

Lawn Care

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER BY
O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO., MARYSVILLE, OHIO

May 1933

SIXTH YEAR

Number 25

THE TERRACE PROBLEM

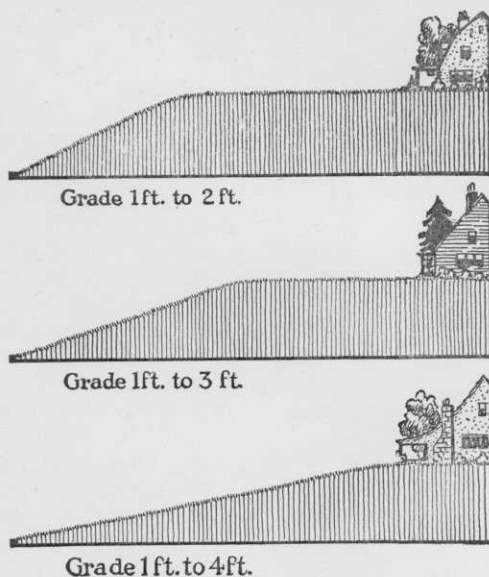
TO most of us it seems difficult enough to get a good lawn on level ground. But the person attempting to grow a nice turf on a slope has his problems multiplied several times over. Trouble with terraces begins with the original grading and soil preparation and continues through the following years of maintenance.

Preparation of the soil for slopes is even more important than that for level lawns because it is usually drier than the lawn below, and, by reason of its pitch it is subject to washing in wet weather. Slopes facing the south are exposed to greater drying action of the sun than flat land, because the sun's rays strike the ground at an angle of nearly 90 degrees.

Soil Preparation and Seeding

One of the most important factors is deep soil preparation. If given an opportunity grasses will produce deep

roots. This is particularly desirable on dry terraces because such roots can draw upon the subsoil water. The minimum depth of soil preparation for slopes is at least six inches. A liberal amount of organic matter should be worked into the soil by means of well rotted manure or peat moss.



The treatment of the surface of a slope is important. Both the bottom and the top should be rounded, the upper convex, the lower concave, enough so that a lawn mower will cut both without scalping the crown or making the use of clippers necessary below. Washing on such surfaces is at a minimum.

Seeding of slopes with a pitch less than one foot vertically to four horizontally is practical because their surfaces are too great to make any other protective measures worth while.

Terraces with slopes steeper than one to four, but less than one to three are

approaching a dangerous slant from the point of view of washing. The most economical protection is a two inch layer of clean, chaff free straw which should be removed gradually as the grass seedlings get started.

Slopes with a grade of one to two require some definite method of protection from washing. The most satisfactory system is to lay a strip of sod at the top and bottom and cover the intervening area with a cheap muslin or cheese cloth. On long slopes of this pitch one foot widths of sod may be laid on the contour at intervals of three feet or more and the open spaces mulched with straw.

Light weight burlap may be used to protect new terrace seedings. Peg it in place immediately after sowing the seed. Keep this covering moist at all times. Remove it in one or two weeks after most of the seed has germinated but before the grass has penetrated it too far. If removed on a cloudy day or late afternoon the shock to the grass is reduced to a minimum. This protective covering hastens complete germination and prevents washing of soil and loss of seed during heavy rains.

Steeper slopes than one to two are best protected by sodding, the sod strips being pegged down. Even then some difficulty may be experienced during a cloudburst. If the situation will permit, a temporary open shallow trench for catching excessive run-off, parallel to and at the top of the sodded slope, will do much to prevent washouts.

Use of Nurse Crops

Sometimes a light seeding of oats or rye may be made with the grass seed so that their quick growth will help bind the soil. There is some question as to whether or not nurse crops rob soil

of moisture needed by the young grass, and cause excessive shade. If used, they should be cut with a scythe as soon as they are three or four inches high.

There is some grass seed sold that is supposed to be mixed for slopes, the theory being advanced that the grasses are deep rooted, or form thick close turf, or withstand drouth. These are extremely desirable characteristics for a normal lawn, and such grasses should comprise any good lawn seed mixture. Of course shaded terraces require special shade tolerant grass varieties.

Maintenance of Terraces

Seeded terraces need careful rolling or tamping to firm the surface soil. Water should be applied as a very fine mist and often enough to keep the soil continually moist until the young grass is well established.

The most difficult feature of maintenance is proper mowing. Most terraces are scalped at the crown because they are cut horizontally instead of vertically. Then, too, the grass is cut too closely, as in the case of level lawns, so that the crowns and roots are exposed to the direct rays of the sun.

At least two or three applications per year of a special grass fertilizer are necessary. This is needed to replace the soluble plant food removed by the excessive washings to which terraces are subjected. For the same reason they should be topdressed with good screened soil every spring and fall. It is well to sow before topdressing.

Moss often appears on terraces due to deficiency of plant food or to the presence of an excessive amount of seepage water. This water drains from surrounding higher ground and its damage can only be prevented by correct installation of tile drainage.

O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO.



MARYSVILLE • • OHIO

EVERY PACKAGE OF SCOTT'S LAWN SEED BEARS THIS TRADE-MARK AND IS SEALED FOR YOUR PROTECTION