For more information, visit www.malms.com or write to Malm Chemical Corp. 300 BX, ME501, Pound Ridge, N.Y. 10576. *SC013330*

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To the voters of Rockcastle County,

The rumor is going around that I have withdrawn from the Sheriff's race in Rockcastle County. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** I have never quit anything in my life that I believed in or started and I don't intend to start now. I am even more determined than I was to win the election for Sheriff of Rockcastle County.

This county needs a sheriff who is not afraid to do the job he is elected for and deputies who are not afraid to get out in the county and patrol county needs. This county needs officers who will work all year, not just three months before election time.

If elected as your Sheriff, I will devote my time to making our county safe to live in. The deputies I hire will work all over the county and in areas known as trouble areas where I may assign them.

Stopping the flow of drugs in our county will be my **#1 PRIORITY**, whether it be the big man or the little.

If you have any questions, call me and I will explain my thoughts to you. Please give me a chance to help Rockcastle County.

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