

# • New Ideas and Gadgets •

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☼ **COLD-WEATHER MASK** is patterned after the creations of Peruvian Indians. It is knit of wool with soft synthetic fiber lining about the face. Women's style opens at the top and can be converted to a hood; men's and children's models can be folded up and worn as a stocking cap.

• Science News Letter, 79:96 February 11, 1961

☼ **TRANSISTOR RADIO SUNGLASSES**, imported from Japan, are precision made with optically ground and polished lenses. Set in the frame is a three-transistor circuit radio. Powered by a dime-sized Mercury battery with a 150-hour lifetime, the radio has a frequency range of 540 to 1600 kc. The set includes a plug-in antenna for use in moving vehicles.

• Science News Letter, 79:96 February 11, 1961

☼ **SHOE CLEANER** is said to clean all shoes regardless of color, fabric or leather, including light suedes. It even removes mud and salt marks that, according to manufacturer, no other shoe cleaner does.

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☼ **HOME GYMNASIUM** for children from two to nine is supplied by new double-wheel toy, shown in the photograph, in which children can ride, and turn in both backward and forward. Inside the wheel,



securely seated, a child can roll on the ground. Weighing only 23 pounds, the wheel is completely portable and can be played with in the house as well as outside, with minimum supervision.

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☼ **TOOTHBRUSH NAMEPLATES** of polished gold tone or sterling silver will end toothbrush mix-ups. The nameplates,

engraved in block letters, can be attached to the end of each toothbrush with three secure hooks and will not move. They are available in sets or individually.

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☼ **SHAMPOO HOLDER AND BRUSH** dispenses shampoo as pressure is applied while 80 polyethylene bristles work lather into scalp and hair. Available in choice of colors, it also may be used between shampoos to massage the scalp.

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☼ **DECORATED KITCHEN TOOLS** of stainless steel with early American design molded into the plastic handles are dishwasher safe. Tools include mashers, ladles, three-pronged forks, spatulas, solid or slotted turners, spoons and hamburger turners. They can be purchased individually or in a gift set of six tools and hanger.

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☼ **TIRE GAUGE-KEY CASE** combination gives the motorist a handy tire pressure gauge as well as a case for three keys. The gauge is calibrated to permit instant readings of tire pressures from 16 to 40 pounds. The plastic, compact case measures 2½ by 1¼ inches, and especially designed clips hold keys firmly.

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## Nature Ramblings



► **WEEDS HAVE BEEN DEFINED** as "plants out of place," and no plant is more noticeably out of place than a lawn weed.

Of the 30 some kinds of weeds commonly found in lawns, about a dozen are grasses: smooth crab grass, hairy crab grass, goosegrass, sandspur, yellow foxtail, quackgrass, tall fescue, dallis grass, Bermuda grass, nimblewill, creeping bentgrass and nutgrass. The first five are annuals and the rest perennials.

Some, such as dallis grass, are rather easily controlled by pulling up the plant. Creeping bentgrass, on the other hand, can be cultivated into a luxury turfgrass if care is taken to protect it against disease and hot, dry weather.

The most undesirable weed grasses, however, are those that grow out along the ground rather than up. Mowing this type of grass leaves the lawn looking as if it had had a bad shave instead of a neat haircut.

### Lawn Weeds



One of these outward-growing grasses, Bermuda, is so wiry and difficult to eradicate that it may be advisable to let it take over the front yard and cultivate it as a turfgrass.

The growth of certain broadleaf weeds may be used as a key to faulty soil conditions. Creeping beggarweed, yarrow, spotted spurge and cinquefoil usually mean that the lawn needs fertilizer. The presence

of white clover indicates that the specific fertilizer needed is nitrogen.

Sheep sorrel or sour grass thrives in acid soil and can often be put to rout if the lawn is limed in early spring.

A bumper crop of broadleaved plantain may be a sign that the ground is too tightly packed, and the growth of oxalis and knotweed are signs of poor soil in general.

Many lawn weeds persist because attempts to eradicate them are frequently made when they are most obvious, in the summer. Few are susceptible to herbicides at that time of year.

The best time to apply sprays and powders is in the spring or fall, when the plants are young or old.

Even the best known enemy of all, the dandelion, is best controlled when sprayed in early fall when both old plants and new seedlings can be killed. —GLORIA BALL

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