

Lawn Care

A discussion of the vital problems of lawn making and maintenance

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YELLOW TREFOIL

Not a Bad Weed, But Out of Place in a Lawn

MOST weeds have flourished this season but Yellow Trefoil or Black Medick has outdone itself. Specimens of this weed have come in for identification from almost every northern state and we are informed by several experiment stations that they have had the same experience. One authority says, "Yellow Trefoil seems to be prevalent all over the country this season. In 1928 we noticed it growing in our golf course fairways and this is the first year since that time it has put in its appearance."

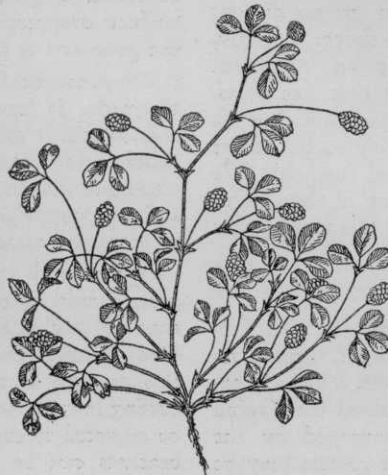
ONCE USED IN LAWN MIXTURES.

While Trefoil is not considered a noxious weed it does not belong in a lawn. Yet it is surprising to learn that Trefoil seed has in years past been used in lawn mixtures as a substitute for White Clover. Perhaps that is where this weed got its first start in lawns. At present it is found most frequently in the seed of farm crops such as Alfalfa, Sweet Clover and Red

Clover. Stock does not object to it so on the farm Trefoil causes very little concern.

YELLOW BLOSSOM EASILY IDENTIFIES IT.

The illustration is handicapped because of not being able to show the small clover-shaped yellow blooms. They make this weed very easy to identify. Trefoil is a member of the clover family and the small blossom, except for the color, is a miniature of White Clover. It is an annual and would be easy to destroy before the plants go to seed except that they grow very flat on the ground and the mower is apt to miss them. Its range is throughout the world in all temperate climates. The plant itself branches out and spreads in creeping fashion. The leaves are finely haired, rounded and slightly toothed at the tips. The pods containing the seeds are thin skinned, kidney shaped and slightly twisted. Each pod contains just one seed.



YELLOW TREFOIL
Medicago lupulina, L.

SEEDS RESEMBLE ALFALFA.

The seeds themselves are yellow and very much resemble alfalfa and sweet clover seeds. When found in these seeds

it is very difficult to remove as well as to recognize. We recall having once seen an almost perfect stand of Trefoil in an athletic field which had shortly before been sowed with a grass mixture. There was no accounting for the weed because Trefoil seed is not found in the grasses. Later it was discovered that several inches of topsoil had been brought in from bottom ground along a river. This soil was fairly alive with the seeds of Trefoil. They needed only cultivation to arouse them to activity.

ACCOUNTING FOR PRESENT PREVALENCE.

One of the best known seed analysts in the country volunteers this comment:

"I think likely soil conditions may have had something to do with its development. Undoubtedly the lack of moisture affects Trefoil and makes it more noticeable, because other grasses die out and this plant, having a deeper rootstalk, subsists. We have had an insufficient amount of rainfall the past five years. The plant may therefore have had an advantage over less deeply rooted plants and has obtained a good foothold. We have noticed the increase in the growth of this weed in lawns of this area" [New Jersey].

METHODS OF CONTROL.

A large area badly infested with Trefoil should be rebuilt or, if there is no objection to White Clover, a heavy seeding of it will usually crowd the Trefoil out. When once discouraged by the crowding method, other grasses may be introduced since clover is not liked by many good lawn enthusiasts. Small patches of Trefoil may be removed by hand when the ground is wet. This should not be delayed until after the plants have gone to seed. Cornell University, in one of its bulletins, advocates killing Trefoil by spraying with an iron sulfate solution, the same as for dandelions.

Because Trefoil is not unsightly it is sometimes disregarded in a lawn until it becomes so wide spread that its eradication is a serious problem. We advise being on the lookout for this weed and suppressing it before it becomes too ambitious.

Vital Facts on Mowing

THE general practice of mowing lawns closely is harmful to the turf. Except in the case of Creeping Bent, any grass will be much stronger and healthier if a growth of $1\frac{1}{2}$ or 2 inches remains after clipping.

Higher cutting of grass enables it to better withstand drouth because such grass has a more extensive root system which can reach the reserve moisture abundant at greater depths. Then, too, surface evaporation is reduced because the grass acts as a sort of mulch.

Close mowing favors the encroachment of weeds. It leaves the grass weak and thin so that it cannot compete with dandelions, crab grass, chickweed, etc. It is also more subject to injury by grubs and sod web worms as weak roots are unable to withstand attacks of these pests.

Agricultural authorities agree that grass should be cut at a height not less than $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and preferably 2 inches. One difficulty encountered in following this practice is to secure suitable high cutting lawn mowers. Many mowers can be adjusted to cut this high or extension brackets can be obtained to lower the wooden roller. If this is not feasible the old rollers can be replaced by larger ones which will raise the knife the proper amount.

The importance of high cutting cannot be over-emphasized. It is most important during the summer months and again in late fall. Grass is less apt to winterkill if it goes into the winter with a growth of two or three inches.



Fall Planting Best

“MY man-of-all-work evidently seized the psychological moment for planting the seed received from you the last of August. Within five days after planting there was a beautiful green velvet with an inch pile where bare ground had been. Now it is several inches long and brilliant green in color. I am hoping I have converted the man to fall planting.”—DR. HOPE SHERMAN, 2915 Coleridge Road, Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

LAWN CARE mentions in several previous issues the advantages of fall sowing of grass seed. Each year brings additional proof of the wisdom of this practice. Our customers are now beginning to express themselves. Dr. Sherman has found out probably at some expense that fall sowing is best.

Rid Your Lawn of Crab Grass by Mowing

IN AN eastern newspaper, Wm. Stroh, Jr., of Orange, New Jersey, noted the following article on Crab Grass control. It is similar to suggestions which have previously appeared in LAWN CARE, but well worth reprinting because of its timeliness:

“Crab Grass is a lawn weed which is usually routed out only by being dug up plant by plant. In large lawns, however, this painstaking method is sometimes impossible.

“One gardener with huge lawns to care for has rid them of crab grass by a careful process of mowing. Crab Grass, he explained, is an annual which dies down after one season. The reason that it persists year after year, and spreads is that it goes to seed each year before it dies, and thereby reproduces itself. Being a flat grass, it is not usually clipped in the ordinary process of mowing.

“The method which this gardener used was to mow the lawn once in the ordinary fashion. Then he carefully raked the lawn, lifting the leaves of the Crab Grass up so that they would be clipped. Then he mowed the lawn again in the reverse direction. By doing this each time he mowed his lawn throughout the summer, he kept the Crab Grass from going to seed. It therefore did not spread, and the old plants died naturally.

“It may take two or three years of this treatment, he said, to rid your lawn completely of the weed.”

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.

TURF BUILDER AND BINDER APPLAUDED.

“Wish to take this opportunity to tell of the wonderful results obtained from Scott’s Turf Builder.

“My binder is well worn, as I find it a source of information. I only hope everyone on your mailing list derives as much benefit as the writer.”—W. F. RIPLEY, 1441 N. Erie St., Toledo, O.



Red Ants Banished

"WE are bothered in this locality just at this time with the big red ants which give us considerable worry, and about the best remedy to rid ourselves of them (the price taken into account) is to pour about a quart of gasoline into their lairs, cover the entire outlet over with paper, and then in turn cover the paper, edges and all, with earth. The next morning the entire colony is nil."—C. B. MITCHELL, Landscape Architect, Garden City, Kans.



Web Worms in Georgia

"AS you suggested, I took up some of the turf in the brown patches and discovered what appeared to be the sod web worm working. Following instructions given in *LAWN CARE*, I dusted Arsenate of Lead over the lawn and hope I have remedied the trouble. The grass is already coming through in the brown spots and within a short time I think these spots will not be noticeable at all.

"My entire lawn would surely have gone within two or three weeks if I had not used the poison and I certainly appreciate your interest in helping me to discover the trouble and remedy it."—J. W. CHAPPEL, Georgia Marble Co., Tate, Georgia.

Are there other recurrences of the sod web worm this year?



This Bent Lawn Stops Passersby

"LAST year we planted your Creeping Bent stolons and were rewarded with a fine lawn and this season, with the aid of Scott's Turf Builder, we have a perfect 'velvet carpet.'

We are very well pleased with the results and more gratifying is the fact that

almost daily we are getting at least a half dozen inquiries about it from passers-by who stop to marvel at what they call 'the most perfect lawn in this vicinity.' Our tiny garden is now becoming a rendezvous for lovers of good lawns and we are told that folks are riding out this way just to see our lawn and find out about it."—G. C. DAVIS, Carlstadt, N. J.

NOTE: The best time of the entire year for planting Creeping Bent is fall.



Scott Publications

Lawns, a small booklet of condensed facts about the making of a new lawn and the improvement of an old one.

Bent Lawns, an illustrated booklet which tells how to make and maintain a Creeping Bent lawn.

Converting to Creeping Bent, folder explaining four methods of remaking and improving an old lawn by using Bent.

Lawn Making and Maintenance. Sixty pages of specific information that will be especially helpful in the building or care of large areas.

The Putting Green. An illustrated book telling how to construct and maintain grass greens. Gratis to greens chairmen, greenkeepers, or any golf club officers. To others at actual cost of 25 cents.

There have been twenty-one previous issues of *Lawn Care* and the following lawn pests have been discussed: Plantain, Crab Grass, Dandelions, Moss, Grubs and Beetles, Chickweed, Buckhorn, Ground Ivy, Yarrow, Earthworms, Heal-all, Ants, Speedwell, Creeping Buttercup, Sod Web-Worms, Moles, Knot-Grass, Sorrel, Quack-Grass, and Spotted Spurge.

Binders for Lawn Care, made of imitation leather and capable of holding fifty bulletins, are furnished at actual cost of 50c, postage paid. Each binder contains a complete set of bulletins.