

Reprints 2

Lawn Care

21

PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES YEARLY AND DISTRIBUTED FREE
TO LOVERS OF BEAUTIFUL TURF

Vol. VI
No. 1



February
1933

NIMBLE WILL

Other Names—Drop Seed Grass, Wire Grass.

Perennial—Propagates by seeds and by rooting at the joints.

Seed Time—September to October.

Range—From Maine to Minnesota and southward to the Gulf.

Habitat—Lawns, both in open areas and in woods or in shady places around buildings.

This weed is a creeping type of low growing, slender stemmed, small leafed grass. It has underground stems and spreads freely in lawns. Its tough, interlacing, fibrous roots make a sod which is very difficult to break up. A single plant may in time completely occupy

as much as a square foot of surface. Because of its spreading, branching and creeping nature, Nimble Will makes a thick growth which is often mistaken for a desirable lawn variety.

LEAVES LONG AND SLENDER.

The stems of Nimble Will are ten inches to two feet long, somewhat flat-

tened, usually prostrate at the base and often rooting at the lower joints and from these joints flowering stalks are erected. The leaves are very narrow being no more than an eighth of an inch wide and rough to the touch. The panicle (irregular flower cluster where the seeds ripen) is very slender, weak and bending.



NIMBLE WILL, *Muhlenbergia Difussa*.

DIFFICULT TO
ERADICATE.

By its very nature of growth, Nimble Will qualifies as a troublesome lawn pest. It is hard to eradicate because of its re-seeding habit. Comparatively few people who have this weed in their lawns know it by name but they are familiar with it by sight.

Nimble Will is particularly unsightly when dormant during late winter and early spring. Its brown, dead looking growth has an appearance similar to dead crab grass. However, it need not be confused with the latter, since Nimble Will does not flatten against the ground like crab grass, and, in addition, the plants are much more leafy.



MEANS OF CONTROL.

Where Nimble Will appears in fields that can be cultivated its suppression is not difficult. In lawns, however, it is a pest for which there is no control method except hand-digging. Of course it is important to remove the maturing plants before the seeds ripen. As in the case of Crab Grass, Nimble Will may be smothered out by covering an infested area with boards or tarred paper.



**"Herbæ Mira" or
What Have You?**

A CERTAIN gentleman, if such he might be called, bearing the name of Dr. Miller, has been touring Indiana and Ohio the past two months in company with a huge touring car and two colored attendants, delivering to the unsuspecting a marvelous lawn mixture which he called "Herbæ Mira." It seems that this grass would grow only 2½ inches high (at least before the Doctor left town), and thus the trusty mower might be left untouched from spring until fall—certainly not a pleasant thought for the lawn mower manufacturers. "Herbæ Mira" was sold at from \$1.00 to \$1.50 per pound depending upon the quantity purchased. A customer of ours, Mr. Carl H. Smith, of the Hemingray Glass Company at Muncie, Indiana, was good enough to send us a sample of the seed, which, we want to add, he did not buy. "Herbæ Mira" was identified at once as a mixture of very ordinary domestic Rye Grass and Redtop, obtainable at almost any seed store for no more than 15c per pound. Both grasses used alone are far too coarse for a lawn and instead of growing 2½ inches tall they are objectionable in particular because they grow quite tall and very fast. The "Doctor" simply had his facts in reverse. After selling his

product quite freely in Muncie the caravan moved to Toledo, Ohio. By that time the Chamber of Commerce had notified the Toledo Better Business Bureau. A bulletin was promptly sent to local concerns which might be affected and the "Doctor" immediately checked out of the Hotel Commodore for parts unknown.

Please accept this admonition in the friendly spirit in which it is given: Don't fall for anything radically new and novel in the realm of plant life without consulting your Experiment Station or the Department of Agriculture at Washington. They have nothing to sell and you may be sure they are abreast of the times.

NOTE: Since this article appeared *LAWN CARE* has traced the activities of Dr. Miller all over the western half of the country. He has been frequently detained in penal institutions which have served only to remove him temporarily from circulation. Upon being released he has promptly returned to his "profession," now and then with a different name, always with a different address and sometimes with a brand new name for his product, for instance "Che-ma." Dr. Miller is now (1937) 74 years of age so there is reason to believe that his "gypping" days are almost over. We trust he has no junior partner.