

More native plants used in landscaping

NEWARK, Del. - Ecology-minded Americans are showing an increased interest in incorporating native plants into their home landscaping. While native plants have the advantage of being well-adapted to our climate and weather conditions, it is important to consider the local soil and exposure conditions in which they grow best, points out Delaware extension hor-

ticulturist Dr. Charles Dunham.

The American holly, for example, does not normally grow in open fields, nor does the swamp magnolia inhabit dry, parched soils.

Dunham says many of the best native plants have been used in landscaping for years, including the flowering dogwood, American holly, and red swamp maple. However, many others are overlooked which could add interest and beauty to home gardens.

One such plant is clethra, or Summer sweet. It normally grows in wet, shaded thickets along the edges of wooded areas, but will also

grow in normal soil and full sun. Summer sweet blooms in midsummer with erect clusters of fragrant white flowers.

Another excellent native plant is bayberry. In fact, says Dunham, no other shrub will tolerate more varied soils and exposures.

The fringe tree forms a small tree or large, multi-stemmed shrub that, in full bloom, is as attractive as a flowering dogwood, although quite different. It grows to a height of about 15 feet, a size well suited to home landscapes.

Dunham also suggests the red choke cherry, one of the best shrubs for Fall fruit. In

the wild it is often found in wet thickets, but will do well in any ordinary soil.

Although native plants can

sometimes be dug up and transplanted from the wild, the horticulturist recommends buying them from a

nursery. They will be easier to transplant and establish, he says, and this will also protect wild plants.

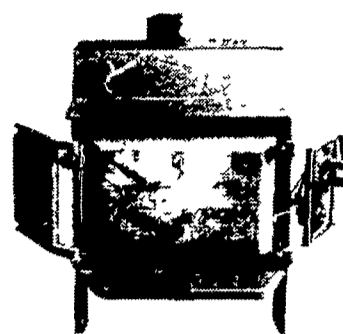
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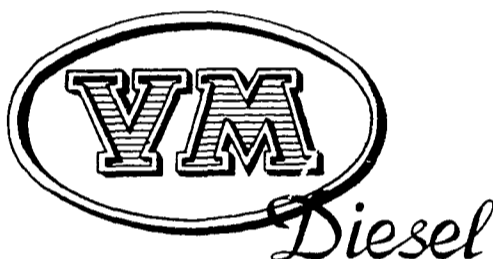
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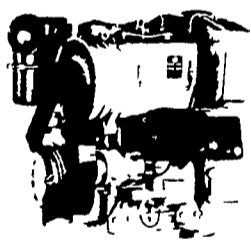
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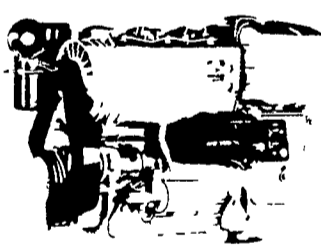
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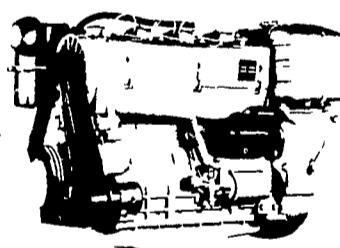
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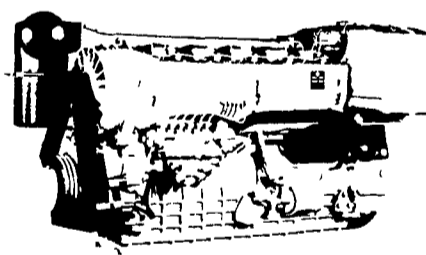
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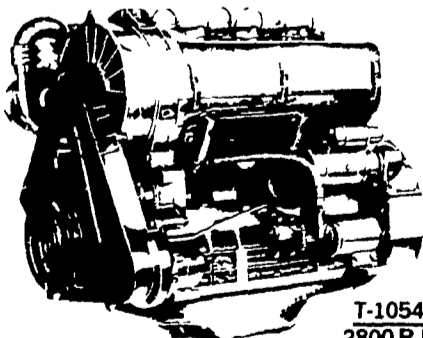


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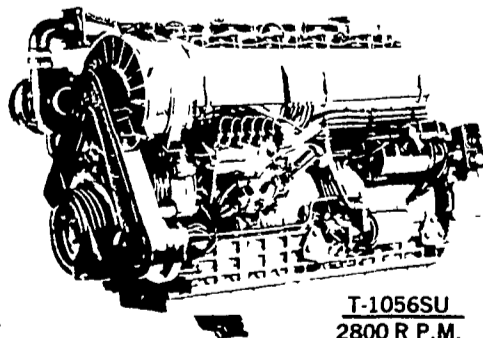


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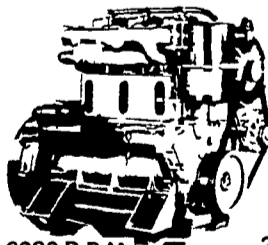


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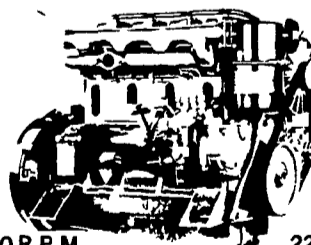


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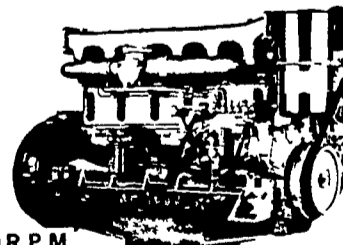
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