

# Lawn Care

*A discussion of the vital problems of lawn making and maintenance*

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## SPEEDWELL

### A World-Wide Lawn Pest —Can Be Controlled

THIS WEED is not familiar to the average observer, for instance, like plantain and dandelion, and yet it is one of the most abundant species in the weed realm. The whole world is its home and being a perennial, speedwell is a real sticker. Trample it or break the stems at any point with a hoe or mower and all you have done is to start several new plants growing instead of the original one.

#### IT CREEPS.

This pest is often called Creeping Speedwell because it lies so close to the earth, rooting at nearly every joint and erecting only its flowering stalks. The leaves are shaped very much like those of Mouse-ear Chickweed and yet they do not form in such thick clusters. The stems are from two to ten inches long, smooth or only slightly hairy, branching on all sides from the root. The lower leaves are opposite, ovate, rounded, nearly smooth; while those on the erect part of the stem are alternate, narrow and becoming more lance-shaped. In the axils of the leaves sit the tiny flowers. These flowers are pale blue or white, striped with darker color. They are less than a quarter inch broad. Speedwell propagates by seeds as well as by rooting at the joints. The weed is in bloom from April

to October and seeds any time from late May until snow covered.

The plants of Speedwell are often so small and inconspicuous that they will hardly be noticed until they have completely covered the ground.

#### METHOD OF DESTRUCTION.

Speedwell can be completely destroyed by using a solution of sodium chlorate. The same solution and manner of application apply as in the case of Ground Ivy, which is as follows: One ounce of sodium chlorate per gallon of water on each 100 square feet (10 x 10), provided a pressure sprayer is used. If applied with a sprinkling can a trifle more solution will be required as this method is more wasteful. A thick mat of Speedwell will have entirely stopped the growth of grass so when the Speedwell has been killed the ground will be bare. It will be time to fertilize and re-seed.

Almost any drug store handles sodium chlorate and the cost per pound should not exceed fifteen cents.

#### KILLING WEEDS IN WINTER.

We are indebted to F. A. Welton of the Ohio Experiment Station for the following information:

"A few weeds such as Ground Ivy, Speedwell and Heal-all [all have been discussed in *LAWN CARE*] can be killed by the use of Sodium Chlorate without killing the grass. Moreover they can be killed in winter. Thus the objection to discoloration is reduced to a minimum and at that season the lawn may be cov-



ered much of the time with snow. When dandelions, plantain and buckhorn are killed in this way, however, the grass is also killed.

over should not be exposed to the accumulation of dust and dirt but should be stored in a covered and preferably a metal container."



Thyme-leaved Speedwell (*Veronica Serpyllifolia*)

"Ground Ivy, Speedwell and Heal-all are perennials which, because of their creeping habits, cannot be controlled by hand weeding. In spraying them with Sodium Chlorate use one ounce per gallon of water for each one hundred square feet. A pressure spray pump is the most effective means of applying solution.

#### DANGERS OF USING SODIUM CHLORATE.

"In the preparation and use of a solution of sodium chlorate, it should not be allowed to come in contact with gloves, shoes, clothing, etc., for if articles like those become saturated and are allowed to dry, they become grave fire hazards. If any is spilled on combustible material, it should be promptly washed off. In the very dilute solution recommended here, however, little or no danger should attend its application. Any residue left

### Tiling Helped

"I have tried for eight years to get grass and failed until last fall. I dug up the soil and laid a system of drain tiling about ten or twelve inches deep, and turned the down spout from my porch into this and also left an opening so that I could turn the hose into it and flush during dry weather. I ordered seed from you and asked for the best grade of shady seed and sowed this on Labor Day. I used plenty of fertilizer. I got the most wonderful catch that I have ever seen and strangers as well as neighbors ask me what kind of seed I sowed and why I got such wonderful results. I fed this lawn again in March. I also fed it again early in June with your fertilizer which my neighbor divided with me."—F. E. GOLDSBERRY, Athens, Ohio.