

Lawn Care

A discussion of the vital problems of lawn making and maintenance

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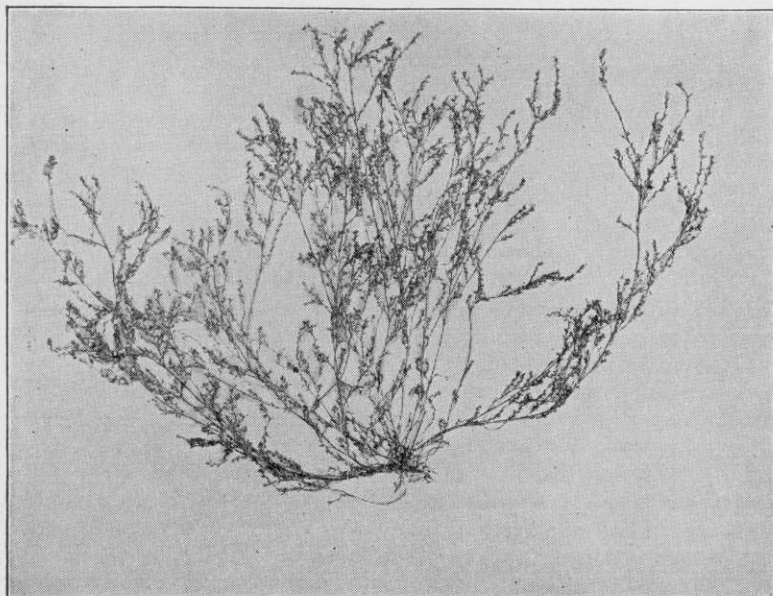
KNOT GRASS

*Thrives Best Where
Treated Worst*

THE NAME sounds worse than the weed proves to be in most lawns. It is a social, almost domesticated weed which seems to thrive best where con-

grass. It is both annual and perennial, propagates by seeds between July and September, and may be found nearly everywhere in North America as well as in Europe and Asia.

The stems of Knot Grass are slender, pale green, faintly ridged, and usually prostrate. Some of the stems from a single plant will vary from four inches to



KNOT GRASS, *Polygonum Aviculare*

Illustration courtesy of New Jersey Experiment Station

stantly trampled and abused. It is apt to persist in garden walks, borders, and along city walks.

Knot Grass is known by other names such as Doorweed, Knotweed, and Mat-

two feet in length and will branch out in all directions. Smaller branches come out at many of the numberless knots. There are small flowers, greenish white with pink margins sitting both solitary

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and in groups of two or three.

Aside from the Prostrate Knot Grass which is shown in the illustration because of its greater prevalence, there are other species such as Erect Knot Grass and Bushy Knot Grass. Erect Knot Grass is sometimes found growing with the Prostrate variety. They resemble each other except that the Erect as the name indicates grows upright and often to a height of four inches to a foot. The Bushy Knot Grass is quite similar to the Erect yet it is more certain to be found in sandy soil usually from Maine to New Jersey and in the West from Minnesota to the Northwest Territory.

Prostrate Knot Grass grows so close to the ground that it is difficult to cut it with the mower, otherwise it would be a very easy weed to suppress. It is not deep rooted so may easily be removed by hand pulling or hoeing. The other types of Knot Grass which grow upright will soon disappear if mowed frequently and not allowed to go to seed.

Knot Grass should be removed from lawns now if it is present to any extent. New seed should not be allowed to re-infest the ground.

There are no chemicals effective in Knot Grass control. We feature it in *LAWN CARE* more for identification than with the thought of setting forth some easy method of destruction.



Black Ants Chased

"We are bothered with large black ants, and I find that by putting a few drops of turpentine in each ant hill and repeating the process the following day then spraying around the ant hill with a solution of Arsenate of Lead, the pests will leave."—FRED I. OBERTING, 858 S. Cassingham Rd., Columbus, Ohio.

More Bad News for Moles

A MOST ENTHUSIASTIC reception greeted the July issue of *LAWN CARE* in which Moles played the lead. We are sorry not to be able to print in detail all the letters received, some in appreciation of the data presented and others explaining additional methods of execution. We submit them briefly as follows:

"Sixty grains of Strychnine Sulfate to one ounce of water. Soak about a dozen grains of corn in this solution for 24 hours then deposit 2 or 3 grains in runway every 6 to 8 feet. It positively kills them."—Theodore Bange, M.D., 214 W. McCullam St., Cincinnati, O.

"Mix 3 parts cornmeal and 1 part Hellebore. Push stick into mole runway and drop half teaspoonful of above bait into it. Place small stone over opening to keep out light. Do this every three feet."—R. H. M., San Francisco, Calif.

"Powder Paris Green or London Purple over half inch squares of raw meat." Place in runways as above.—L. R. F., Emporia, Kas.

"Apply teaspoonful of flake naphthalene or household lye in mole runways at intervals of about 20 feet."—Ohio State University Bulletin.

"Use 1 ounce of Strychnine to 1 pound of raisins. Mix well and run through meat grinder. Put piece size of hazel nut in every mound. Leave holes open. Re-open holes next day and rebait. Soon the whole mole family will be gone."—W. G. Hannam, Portland, Ore.

"You might be interested to know that I have entirely rid my lawn of moles by opening up the runways, putting in about a teaspoonful of pepper from a shaker and closing up the runway again. We have not a mole in any of our lawns. I don't know where they go but they go quickly."—A. P. Whittemore, Saranac Lake, N. Y.