

Lawn Care

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

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

Seventh Year

Number 29

SPRING MAINTENANCE HINTS

IT ISN'T a bit too early to make plans for the spring renovation of your lawn. The earlier you get started the better will be the results.

Those who like to seed on honey-combed ground will no doubt find conditions favorable some time in late February or early March. Scattering the seed after a light snow is a good plan as it is easier to do an even job of seeding. As the snow thaws the seed settles into the ground.

Lawns should be raked thoroughly as soon as the ground has thawed. This serves to scarify the surface soil and also to remove leaves, dead grass and other debris that may have accumulated over winter.

Fertilizing

The next step is an application of the right grass food. From recent experiments we know it is best to do this even if the ground is frozen. As soon as the grass starts growing the food becomes available thereby giving the grass an extra push ahead of Crabgrass and other weeds which do not start until late spring. If fertilizer is put on while the weather is still quite cool there is no danger of burning even though it is not washed or brushed in. Early feeding was formerly discouraged because it was supposed that there was considerable loss of food elements from washing and leaching. It now appears that this loss is negligible.

Additional evidence appears every day that the right way to maintain turf

is to seed and feed regularly. But it is necessary to maintain the proper balance between these treatments. Seed should be used to replace dead plants and to cover bare areas, while food is needed to nourish and strengthen the live grass plants. Regular feeding is the most important factor in weed control. It makes the grass plants more sturdy and aggressive, enabling them to crowd the weeds. The explanation of this lies in the fact that the general cultural practices of lawn maintenance, such as frequent mowing, are more favorable to grass than to most weeds.

Unless seeding was done before, it should follow the fertilizer application. Rake it in lightly or cover it with some good weed-free soil applied as a top-dressing. A coating of about one-quarter inch will be beneficial to the seed as well as to the established plants.

Rolling

Spring rolling is important. A heavy roller is not required since the purpose is simply to firm grass crowns and roots into the soil. It is a mistake to try to level a lawn by rolling. If the roller used is heavy enough to accomplish that, it will pack the soil causing it to bake during the summer months. Sandy soil can stand heavier rolling than clay soils. It is best to roll after seeding but the time element is important. Usually there are just a few days in spring when a lawn is dry enough to be rolled without packing the soil, and yet sufficiently moist so the rolling

does some good. A lawn ought to be rolled then, even if it is necessary to roll again after seeding.

Spring Topdressing Proves Helpful

This is what one LAWN CARE reader of Pittsburgh has to say about topdressing and fertilizing his lawn in one operation. We consider this a most practical solution to the problem of distributing grass food uniformly.

"In this connection, as you have suggested ideas on distribution of fertilizer on lawns, would say that the writer has had more success in mixing fertilizer with some other material, when using a top-dressing in the spring.

"At that time of the year, lawns will frequently be benefited by a topdressing of dirt anyhow and by using dirt that is not too wet, mixing some in a wheelbarrow, with the fertilizer, spreading on the lawn and then using the back of a rake, it accomplishes two purposes at one time.

"Where a clay sod is maintained, sand is very beneficial and can be used also with the dirt and any other material required, such as lime or swamp humus if procurable. In many country districts there is lots of pure black humus in swamps that can be taken out the fall before and allowed to freeze out when it becomes almost like flour. This is very beneficial to lawns and a fine substance to mix fertilizer with. I always spread a lot of good, rich soil on boards and let it dry out sufficiently to be quite free of moisture and then mix it with the fertilizing materials, for spring use."—C. R. Anderson, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Don't Feed Birds Good Lawn Seed

Another customer makes this good suggestion for saving spring planted grass seed from famished sparrows:

"In patching irregular worn spots in the spring I have had considerable success in sowing the seed in late February or early March when weather conditions give us the daily thaw in the sun with the nightly freeze following—but have had trouble at times with sparrows eating some of the seed. However, last spring I hit upon a way to avoid this loss and give you my scheme for whatever use you may care to put it to.

"I feed the various native birds all winter long—cardinals, blue jays, etc., and inadvertently the sparrows, too, although the type of feed in my feeding tray is solely for the former birds. However, last spring I thought that just before scattering the lawn seed I would put smaller feed in the tray than the peanuts and sunflower seeds I had been using. So about a week before I planted lawn seed I started to include small 'scratch feed' in the feeding tray. Did the sparrows like it? I'll say they did, but they left my lawn alone, as long as I kept the tray filled. And I kept it full. I used up about twenty pounds of this 'scratch feed' from the time I scattered grass seed until it sprouted. But this mixture of poor grade wheat, oats, buckwheat and small size cracked corn costs only 5 cents a pound, and I figure that my investment of about \$1.00 in this saved many times that amount in grass seed which remained untouched."—Allan C. Leja, Lakewood, Ohio.

O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO.



MARYSVILLE • • OHIO

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