

# Lawn Care

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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.

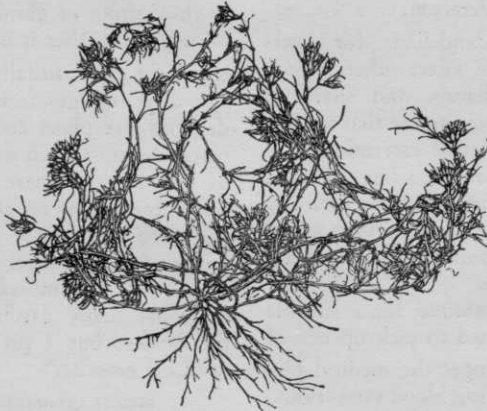
*Habitat*—Lawns, gardens and along roadways.

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 Knawel are abundant and long lived. If undisturbed in the soil they will retain their vitality for several years.

The roots of Knawel 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 *Knawel* 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, *Sclerenthus 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 Knawel, 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.



## 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.

## Dandelions Are in Further Retreat

A MOST interesting sequel to the gasoline syringe method of dandelion destruction proposed by Colonel George A. Skinner of Omaha has been brought to light. The impression was given in *BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS* and repeated in *LAWN CARE* that the idea was to inject the gasoline into the plant. "This," says Colonel Skinner in a letter to us, "is not the case. I put two or three drops of gasoline, without being particular whether it is more, on the center of the plant, usually covering the bud just as it emerges from the center. This destroys the plant completely. It turns black shortly and in a few days no trace of it is left. If there are flowers I also put a few drops on them as dandelions are such persistent growers that the flower will produce seeds before the plant dies. If one objects to stooping there are many gasoline applicators on the market but I prefer to stoop as I need the exercise."

MUCH COMMENT AROUSED.

We owe an apology to Colonel Skinner for causing him so much correspondence. He reports letters from dandelion haters in Boston, Chicago, New York and the Southwest. The press in Des Moines carried his dandelion story and it also rated "Time" Magazine.

One hardly thought as he drove along the highways last spring that the dandelion had lost any ground. But it is not because of any failure on the part of the public to become aroused.