

Lawn Care

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SCUTL Changes The Program

WITH the introduction of the new Crabgrass control late summer—early fall becomes more important than ever in the lawn program.

Many have recognized autumn as the best lawn seeding time but too often have delayed until October. One reason: Crabgrass is usually active until then so it seemed useless to sow good seed in competition.

Now a couple of double-rate applications of SCUTL will stop Crabgrass in its tracks. While not repairing the harm that has been done, it will prevent further ripening of seeds.

The recommended August-September lawn program now takes on a slightly different slant. In brief the sequence will be to (1) stop the growth of broad-leaved weeds and Crabgrass, if they are present, (2) feed generously, (3) do the necessary seeding (4) keep the lawn moist, if possible, (5) mow regularly and shorter than customary, an inch or so, as long as grass continues to grow.

Broad-leaved Weeds. Authorities agree that if dandelion, buckhorn, plantain, and similar weeds are present in turf, late summer is an ideal time to get rid of them. Two methods are possible: one is to use a spray such as 4-X; the other, simpler and with double benefits, is a spreader application of Weed & Feed. This latter is to be applied when the grass is dry. Either the spray or spreader treatment may brown desirable grasses temporarily in heat waves above 90 degrees or when it is excessively humid.

Stop Crabgrass. There is no conflict between the chemicals used for broad-leaved weeds and the active ingredients in SCUTL. However, any such materials temporarily upset the physiological balance in desirable grasses. For that reason, it is advisable to keep an interval of three or four days between the two weed controls.

Actually it does not make a lot of difference which control is used first. The important thing is to get started soon enough so that seeding can be done in late August or in September.

By late summer, Crabgrass is coarse, stemmy, and shooting seed heads. Some species will have developed a matted growth so a single plant may occupy a square foot or more.

Under such conditions, the double rate of SCUTL is suggested. It is best to apply with a spreader as otherwise many plants will be missed and over-dosage may injure spots of good grass. A repeat treatment is recommended.

Moisture Is Key. The action of chemicals on weeds or Crabgrass is by absorption through the leaves. For that reason it is important to make application when rain is not expected for 8 hours or so, otherwise the chemicals may be washed from the leaves. On the other hand, soil should be moist enough to produce active growth in the lawn. Such moisture is also needed to neutralize the chemicals so they will not interfere with later seedings.

Fall Feeding. Having applied the weed controls, the next step is feeding. This may follow within a day or two

of SCUTL use, in fact can be put on just before, if preferred.

The next step is seeding and this can be right after feeding. To be safe, a week (with soil in reasonably moist condition) should elapse between any weed control and seeding.

The program described so far is easily carried out with the use of a Scotts Spreader. This is also recommended for sowing seed but other implements may be needed to get the ground ready to receive seed.

Seed needs to be surrounded by moist soil if it is to sprout and develop into a plant. Soil preparation for new lawns permits raking and rolling to firm the seed into the soil. Not so when planting is on top of an established lawn. Some other procedure is required. The surface may be scarified with a heavy rake or other tool to form a lodging place for seed. As treated weeds decay they leave crevices in the ground in which the seed may lodge. Any matted and decayed growth should be combed away before seeding. Other openings in the soil crust result from activities of earthworms and insects.

Perforations with a spading fork, shallow slits with a flat spade, ice hoe or edger may help get more from a seeding (See *LAWN CARE* 106, Page 2; 109, Page 3).

A topdressing of good soil aids germination but will introduce weed seeds. Sifting is of no value in that respect since most weed seeds are so small they easily pass through any soil sieve.

Do Not Waste Seed. Most folks sow too much because of difficulty in hand broadcasting or the mistaken idea that they will get a better lawn if they "sow good and heavy." Good seed is expensive but aside from that, it should be sown sparingly for better results. Too many grass plants per square foot of ground is like trying to raise a family of twelve children in a

one room house with only enough rations and fresh air for three or four.

Irrigation is not as necessary in fall planting as in spring. While use of sprinklers will help to bring the fall seeded lawn along faster, one fact needs to be kept in mind. After seeds start to germinate, a severe drying by a few hours of hot sun or wind can kill much seedling grass.

SIRS:

Thanks very much for the box of SCUTL. My only trouble now is the fact that I have no Crabgrass on which to try it.

Last year when I made some tests on my lawn for you, I didn't know what to look for in the way of results. You didn't tell me that the material I was using was supposed to be a Crabgrass killer and I assumed that it was some kind of fertilizer. The Crabgrass disappeared without my realizing what was going on.

Detroit, Michigan. W. P. DICKERSON.

SCUTL is SUBTLE

The process of conquering Crabgrass with SCUTL may be so gradual as to escape notice—until suddenly it is obvious there is a change in the treated area.

Light green to yellow, to brown, to nothing. That is the fate of SCUTL-treated Crabgrass. Even the lighter color may not begin to show up until several days after the second treatment.

Some lawns or parts of lawns are solid Crabgrass. Maybe the owner did not realize it because Crabgrass looks not unlike good seedling grass in the early part of the summer.

Those who understand the situation are willing to put up with some discoloration in mid-summer with the realization that Crabgrass is being conquered so a better lawn can be enjoyed in the fall and the next year.

SIRS:

I put SCUTL on one section of my lawn where the Crabgrass is quite prominent and it is already showing good results, and I feel sure you have now the chemical that will kill the Crabgrass.

Richmond, Indiana. H. K. KRAMER.



SCUTL did it . . . the yellow-brown patches are of dying Crabgrass—the result of two double rate treatments. Good grasses bright green, actually better than nearby untreated turf. Note also flourishing growth of clover.

Had these Crabgrass plants not been treated in August, they would have continued to grow until a heavy frost, choking out more and more of the desirable grasses.

Treated in time, such lawns can be fertilized and reseeded to replace the ugly scars with bright, new grass. So, thanks to SCUTL, you can transform a mess of Crabgrass into a lawn of beauty for fall and winter enjoyment.

From the SCUTL Bag of Mail

What will SCUTL do to Clover?

At normal or double rates there may be temporary loss of leaves but most of the plants will survive.

Will it injure flowers, vegetables, or shrubs?

Not unless directly applied in substantial quantities. A light drift will have fungicidal benefit.

Should I water after SCUTL?

Not right away. Wait a day, then keep moist to promote active growth.

Can I apply SCUTL by hand?

The boxes have shaker openings but by far the best method is an even spreader application.

Is the green residue harmful?

No, not to the animal, vegetable or mineral kingdom. It will soon wash

off skin, and readily bleaches from stone or cement.

Will SCUTL kill other weed-grasses?

NO! It is a specific for various types of Crabgrass (*Digitaria sp*; *Syntherisma sp*). SCUTL is not offered as a control for these wild grasses: Panic, Witch, Pigeon, Goose, Stink, Barnyard.

Neither will it rid lawns of Nimble-Will (*Muhlenbergia*), Bermuda (*devils grass*) Quack, Johnson or Nut Grasses.

If I use SCUTL now, will my lawn be free of Crabgrass next year?

Substantially, yes. If Crabgrass is prevented from maturing seeds in the lawn this year, next year's infestation will be much less. Some will show up because of dormant seeds in the soil or seeds brought in by other means.

Why is more than one treatment necessary?

Because Crabgrass seed continues to

germinate through the summer. Then too, some plants are missed in the first application, no matter how careful the user!

Is it all right to treat only the patches of Crabgrass?

Yes, if care is exercised to apply only a light dusting. A severe overdose will yellow the desirable grasses for a while. If there is much Crabgrass, a Spreader treatment over the whole lawn is advised. Many plants are skipped in spot treating.

May it be mixed with fertilizer?

No, it should not be. It will reduce the efficiency of the Crabgrass control.

When does Crabgrass seed mature?

Some species may show seed heads in early July but generally no mature seeds drop until well into August.

Seed Prices Up Sharply

For the third successive year, grass seed harvests are below normal needs. This is unfortunate in view of the greatest demand ever for lawn seed because of the extensive home building and the greatly increased interest in better lawns.

In the teeming twenties when new golf courses were being built all over the country, the total consumption of grass seed seemed tremendous. Many projects required a full carload of seed. The saturation point was reached in the golf boom, yet its decline was scarcely noticed when Mr. and Mrs. Homeowner began to splurge. Building lots increased in size as folks began to seek the country or the edges of the cities where there was more room to stretch. Factories moved from con-

gested areas where there was ample space for lawn and recreation fields.

Today the annual need of seed for turf purposes is at least double that of 1920. Meanwhile seed production has increased very little. Only limited areas are adaptable to seed production on a commercial scale.

Thirty years' time has witnessed another change. The per acre cost of harvesting seed has increased from a former 30% factor to close to 70%. When a given acreage turns out small yields, the cost of the operation is just as great as in harvesting a bumper crop. No one is profiting unduly—it's just a case of much higher costs all along the line.

Admittedly lawn seed is high, but it does not seem out of line with other prices considering there was a time when bacon was 19 cents, steak a quarter, and bread a nickel a loaf.

SIRS:

I purchased some of your SCUTL and after just one application can notice the Crabgrass dying while the good grass has not been affected. We are more than pleased with the results and shall give our lawn another application or two and shall be happy to recommend it to our friends.

MRS. L. A. WALLENSTEIN.
Baltimore 12, Md.

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