

Lawn Care

A discussion of the vital problems of lawn making and maintenance

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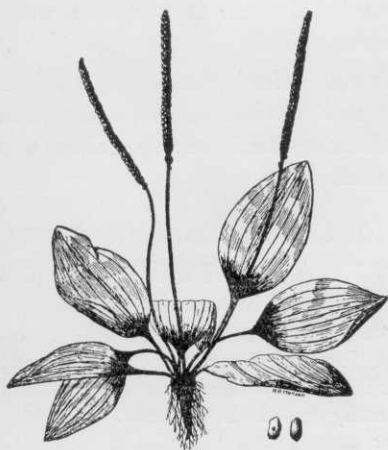
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Do You Know Your Weeds?

MAINTENANCE of a good lawn means a constant fight with *weeds*. While most of these pests must be pulled or dug out there are some which can be discouraged by other methods less laborious. We shall try to illustrate at least one common weed in each issue of *LAWN CARE*, give a brief history of it, and tell if possible how it may best be combated.



This, of course, is common plantain, one of the most familiar lawn weeds. Plantain is a perennial and propagates by seeds. Its seeding time is from July

to October. The basal leaves of plantain spread out to such an extent that they shade and frequently kill out the grasses underneath.

Plantain may be destroyed by treating it with carbolic acid without much defacement of the turf. Stab each plant in the center with a sharp stick and then squirt in a few drops of carbolic acid with a common machine oil can. Or, of course, the plant may be cut out with a spud. The best time for either operation is in dry weather, just before the spikes appear. In cultivated fields plantain is easily destroyed but in a lawn which may not be remade once in fifteen or twenty years it is apt to become a serious pest if not checked.



English Lawns Not Weedless

PERHAPS you have heard the old story of the American tourist who asked an English gardener how they could have such beautiful lawns as you find in England. The reply came back, "That is easy. You simply prepare the seed bed carefully; sow clean seed; roll; weed; water; fertilize; and mow—after a hundred years of such practice you have a real lawn."

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Everything is doubtless correct in that statement except the hundred years; and one important thing was overlooked: you must have English *climate*. The amount of moisture in the air and the frequent rains help to a very large degree in the easy maintenance of lawns in England. Nevertheless the late Dr. Piper, chairman of the Green Section of the U. S. Golf Association and an eminent authority on grass growing, made a trip to England a few years ago to study turf problems. He found weeds fully as bad in the English golf courses as they are on this side and a much less comprehensive knowledge of grasses, their habits, uses, etc. It was his opinion that our English friends are depending too much on their ideal grass growing weather to carry the load.



Runway for Weeders

"IN August, 1932, LAWN CARE, Mr. Hindle mentions that getting after plantain and dandelions is a back breaking job. It will not be if you work it this way. Get 4, 6, or 8 inch spike nails and two long pieces of old rope or string. Then make a loop at the ends of each piece and after pushing two spikes into the ground 1 to 2 feet apart to make a runway. Commence at one end and work down so you will not miss any weeds. If you do not use a runway of this kind you are inclined to wander all around the lawn where you happen to see a weed. You can sit down to the job when you work by my method."—H. G. BARNES, 41 Franklin Street, Boston, Mass.

Why Fall Planting Is Better

WE QUOTE the following from an experiment station official whom we consider one of the best authorities on lawn matters:

"If possible, plan to build your lawn in the late summer or early fall. Naturally the date varies somewhat with the location but the season holds in most localities in the United States and Canada. What should be kept in mind is that grass seeds germinate and grow best in cool, wet weather. Early fall is better than early spring because it enables the grass to get a good start at a season when most weeds have sprouted and been cultivated out. With this start the new grass will be well along in the spring and be in better trim to combat weeds which grow rapidly when warm weather comes."

It may be further said that grass from fall seeding stools or tillers out, thus establishing itself securely before cold weather.

Dig Out Plantain Now

WE are indebted to Mr. G. A. Helgert, of Milwaukee, for this timely thought: "During the month of August [and we imagine September too] plantain is very loosely anchored and can be easily pulled out by hand."

If anyone else has been particularly successful in combating plantain we shall be glad to learn of his methods.