

Lawn Care

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TO LOVERS OF BEAUTIFUL TURF

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KNAWEL

Other Names—German Knot-Grass.

Annual and Winter Annual—Propagates by seeds.

Seed Time—May to November.

Range—Eastern United States and Canada from Quebec to Florida and as far inland as Ohio.

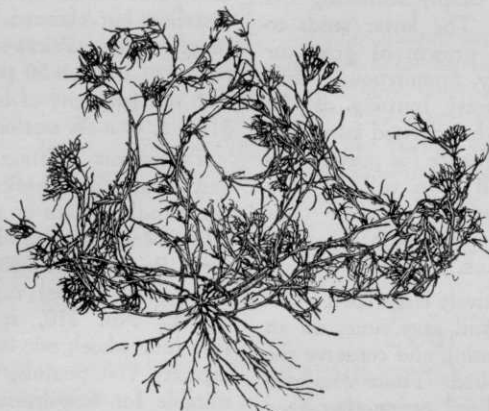
Habitat—Lawns, gardens and along roadways.

Here is a persistent little weed and just inconspicuous enough to gain headway before its presence is observed. It blooms and produces seeds from early spring until late fall. The seeds of Knavel are abundant and long lived. If undisturbed in the soil they will retain their vitality for several years.

The roots of Knavel are tough and fibrous. They send up a number of slender, light green, fork-branched stems which are from three to six inches long. These stems, as the illustration indicates, spread in all directions. Usually the stems are hairy yet sometimes smooth,

some erect and some prostrate. The leaves are quite small, awn-shaped, and approximately one-third inch in length. The seeds are light, straw colored, pointed at one end and diverging into five points at the other.

During the year 1932 we received more specimens of *Knavel* for identification than during the previous three. It may have been a season peculiarly favorable to its growth or it may be that lawns in general are being watched more closely for weeds of all kinds.



KNAWEL, *Scleranthus Annus*.

CONTROL OF KNAWEL.

Individual plants are easily removed with a spud or trowel. It is also possible to destroy them by making applications of carbolic

acid or other acids upon the root of the plant by means of a machine oiling can. This method, of course, kills the weed with the least defacement to the lawn.

One authority suggests that carbolic acid, the prescribed remedy for Knavel, is difficult to obtain and not safe for use by the average layman. "Gasoline," suggests this gentleman, "is just as effective



as carbolic acid and may also be applied with a squirt oil can."

Others have used a pinch of Ammonium Sulfate, Iron Sulfate or Nitrate of Soda. All act as weed killers when placed on the crown of the plant (see "The Spotting Method of Weed Eradication," page 3, August, 1931 *LAWN CARE*) and also (Iron Sulfate excepted) serve as a fertilizer, whereas the Carbolic Acid does not.



Distributing Fertilizers

THE even distribution of fertilizers on lawns is a perplexing problem to many home owners. For a small lawn, 50 by 50 feet or less, the applying of grass food by hand is the natural method. In such instances we suggest an ordinary sifter rather than simply scattering the material by hand. The latter tends to produce a spotted growth of grass, or where applied very promiscuously may result in a temporary burning of the lawn. Anyone who has devised some simple home-made appliance for putting fertilizer on the small lawn will do us a great favor if they will describe their "inventions" so we may pass the word along in *LAWN CARE*.

For the comparatively large lawn a mechanical spreader will save time, do an even job of distributing and conserve the material being applied. Those who own spreaders of one kind or another feed their lawns with greater regularity simply because they are equipped to do the work quickly. We will describe any type of spreader in *LAWN CARE* which is brought to our attention. We do not sponsor nor do we advocate any particular kind. What is said of spreaders here is imprinted from the manufacturers' own literature. The prices are their prices. If you do not have a fertilizer spreader, want one and do not find it available locally, we shall be glad to have your order

shipped to you direct from the manufacturer, if you will tell us what make and size you wish.

MASTERS FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTORS. (All three types mentioned here are for efficient distribution of all dry materials such as commercial fertilizers, grass seed, top-dressing, sand, lime, salt, arsenate of lead and other chemicals.) Shut-off and adjustment for regulating quantity, on handle, perforated scatter-board to sift fertilizer evenly. Prices F. o. B. Chicago—36 inch width with double disk wheels, \$12.24; same, with single disk wheels, \$11.00; 16 inch width, \$8.75; Junior distributor, for small lawns (16 inch width but of lighter construction), \$3.00.

MOORE VIBRATOR FERTILIZER DISTRIBUTOR. Flow of material stopped when distributor not in motion. Of light construction but claimed to be strong and simply made. Prices—26 inch size, capacity of hopper 50 pounds, \$12.00; 14 inch size (capacity of hopper 10 pounds), \$1.95 F. o. B. Waterloo, Iowa.

THOMPSON WHEELBARROW SPREADERS. Built in wheelbarrow style with two handles. Rate of application adjustable down to 10 pounds per 1000 square feet. Prices—No. 208, spreading width 6 feet (two wheels), capacity 150 pounds, \$50.00; No. 110, spreading width 6 feet (one wheel; two on No. 208 model), capacity 100 pounds, \$25.00; No. 108, suitable for side-dressing as well as top dressing and broadcasting, 2½ feet spread, \$22.50; No. 112, 2½ feet spread, 50 pound capacity, \$13.50 F. o. B. Ypsilanti, Mich.

We have a limited supply of folders illustrating and more completely describing these spreaders, available to any who want them. Please feel free to write us about other makes of spreaders which have come to your attention and which you have found easy to operate, well built and worth the money.



From the Garden Press

FRESHENING UP THE LAWN, by Morris A. Hall, appears in the March issue of the American Home Magazine. We commend it to the readers of that publication. Among other things Mr. Hall says "reseeding becomes necessary because lack of food has starved out the original grass. . . . Seed is comparable to paint. Select good ingredients. Some combinations are based on Timothy and Redtop (Rye Grass, too) and a bit of White Clover."

Like cheap paint such a mixture may look well for a few weeks or months but it lacks permanence. Low priced mixtures invariably contain a predominance of quick growing temporary grasses and purchased at any price are not a bargain. The chances are a prohibitive price has been paid for cheap seed. It is also well to remember that these temporary grasses do not spread out or stool. They leave a wide berth for weeds and weeds never turn down such an invitation.



Rough Sailing Ahead for the Dandelion

THE March issue of Better Homes and Gardens contains the following item:

"QUICK, WATSON, THE NEEDLE.

"My dear Mr. Peterson:

"Having dug dandelions for years with no appreciable effect other than a tired back, sore hands, and shattered disposition, it occurred to me that we had at hand a most efficient exterminator in the form of ordinary gasoline. This is nothing new, of course, but the difficulty has been to apply it properly so it would kill the plant and nothing else. Ordinary oil cans will not do.

"So, in looking around for a suitable applicator I happened to pick up one of

the large glass syringes the medical profession uses for taking blood samples and the like. Here was an ideal applicator, as it had a ground-glass plunger and a very long, slender needle. I tried it. The result was beyond my wildest dreams. I applied the treatment to dandelions large and small, including, incidentally, a few plantains and other weeds in my lawn, and shortly it was necessary to hunt for these pests instead of finding them at every step. I dug up dandelions in various stages of decomposition, and found the roots completely destroyed.

"My syringe holds an ounce. These instruments can be procured at any surgical-supply house in many sizes and prices. The cheap ones will answer as well as the finest.—Col. George A. Skinner, Medical Corps, Omaha, Nebraska.



"This unique tool rather tickles our fancy. Why do dandelion tools, more than others, reflect the profession of the user? The home maker cuts them out with her paring knife; the breathlessly busy businessman sprays them away with ammonium sulfate or iron sulfate; the doctor punctures them with a hypodermic needle."—E. H. Peterson.



Poor Worm!

THINGS have taken a bad turn for the worm. Following the treatise in February LAWN CARE on killing earthworms by electrocution, a friend whose name we failed to record, sent us the following item clipped from a Baptist Sunday School publication:

A POLICEMAN'S WORM CHARMER.

"There is a policeman in Omaha who charms worms out of the ground by the pailful. Officer Walter Lickert saw a clever device which a city fireman possessed, and, being inventive, he went



home and made one like it. It consists of two metal bicycle pump-handles, sixteen inches long, with insulated electrical connections below each handle, plenty of cord to plug in a light socket, and a bulb hanging between the pump-handles to show when the juice is on. Lickert only has to sink the handles in the earth about a foot apart and turn on the juice: Immediately the current begins to vibrate between the two and there is something like an electric storm in the earth. In a minute or two out comes every worm in the vicinity to see what it is all about. Within a four-foot radius of the electric "wands" the surface teems with worms. Officer Lickert keeps chickens, and his chickens will eat all the worms they can get. He also sells worms by the pail for bait. As he has five acres, he has an inexhaustible supply of worms. The electric current necessary to supply one incandescent globe is not more than a cent an hour, so his chickenfeed is the cheapest and best in Omaha."

Our interest in earthworm suppression is in eliminating them as a lawn pest. We had no idea their technological capture for bait was fast becoming a great national enterprise. Nature may protect the next generation of worms with insolation!



Growing Grass On Terraces

In a forthcoming issue of *LAWN CARE* there will be a treatise covering the growing and maintenance of grass on terraces. We are now assembling data on this subject. Any of our readers who have had enlightening experiences in producing turf on steep or gradual slopes are invited to join in the discussion. Won't you send in your opinions at once?

GRASS

*'Tis springtime on the eastern hills!
Like torrents gush the summer rills;
Through winter's moss and dry dead
leaves,
The bladed grass revives and lives,
Pushes the mouldering waste away,
And glimpses to the April day.*

—John Greenleaf Whittier.



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-four 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, Spotted Spurge, Yellow Trefoil, Goose Grass, and Nimble Will. For the complete series please allow 10 cents to cover mailing cost.