

# Lawn Care

PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES YEARLY FOR LAWNTHUSIASTS

## SETTING THE LAWN STAGE

**I**N THE production of any theatrical success it is important to assemble certain supporting props. To help your lawn put on a good spring show and bring it public acclaim the right props are needed, too.

Seventy-five years ago, when there were few if any good lawns, their lack was partly due to scalping mowers and possibly a gouging hay rake. Certainly there were no catchers, and none of the efficient broom type rakes in common use today.

Since then lawn staging has made great strides and for two reasons: Better and more efficient tools have been developed along with improved prop-

erties in the way of grass seed and soil nutrients.

With the use of a properly built spreader, the spring lawn program can be carried out with little effort. The two most beneficial lawn treatments, seeding and feeding, can best be done mechanically.

A lawn spreader ought to be a precision machine—not just a hopper with a crude shutoff arrangement at the bottom. The machine needs to be well built so it is easily changed to sow as little as 2 pounds of grass seed per 1000 square feet or as much as 20 pounds of grass food—quite a variation. Application must be uniform, which is possible only with good agitation and proper calibration. Fingertip control of rate of flow as well as stop and start are most important.

The new lawn spreader need not take up extra room in the garage as it is light enough to hang up. You will have plenty of wall room for now you can discard weeding gadgets and eliminate weeds the modern way. (See page 3.)

There has been quite some advance in wheelbarrow type equipment, too. Some folks have found the new style two wheeled low carts, like the Handi-Cart, an excellent piece of equipment for hauling dirt, leaves, and other material. Those who prefer the orthodox wheelbarrow should investigate the new light weight model made of Dow-metal. This rubber tired machine is almost feather weight, so more of a payload can be transported.



### Spring Materials

**LIME**—Few lawns need lime every year. Except in the limestone country of the mid-west and some other isolated spots, lime is probably needed on most lawns every two or three years. Some lawns, especially in New England, on Long Island and other eastern spots, are so extremely acid that several limings are needed over a period of two or three seasons to partially counter-act the acidity.

Late winter or early spring is a good time to apply lime. The raw ground agricultural lime is the best form. The maximum application at one time is 50 to 75 pounds per 1000 square feet. If hydrated lime is used, reduce to 35 to 50 pounds.

In case of doubt as to the need for lime, make a trial application on 1000 square feet, observe the effect through a growing season. If beneficial, lime entire lawn.

**FEED**.—A good time to get the feeding job done is while the ground is frozen but a later application is all right. The important thing is to put on the proper nutrients to stimulate growth and color, and force deeper root penetration. Fortunately there is enough Turf Builder available for generous feeding at 10 to 20 pounds per 1000 square feet.

If feeding is delayed until warmer weather, be sure the grass is dry.

**SEED**—Frequent freezing and thawing with little snow protection has caused considerable heaving of grass plants with their consequent destruction. This will result in some thin, bare places. They should be fortified with new seed to get grass plants, rather than weeds or crabgrass, started.

As explained in **LAWN CARE** No. 90, good seed is scarce and expensive because of several successive near crop failures. In order to help stretch short supplies, **LAWN CARE** readers are urged

to be economical in their seedings and order only what they will need this season. If that is done, every lawn can be taken care of.

It is all right to sow Scotts Seed immediately after applying Turf Builder. Both jobs can be done while the ground is frozen—or even on top of a light snow if possible. As the ground thaws, the food will be carried down to the roots while the seed will be lightly buried, ready to germinate as soon as the soil warms.

### Cleaning Up Debris

If leaves have accumulated on the lawn over winter, they should be raked or swept off as soon as the surface thaws. It is all right to do this after feeding and seeding. During the raking, patches of dead crabgrass should be removed.

As soon as the frost is out of the ground, the lawn should be rolled. It is better if the seeding is completed before rolling and when the surface is dry so the roller does not pick up mud. A water ballast roller is best and only enough water should be placed in it to firm the soil. One-fourth full should be sufficient on heavy clay soils, three-fourths on light sandy soils.

In brief the spring lawn program evolves around these steps:

1. Check up on the tools needed: rake, spreader, and lawn mower with catcher.

2. Lime if it seems necessary.

3. Apply Turf Builder at 10 pounds per 1000 square feet or 20 if a new lawn is being made.

4. Set the spreader to sow your selection of seed at the desired rate—2, 4 or 6 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft.

5. Rake or sweep up leaves and other debris, either before or after seeding.

6. Roll to firm the seed and heaved plants into the ground.

7. Start mowing as soon as grass is

in active growth. Long, topped grass will smother new seedlings.

### No Weed Worry

The pesky dandelion, usual bane of lawn lovers in the spring, is now easily banished. In fact, practically all broad leaved weeds wither away after one application of the new chemical weed control, Scotts 4-X. *LAWN CARE* 88 and 89 dwell upon this subject in detail and further new developments will be reported in an early issue. They promise to be most interesting.

Sirs:

It is with a great deal of pleasure that I report to you on the results obtained in using 4-X Weed Control. I presume, too, that this letter is just one more of many thousands you have received testifying to its marvelous efficiency.

I have used it on the usual run of lawn weeds—dandelion, plantain, etc.—and also gave a small patch of poison ivy a “going over” and in every case it wiped out the offenders completely. Needless to say, I have praised it in glowing terms to all my friends and acquaintances.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

E. L. D.

## Weed Spraying a Boon to Health

Now it is easily possible to free public parks, recreation fields, vacant lots and undeveloped areas of poisonous weeds and nose ticklers. Many aggressive city and suburban communities have demonstrated the feasibility of eliminating such public menaces as poison ivy and ragweed. They just spray them away at little cost, with no poison or fire hazard. Where such areas have desirable grasses they are unharmed if the proper materials are used. Scotts have helped in many of these campaigns with suggestions and as a source of needed materials.

In some cases city authorities have first asked owners to spray away the rank weed growth on their own vacant lots. Where co-operation lags or where the owner requests, the city service department is authorized to spray unattended weed patches and the cost of the material—which is nominal—is added to the tax bill. In this manner the entire job may be handled at the most effective time and all citizens enjoy the advantage of the concerted effort to eliminate ragweed, the main cause for hay fever, and poison ivy, source of the painful itching from which no one is totally immune. The cost of spraying away weeds during the year is largely saved because of a lesser number of times such places need to be mowed or scythed.

It would be well for the city fathers and interested tax payers to investigate this ultra-modern method of erasing the ragweed and poison ivy menace and get civic beautification at the same time.

As always, *LAWN CARE* will welcome further comments from its readers on this subject.

Sirs:

Your products certainly have given our lawn a new lease on life. I am so thankful I have your “Lawn Care” to direct me in making our lawn beautiful.

Lebanon, Ill.

W. C. P.

Sirs:

Our lawn has always been more or less a poor one, but the suggestions that we have received from you have made us realize that our lawn care from now on can be much more of a pleasure. It is our intention to feed and care for our lawn in the Scott manner.

Cleveland, Ohio.

L. C. S.

It is said that green is the vital color and that grass is more vitally green than anything else in the whole wide world.

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