

EPISODE #3027 GNOME ALONE

Sod

Go to a sod farm like Southridge to get professional advice
Prepare the yard before the sod arrives (see fig. A)

- Spread a minimum of four inches of top soil
- Rake out the lumps
- Roll the soil in two different directions
- Spread peat moss on the soil
- Spread an organic fertilizer
- Rake again



A. Preparing the yard.



B. Laying sod around the edges first.



C. Laying stones around the edge.

Lay the sod as soon as it's delivered
Water the lawn for 12 to 14 days, for a minimum of an hour per day

Lay the sod

- Following the instructions given from the sod expert
- Lay the sod along the outside edge of the yard first (see fig. B)
 - Do not overlap the edges!
- Lay the sod lengthwise across a slope, otherwise the water will run down the seams
- Stagger the seams
- Cut off excess pieces around obstacles with a fat knife
 - Cut from the top of the sod, and again from the bottom
- Roll the sod in two directions to help drive the roots down into the soil

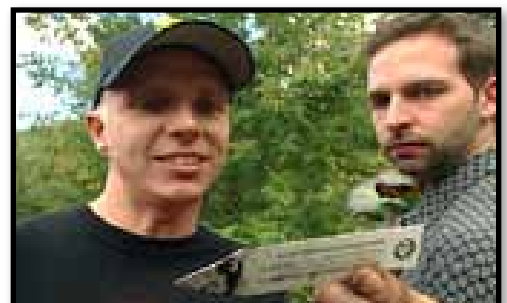


E. Planting the plants.

Garden Beds

Building the garden bed

- Lay landscaping fabric in the area that will be the garden bed
- Lay garden stones around the edge of the fabric (see fig. C)
 - Fold the excess fabric over top of the stones and sandwich between more stones on top to finish the garden wall
- Add top soil to the new bed



D. Checking out plants.

Plants

Getting started

- Visit your local nursery to pick out plants and to get advice



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- Look at a good gardening book to find out what grows best in your zone (see fig. D)
- Layout the garden with the plants still in their pots so you are not digging and re-digging

Plant the plants: (see fig. E)

- Dig a deep hole (bigger than the pot)
- Add a small amount of bone meal
- Carefully remove the plant from the pot and plant in the hole
- Spread cedar mulch over the bed, keeping 2-3 inches away from the plant stems
- Water often!

Cutting Down a Tree

Trees are our friends, but this one is threatening the septic tank

The CHAIN SAW (tool of the day) (see fig. F)

Safety first: (see fig. G)

- Wear eye, face, head, and ear protection
- Wear thick work gloves
- Wear thick clothing from head to toe, covering everything, including arms and legs
- Don't cut trees above your shoulder line
- Don't cut with the tip of the saw
- When cutting, keep the gas on full
- Watch for kick-backs
- Lock your arms
- Centre the saw between your legs
- Tie rope onto the branch you are cutting down, so your friend can pull it out of the way as it is being cut
- If unsure, hire an expert!

Planting a New Tree

How it's done

- Dig an extra big hole
- Transfer the tree into the hole (see fig. H)
- Insert support stakes with wires on either side of the tree (see fig. I)
- Wrap the wire (with protective hose) around the tree
 - The hose prevents the wire from cutting into the trunk
- Water extensively!



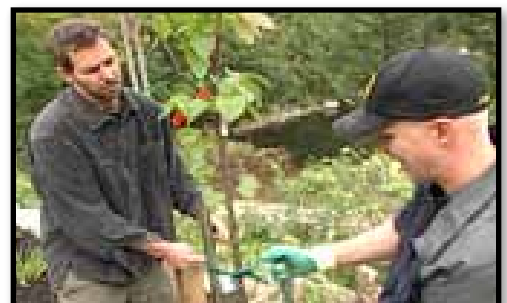
F. Not a toy.



G. It might be time to call in a pro!



H. Transferring the tree to the hole.



I. Setting up supports.