

Lawn Care

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

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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.

Prevalence

During the past two years more specimens of Wild Onion have come in for identification than during the previous ten, which would indicate that this weed is gaining a foothold in lawns. It seems most common at present in the territory between Missouri and Maryland. Infestations, of course, may be found north of that line but a strip through the mid-section of the country seems to be most frequently visited.

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 Carbo-lic 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 out-smarts 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.

Super Abundance of Trefoil This Year

IN THE summer of 1932 Yellow Trefoil flourished. So many specimens were received for identification that this rather attractive little weed was featured in "Lawn Care." This year it has played a return engagement. There has seldom been a day when the mail has not brought a section of Trefoil with the question "What is it?"

Trefoil may be considered a poor relative of the Clover family, which may readily account for its abundance this year. Clover has flourished as it frequently does in what is termed a Clover year. Hard seeds, which do not germinate readily, have had enough moisture this summer to soften them. As a result many lawns are showing a heavy growth of Clover where none has been sown for years. If Clover is not considered objectionable, a heavy seeding of it will usually get the better of Trefoil. Spraying with Iron Sulfate solution as for Dandelions and Chickweed has also been found effective. If the infestation is not too heavy, however, we suggest hand pulling while the ground is soft and before the plants reseed.

Simplifies Gathering Leaves

"I so often observe people gathering leaves with baskets, carts, or what have you, and each time I am tempted to stop and tell them how much less trouble it is to use a sheet of light canvas about twelve feet square upon which you can rake the leaves, pick up the four corners and pull it off the lawn. I thought others might be interested and that you could at some time write it up in 'Lawn Care'."—C. W. Turner, Peacock Ice Cream Co., Evanston, Illinois.

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 authoritative sources.

Effect of Lime Lingers Sixteen Years

"I lived at Erie, Penna., sixteen years ago. At that time there was a subdivision at the western edge of the city that had a stream running through one corner of it, above which was a steep hill. The land company, realizing what a natural advertising feature they had, since the hill was visible from a very busy highway, employed a sign painter to whitewash the name of the subdivision in fifteen foot letters on the hillside. The letters stayed white for some time, but even to this day the lettering is still readable because of the effect the lime had on the growth and color of the grass. I have watched this from year to year and am inclined to believe the sign will be visible for years to come."—A. B. Post, Port Arthur Gardens, North Girard, Penna.

Brand New Use for Vacuum Sweepers

"My vacuum cleaner can be made to blow out as well as to 'inhale,' so I fill the spray container with the poison to be used and turn it into the ant hills. They get a thorough penetration and I am sure the plan is going to be much more effective than anything I have yet tried. Of course, this treatment calls for a lot of extension cord but I think we have something."—H. P. Hoser, Cortland, N. Y.

Home-Made Mole Maul Gets Results

"Our gardens and lawns were infested with moles. My best weapon is a home-made fork constructed as follows: Two half-inch boards 4 inches by 6 inches with a hole bored in the center large enough to hold a broom handle securely. Through one board, nine five-inch nails were driven, placed irregularly and close enough to prevent the mole from wriggling through. The two boards are nailed together with the handle fitted in place. With one thrust of this weapon I caught two last Saturday. And one mid-afternoon late last December I caught the largest mole I've ever seen. Open country all around makes it difficult to best these destructive 'boosters'."—A Lawn Care Reader.

Two Great Seasons for Crabgrass

THE summer of 1937 was a boon to Crabgrass, but 1938 has been still better. The seeds of this pest may lie dormant in the soil for many years awaiting a suitable combination of heat and moisture to promote germination. Crabgrass could not ask for a better break than it has received these past two years and it has responded magnificently. Thousands upon thousands of lawns are simply alive with it and, unfortunately, a good share of them will be allowed to reseed, thus insuring the alarming spread of a weed which ruins the appearance of much otherwise good turf.

While the desirable grass is still present, a heavy Crabgrass growth appears to dominate so completely that many people feel their lawns are gone. As a matter of fact, the Crabgrass has simply

grown faster and those wiry seed heads appeared in such profusion that the grass beneath is for the moment overwhelmed. Some perspiration is needed right here. Even if it requires several mowings, all Crabgrass which has gone to seed should be cut and the clippings removed. The lawn should then be raked vigorously, fed and reseeded. Without this constant vigilance, an infestation of Crabgrass gains more and more of a foothold each year. As yet, the control of this pest by chemical sprays has many limitations.

The complete story about Crabgrass appears in the April 1935 (Vol. 8, No. 3) issue of "Lawn Care." Copies are available for the asking.

"Here is a scheme I use when putting a stimulant on our lawn. Take a 50-gallon (or smaller) steel drum and attach a hose to the outlet top for intake, and another hose to the outlet at the end of the drum for sprinklers. Put fertilizer in through the bung hole and put the bung in tight; then sprinkle. The cross current of water keeps the fertilizer in solution. The drum will stand 100 pounds of water pressure. The heads may bulge but that is all."—E. A. Earle, 34 Morton St., Bloomfield, New Jersey.

Scott Literature

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