



Seeding,  
Weeding  
and mulch  
more



For the avid gardener

Icy walkways, steps, and sidewalks are dangerous. Snow on sidewalks can also be slippery and makes difficult walking for both you and your neighbors. However, getting rid of snow and ice can be a problem to plants.

Even if it's deep, says Paul N. Reber, Montgomery, County agent, snow is not usually a problem for your lawn and landscape plants. However, as you shovel or blow snow from walks and drive, watch where you throw it. Snow is heavy and too much piled over shrubs may cause injury.

The major concern this time of year is the type of melting materials some people use to remove ice and snow — used in-

correctly, these materials can injure lawns, shrubs and ground covers along walks and drive.

The most common melting salt is probably sodium chloride, sold as table salt, rock salt, ice cream salt, or water softener salt. Calcium chloride, the salt generally used by the highway department, is also available commercially in some places. Applied at excessive rates, both of these melting materials can injure plants. The sodium in sodium chloride will also damage soil structure.

The U.S. Department of Interior, Park Maintenance Division, recommends one-half pound of salt per square yard as a safe rate for plants. Interpret this as total application per season. If most of

the salty water runs off your property onto the street, you might be able to go with slightly higher applications — it's the salt that enters the soil that does the damage.

A safer alternative for melting ice might be to use garden fertilizer. Run-off water mixed with fertilizer will help plants and lawn as long as you don't use too much. Excessive levels will harm plants and lawn as long as you don't use too much. Excessive levels will harm plants in the growing season. When you use a fertilizer like 5-10-10, the muriate of potash or KCI does most of the melting. Any super-phosphate in the fertilizer probably adds traction and skid resistance rather than increases melting.

Nitrogen fertilizer urea is a good melter at temperatures down to 11 F, and is best applied at temperatures between 25 F and 30 F. Urea can be used at rates of 10 pounds per 100 square feet. If you make a mixture of urea and sand — 2½ to 3 pounds of urea per 100 pounds of sand — you can melt ice and increase surface traction in the same process.

For a longer lasting control of ice on sidewalks, mix sawdust and calcium chloride. The sawdust absorbs some of the melter and slows its run-off rate. Mix at a rate of one part calcium chloride to three parts sawdust. If you are using this mixture or garden

## Demonstrate Your Know-How

LANCASTER — Demonstrations are a way for 4-H'ers to teach others what they've learned for themselves.

Before a demonstration can be prepared, a 4-H'er must first research a specialized subject. Being an expert in any given field builds assurance and, when the 4-H'er knows enough about a topic, public speaking becomes more relaxed and confident.

Once the background work is done, development of a demonstration begins. Creativity

abounds as the 4-H'er draws posters, builds models or obtains apparatus. With visual aids as support, most participants find it easier to show and tell.

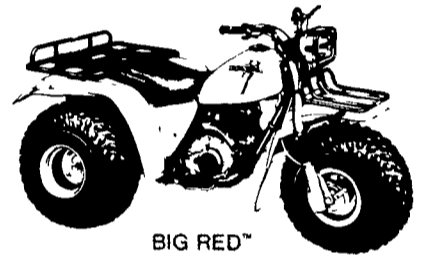
Public speaking is a matter of practice as well as research, and demonstrations are often rehearsed many times before the debut. But when the 4-H'er is ready, a willing audience awaits. Since public speaking requires both a speaker and a forum, other demonstrators and their parents make up a critical, but supportive group.

The 4-H'er is the star of the show. But, like all other 4-H projects, the goal of demonstrations is learning.

fertilizer to control ice, have a sturdy mat at the door, both materials stick to shoes and boots, and you may track them into your house.

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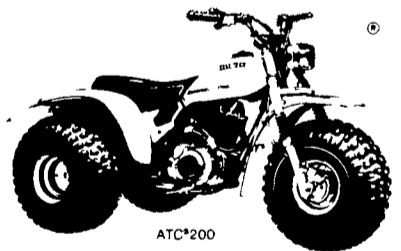


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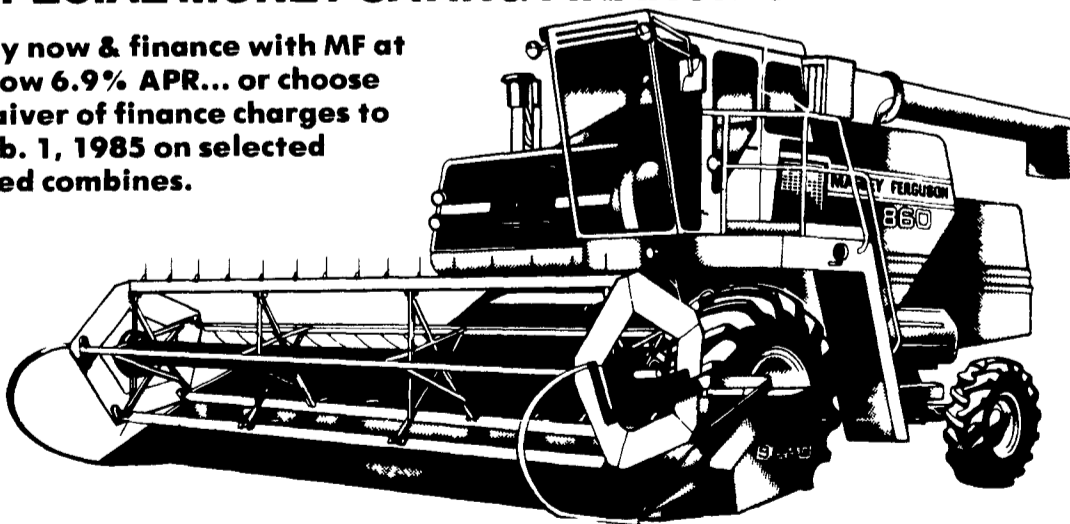
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