

Lawn Care

T.M. REG
PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES YEARLY FOR LAWNTHUSIASTS

AT WAR WITH WEEDS

The late pioneer seedsman, O. M. Scott, was troubled intensely at the waste caused by weeds. His frugal soul rebelled at the idea of weeds in farm crops which he realized were becoming worse each year.

He knew that one serious cause of the rapid spread of weeds was the typical practice of sowing uncleaned seeds. So he set about to develop special mills to clean weeds out of seed. From this humble beginning evolved the industry that still bears his name.

Even though Mr. Scott succeeded in making his seed practically weed-free no one could subjugate the weed population of the soil because there are so many ways for them to propagate and spread. His heart would be gladdened were he now alive to see the wonderful progress made by modern science in controlling weeds by chemical means.

Weeds may be introduced into lawn areas in poorly cleaned seed, in soils or manures, or they may be blown or tracked in. The longevity of weed seeds buried in the ground has been verified by many agricultural researchers. Dr. F. W. Dent of California Institute of Technology has recently reported that even under conditions of cultivation, with soil temperature and moisture favorable for growth, dormant seeds may lie sleeping for ten years or more. Weed seeds that are deeply buried may live 25 or 50 years.

Almost any cultivated soil probably has enough weed seeds in it to assure a crop for a dozen years or more. This explains why weeds volunteer in garden areas that have been converted into lawns.

Weeds are obnoxious for reasons other than infestations of cultivated crops and lawns. Some are serious health menaces. Encounters with poison ivy or poison oak may be extremely painful to the individual. Even worse is the widespread sneezing and sniffling of hay fever victims resulting from airborne pollen of ragweed.

In the far west Klamath Weed is the enemy of herders because it causes abortion in cattle. Even worse is the actual poisoning of livestock by the thistle-type weed called Halogeton. Jimson Weed and stinging nettle are poisonous to humans.

Science Comes Through. Since weeds are apt to be *always* around, it is fortunate that scientists have found ways to subdue them by chemical treatments. "Selective" controls are available so that weeds can be subdued without undue harmful effect on the desirable grasses or the soil.

These controls, though rather new, have been widely publicized and used. Selective killers of broad-leaved weeds like dandelion and plantain were introduced about six years ago, a constructive development of economic warfare research. Even more recent has been the perfection of controls for at least one grass-weed, the hated Crabgrass.

Chemical weed control is now taken for granted though its development belongs in the category of a near miracle in science. To think of a chemical that will differentiate in its action between grasses (monocotyledons) and broad-leaved weeds (dicotyledons) is startling. To have still other chemicals that sort out one grass from another seems as uncanny as nature itself.

Broad-Leaved Weed Controls

Growth substances belonging to the chemical group of substituted phenoxy compounds have proven the most effective for control of dicotyledonous weeds. The one designated as 2,4-D is best for selective control of herbaceous weeds in turf while 2,4,5-T, a more recent introduction, is more effective in the control of woody plants. The latter is more likely to be injurious to desirable grasses and clover.

Since the introduction of these selective controls, the main development has been in the composition of the materials pertaining to its method of application. The three major steps have been:

1. *A concentrated liquid or powder (such as 4-X), that could be applied only when mixed with water.*
2. *In combination with fertilizer (Weed & Feed). This was quite a step forward because it enabled easy dry application with a spreader.*
3. *In the very latest weed control, 4-XD, the chemical is impregnated into a dry granular carrier, easily dispersed over the lawn by hand or with a spreader.*

The formulation of the latter is quite unique and offers many advantages, including low cost, ease of application, and use in hot weather. Its use permits the feeding program to be planned independently of weed control.

When To Use—Each weed control product will have directions applicable to it. These should be followed. In general, applications are to be made as weeds come into active growth or whenever they are conspicuous. There are certain exceptions, such as timing relative to sowing seed; use on new, tender grass; application to dry grass; effect of early rain or watering.

Keep Off Ornamentals—Practically all ornamental and garden plants are dicots and susceptible to herbicidal injury. In application, some formulations may drift badly or volatilize and settle on nearby vegetation in harmful

concentrations. Generally such injury is due to careless use, serious over-application or failure to clean the sprayer properly, if that is the form of application. The danger is practically eliminated in spreader application that delivers the material just above the lawn surface. In naturalistic plantings of crocuses in lawns, it is well to wait until their growth is subsiding.

Effect On Clover—Since clover is in the same broad botanical class as non-grass weeds, it is obvious that it will be affected by the same chemicals. However, clover is fairly resistant and usually a normal dosage of 4-XD or WEED & FEED will simply inhibit blossoming without permanent effect on the roots. This is gratifying to those who like the beneficial effect of clover vegetation but consider profuse white blossoms a distraction to a nice lawn.

If clover is considered objectionable, its growth may actually be subdued by repeat applications at monthly intervals.

CURVED BORDERS

In bordering a lawn with flower beds, many folks prefer an irregularly curved border to a straight line. The effect of sweeping curves is more informal and more pleasing to the eye.

In laying out and preparing such a border the problem is: *How can the edge of the turf be marked off and cut along a smooth curve?*

Lay out a garden hose along the border to be prepared. Position the hose on the ground in the shape of the curved border that seems best. Study it a bit from several angles, readjust it here and there until the desired contour is arranged.

Then use the spade or edging tool to cut the turf along the hose. Easy does it! The hose will rest a bit more firmly on the ground while cutting if filled with water.



Some Weeds Tougher—Fortunately most of the worst lawn weeds are easily killed, particularly Dandelions, Buckhorn, Plantain and Thistle. Other weeds, however, are sufficiently different in vegetative characteristics or in habits of growth that the usual control program does not suffice. A few examples follow:

Chickweed is resistant to weed control chemicals during the cool, wet weather of late fall and early spring. It is more susceptible in warmer, drier weather and treatments then will be more effective. Repeat treatments may be needed.

Knotweed, Knawel, Spurge—hot weather weeds, tough to kill because of wiry stems, little leaf growth, and apparently inherent resistance to chemicals. Make first application in June, repeat through summer as needed.

Nutgrass and Sedge, troublesome in wet soils, are actually monocots but seem to be curtailed by repeat treatments of 2,4-D weed controls.

Speedwell, Ground Ivy, Lawn Pennywort, other vining weeds—Repeat treatments if plants recover.

Wild Onion or Garlic—Serious infestations may indicate need for lime. Apply weed control as plants emerge in spring, repeat in few weeks. Improve soil with lime and fertilizers. Same program may be needed for **Buttercup, Devil's Paint Brush, Yarrow and Sheep Sorrel**.

Successful Use—Overall applications are better than spot-treating individual weeds or even patches. In this latter method, many small plants are overlooked. As a rule, weeds are most vulnerable when the weather is conducive to rapid growth.

A couple of New Jersey black dirt boys were out early this year. Ran into trouble though, because they tried to "sell" a Bridgeport, Connecticut cop who promptly took them into custody. The alert officer saved money for himself and other citizens too.

ALL IN A DAY'S MAIL

SIRS:

I prepared my lawn then planted your seed. I certainly am very much disappointed with the results. Cannot see any difference between this and cheap seed.

MRS. EMMA M. BROWN.

Queens Village, L. I., N. Y.

SIRS:

. . . Will you accept our apologies for the letter of ten days ago? The seed is now coming along fine. We just squawked too soon.

GROVE CITY HARDWARE

Grove City, Penna.

SIRS:

Ants have been a terrible problem where we live. Not only do they infest the lawn and trees, but also invade houses, becoming most obnoxious.

I sprinkled your Scotts Pest Control all around the house and around the base of all trees which were heavily infested with ants. I also used the material in the joints of the sidewalk and driveway. The garbage can in the back yard seemingly contained billions of ants. A sprinkle of the Pest Control and they just seemed to fall over one another, becoming so frustrated as to fight themselves.

All during the following weeks, I kept checking and found that once the dusting had been done, the ants did not return. Your Pest Control is the answer for an ant eliminator in this area.

J. A. KELLEY.

Greenville, S. Carolina.

SIRS:

. . . In early October last year, your Weed & Feed was applied to a lawn that had more than its share of plantain and dandelions. Now it is mid-May [1950] and dandelions are in abundance.

ARROW TANK CO.

Buffalo, N. Y.

¶ Just a bit impatient. See below—ED.

SIRS:

Since writing you a few weeks ago, there has been a remarkable change where Weed & Feed was used. It seemed as though the plantain and dandelions just vanished. We are pleased. . . .

ARROW TANK CO.

Buffalo, N. Y.

"Some folks worry about possible effect of SCUTL on clover, which it does not kill. Even if it did, clover is replaced at little cost. It is worth a good deal more to get rid of offensive Crabgrass."—C. A. HARRIS, Harris Seed Store, Ann Arbor.



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Crabgrass Can Be Conquered

For generations Crabgrass has been the bully of lawns. Its hot weather campaign every summer made the typical lawn loving family cower and cringe. That is the way it was until a year ago. Then home owners found that the new SCUTL was the David to help them knock out the giant.

LAWN CARE readers by the hundreds wrote grateful letters last fall because for the first time Crabgrass had not been the bane of their lawn lives. They were expressing thanks for the introduction of SCUTL.

The same formulation of easy-to-use material is available this year, at least supplies seem sufficient for the early part of the season. SCUTL is dry-applied just as it comes from the package, preferably with the spreader. Here are a few hints to plan a successful program:

1. **Timing**—Delay first application until crabgrass plants are plainly visible in lawn. The time varies with climatic conditions but generally Crabgrass is just getting started about the time there has been enough hot weather

and sunshine to bring rambler roses into full bloom. Crabgrass should be well under way when the first hollyhock bloom is spotted.

2. **Repeat**—treatments are needed at five to seven day intervals, usually a total of three at Normal Rate. If treatment is delayed until Crabgrass is coarse, stemmy, matted, then two at Double Rate will be more effective.

3. **Maturing Crabgrass** grows fast and smothers desirable grasses. If its competition is stopped before mid-summer, it will do much less damage to the lawn.

4. **Wild Grasses** other than Crabgrass may spoil the summer lawn. Quite a few folks failed to recognize the difference and have been disappointed when SCUTL did not kill what they called Crabgrass. Unfortunately there is as yet no selective control for these weed grasses: Goose, Panic, Witch, Quack, Johnson, Dallis Grass, or for Foxtail, Bermuda or Devil Grass.

*The prophet who promised reward to the meek
Knew little the plans of King Crabgrass,
the sneak;
Who schemed to inherit, by intrigue so subtle,
The face of the earth, 'til rescued by SCUTL.*

What Happened?

A Baltimore dealer reported the experience of a city customer who planted 25 lbs. seed and got a beautiful lawn in three weeks. Her neighbors were very complimentary until it became obvious that the grass was dying wherever anyone walked on it.

The answer is easy. Seed planted 'way too thick. Probably needed 5 lbs. instead of 25 lbs. Grass was so thick, growth was spindly, weak, easily crushed and bruised. Hot sun and slight drying fatal in such a condition.

Regardless of which form of weed control is employed, it must be kept in mind that this is but one phase of lawn maintenance. Weed control of itself will not reduce the need for regular feeding and seeding, proper mowing and watering.

O M SCOTT & SONS CO.



MARYSVILLE - - OHIO