

Stop Plant Injury With Mulching

December is the time of year to mulch perennials, roses and especially strawberries. This should be done after the ground freezes to a depth of three inches, or after we have experienced several sharp

freezes in the lower 20's. Winter injury will result in a significant reduction of blooms (and fruit). January and February are the worst months for winter injury. Low temperatures, combined with

low humidity and high winds cause the damage.

Mulch protects plants from severe cold and against plant heaving due to alternate freezing and thawing of soil.

The best mulching materials for strawberries are clean, weed free wheat or rye straw. Cover the plants loosely three to four inches deep. A bale of straw covers approximately 30 to 40 feet of row. In the spring, after the plants have resumed growing, push the mulch to the side and leave it in the walkways. It will serve you a second time by preventing the developing fruit from becoming soiled and rotten.

Your roses will need about four or five inches of a quality mulch like wood chips or shredded bark over the crown of the plant. Herbaceous perennials and spring bulbs need a covering of mulch. Three inches of leaves topped with evergreen needle boughs would be fine. Remove the mulch in the spring.

Some thin-barked trees should be wrapped with tree wrapping to prevent winter sun scald or bark splitting. Wrap newly planted trees, tender trees and those receiving heat from a sun-reflecting surface. You may have noticed orchards with white tree trunks. On a sunny winter day, unpainted tree trunks pop, loud enough to imitate a shotgun going off. Bark cracking most usually occurs on the south side of the tree, after the sun has been reflecting off the snow. Peach tree growers are in the habit of painting the bark with a 1:1 white latex paint and water combination. You may wish to do this to your peach trees.



ON HER SECOND HUNDRED — Customer and friend Betty Weltzel stands in June's Quilt Gallery in front of her "flying geese" quilt, holding her "fox and geese" quilt. Weltzel, who has made over 100 quilts, some entirely out of scraps, says that it is Kleeman's personal attention that makes The Quilt Square such a special shop.

Quilt Making

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like the medium."

Betty Weltzel is a good example. She has made over 100 quilts and is reportedly working on her "second hundred." She made nine quilt tops this spring out of nothing but scraps. Said June, "The last three books that came out last year were all on scrap quilts. These women who write the books and who are the leaders in this field really are on top of everything.

They know that we all have drawers and boxes full of fabric, so out they came with their books." June finds it all very exciting and creative and said, "I never get enough of it."

One final note. June Kleeman may be having fun with her quilting business, but, in her newsletter, at the bottom of her class schedule, she warns from personal experience, "CAUTION: QUILTMaking IS ADDICTING!"

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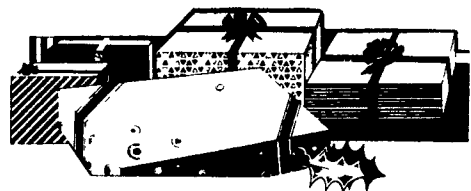
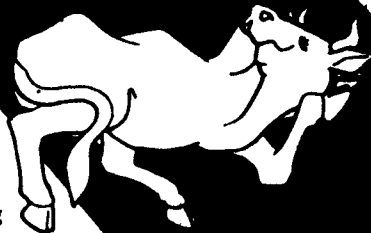
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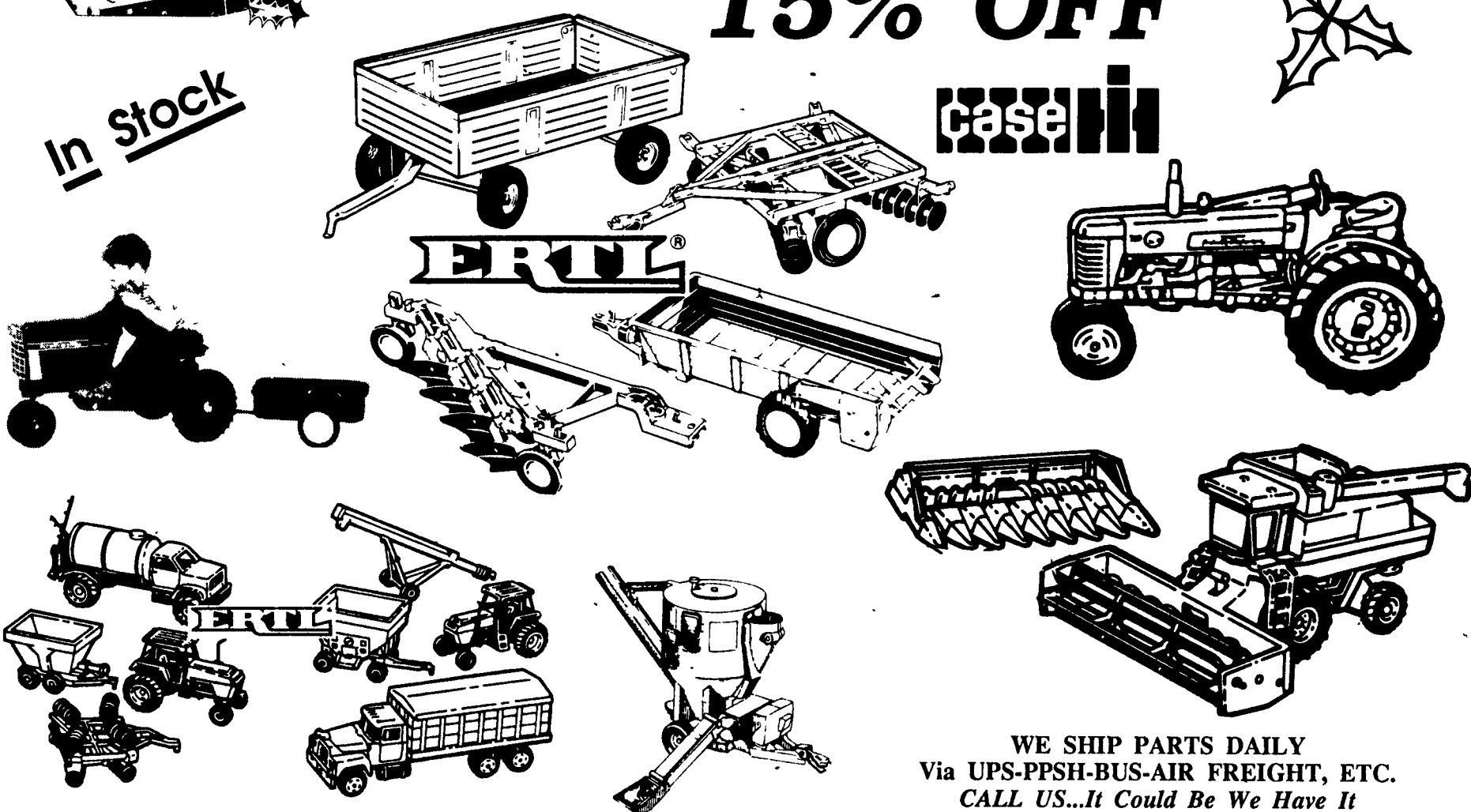


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