

Lawn Care

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES YEARLY BY O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO., MARYSVILLE, OHIO
DISTRIBUTED FREE TO LOVERS OF BEAUTIFUL TURF

September 1938

ELEVENTH YEAR

Number 52

WILD GARLIC (*Allium Vineale*)

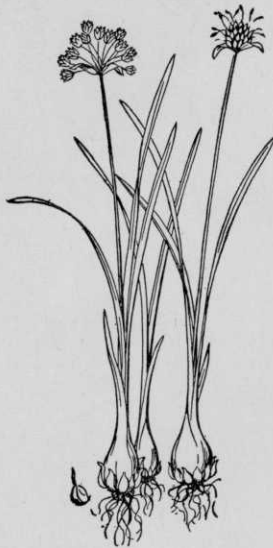
THIS weed is a perennial introduced from Europe. Other names by which it is known are Wild Onion and Crow Garlic. It ordinarily inhabits moist, sandy loam soils and may be found almost anywhere from Massachusetts to South Carolina and west to the Missouri River.

Here is another weed which has in recent years been moving in from the country to take up residence in town and city lawns. As a country weed it has been especially objectionable in fields and pastures because the flavor it imparts not only ruins the salability of milk but actually permeates the flesh of animals. This weed also inflicts a heavy loss to grain, especially wheat, from which it is said to exact a million dollars annually. So obviously, Wild Garlic or Wild Onion, which it is frequently called, has been blacklisted as a noxious weed in most states that it infests.

The same persistence which makes this weed troublesome in fields and pastures makes it equally pestiferous in lawns. While not as yet a common visitor in many sections, it bears watching.

Full grown plants of Wild Garlic are from one to three feet tall. They spring from small, membranous-coated bulbs resembling onions. The leaves are slim, deep green and tubular. There is a bloom as shown in the illustration, consisting of a dense cluster of small, pinkish-purple flowers having six pointed stems or segments. Below the flower-head are two papery pointed leaves which soon fall away. As the flowers wither, their places are taken by aerial bulbs, each about the size of a wheat kernel and tipped with a whisker

nearly an inch long. The number of aerial bulbs in a seed-head varies from twenty-five to a hundred. Below the ground there are secondary bulbs or "cloves." These develop at the base of the old bulb and in the fall form thick tufts of young plants which remain green all winter, ready to repeat the cycle of growth in the spring. When kept at lawn length, it is quite possible that the aerial bulbs may never have an opportunity to develop but the weed propagates itself by means of the secondary bulbs, a feature which makes it troublesome in lawns.



A fully ripened plant of Wild Garlic. Note the several features mentioned in the description.

Means of Control

Hand pulling just at flowering time is a good control measure if the plants are not too numerous. The ground must be very soft and care taken not to leave any of the ground bulbs. Quicker and more effective is the use of crude Carbolic Acid applied with a common machine oil can; a few drops on a plant or a sprinkle on the tuft will kill it. The acid should be very little if at all diluted.



An infestation of Wild Garlic in a Pennsylvania farm lawn. Rapid growth puts this weed far ahead of the turf it infests.

This treatment is especially effective if given before the grass has started or even before the ground thaws in the spring. Feeding and liming (if the soil is very acid) will also prove helpful in enabling desirable grasses to crowd out this weed.

In recent experiments the Green Section of the U. S. Golf Association has employed tear gas (Chloro-picrin) in fighting the Wild Garlic pest in lawns. A few drops of this potent liquid are placed by means of an eye dropper or similar instrument on each tuft of the weed early in the spring.

The "mob-quelling" gas usually outsmarts this highly odoriferous plant

and a cleaner turf results. Such an offensive should not be attempted unless a gas mask in good working order is available.

Camomile Lawns

Certain horticultural publications have set many folks agog lately with articles about Camomile, Turfing Daisy, Trefoil and the like, as substitutes for grass lawns. While this is very old stuff, it bobs up occasionally and creates a mild furore until another generation of homemakers has learned the facts. Since these turfing plants present the same general case, we shall confine these few remarks to Camomile since it is an oldtimer.

Back in the days of the Louis', Camomile lawns were quite the thing in France. Seed of the plant is available there for something in the neighborhood of \$16 a pound (\$1.50 per ounce.) These lawns were also used long ago in England but they have been superseded by lawns of grass. Today the turf publications in those countries where Camomile lawns were once common are making no mention of them at all. Home owners are more particular about their lawns now. The modern lawn in its perfect state must be both weedless and flowerless.

To save readers of *LAWN CARE* any costly mistakes, we are gathering all the available data on Camomile and other turfing plants and will present them for your guidance before the planting season next spring.

Meanwhile, we repeat a bit of advice on which no home owner can go wrong. Your State Experiment Station and the Department of Agriculture in Washington are either making tests of turf or are in constant contact with all such projects. Any practical advancement in the realm of fine lawns is most apt to originate at these sources.