

Lawn Care

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

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

Sixteenth Year

Number 74

GARDENING FOR VICTORY

IN KEEPING with the times **LAWN CARE** is glad to do double duty and help spread the gospel of home gardening. By now most families realize that they should grow some of their own food if a suitable piece of ground is available.

The mistakes of the home gardening campaign of the last war should not be repeated, for much seed and fertilizer were wasted where soil conditions, shade and moisture supply precluded any possibility of even moderate success. Many other grandiose "February arm-chair" gardens were failures because too much was attempted and the manpower for maintenance was lacking. It must be admitted that weeds, insects and diseases were all that thrived in many a garden.

It is said that Great Britain had a similar experience in this war. The first urge was to tear up the lawn and try to utilize

every bit of space around the home. The result was often failure, and the gardener lost his enthusiasm for home vegetable raising either because he had attempted too much or had made his planting in the shade or in poor, compact soil.

For Amateurs Only

Almost every suburban neighborhood has at least one old-time gardener who knows the right technique for his vicinity. His advice should be sought because he is the one who must carry the torch in this food production crusade. Beginners may tax his patience but still he will lend a helping hand wherever he can.

The Victory Garden Committee of the U. S. Department of Agriculture is asking for 20,000,000 home gardens. If these are worked intensively, they can produce a tremendous quantity of vitamins, minerals and just plain good eatin'. A king



COPYRIGHT BY O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO.

never ate better fare than a platter of Golden Bantam fresh from the garden.

Headliners For Victory Foods

The Department of Agriculture urges the planting of those vegetables that are richest in minerals and vitamins. In their Victory Garden Bulletin No. 483 they suggest growing what is most enjoyed but they also emphasize the greater nutritional value of certain crops.

Green Leafy Vegetables are considered of greatest importance. They should be available in a succession of plantings from early spring to freezing weather. Varieties include chard, collards, kale, turnip greens and green lettuce.

Tomatoes and Beans are widely adapted, easy to grow and easy to can. Tomatoes are considered one of the best sources of important Vitamin C. Every family, even apartment dwellers, should find room for a few tomatoes if nothing else. Last year families living in an apartment utilized the space beside the garage to grow a generous supply of luscious quality.

Beets, Carrots and Onions can be stored as well as used fresh. Parsnips and Salsify can be left in the ground all winter.

Cabbage is easy to raise but only a few plants per person should be grown, as it will not stand long after heading. A surplus can be made into sauerkraut or heads of the Danish type can be stored.

Potatoes and Corn are among the best energy foods but require considerable space. Golden Cross Bantam is an improvement of the famous Golden Bantam sweet corn. There are other new and excellent hybrid varieties of sweet corn.

Edible Soybeans have begun to appear in the American diet. Special varieties for humans have been developed, including Bansei, Funk Delicious, and Willioni. They are rather easy to grow, but rabbits like them too, so a good fence is necessary to avoid trouble like Mr. McGregor's.

Although the department does not include it in the list, *Broccoli* deserves a plug. Like it? A lot of people say no, but

maybe it is because they never had any fresh out of the garden, properly prepared and cooked. Broccoli is easy to grow, starts yielding in early summer and keeps on through heavy frost until deep freezing weather. It is very nutritious, excellent for quick freezing and canning.

Feed It To Feed You

The energy value, vitamins and minerals in garden crops are taken from the soil. Most soils are deficient in these elements, so they need to be fortified by using manure, or even better and more convenient, commercial plant food. Although there is a shortage of some chemicals the government has realized the importance of fertilizers for the home garden and allocated the necessary materials for a Victory Garden Fertilizer. We are glad to utilize our facilities to manufacture Scotts Victory Garden plant food and make it readily available for its intended use—food production only.

Probably the easiest way to feed the garden plot is to make a broadcast application before any seeding or planting. Then follow up with at least one other feeding to the rows in mid-season.

Some Basic Facts

START EARLY—Spade as soon as the ground can be worked. Don't cultivate heavy soils when they are saturated.

LIMIT THE AREA to what you can properly care for. A successful garden requires favorable soil in full sun, well away from trees and tall shrubs. Use a good lawn area only if no other space is available. Even that is questionable since the turned under sod will continue to try to re-establish grass and this will be strong competition to the crop.

SUCCESSIVE PLANTING is the secret of large production from small space. Follow the example of commercial gardeners, use fertilizer, cultivation and planning to get repeat crops from the same ground.

TIME THE PLANTINGS according to tolerance of crop to early and late frosts. Some crops may be planted while the ground is cold, but others require warmth.

Consult Government Bulletins

Your own State Agricultural Experiment Station can supply you with bulletins that will help you to success with your garden. Many seed catalogs contain a wealth of help, particularly cultural information. The Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, will send their excellent VICTORY GARDENS, Bulletin No. 483.

Although we do not handle vegetable seeds, we are told that there will be enough to go around if none are wasted. Buy only what you need and take care of what you plant.

Salt on Walks

A frequent question is whether adjacent grass is injured when salt is used to melt ice and snow on walks and driveways. One LAWN CARE reader reports that it does not seem to in his case, even though he uses it frequently because he is a custodian of a public building:

His thought is that when the crystals dissolve the concentration is so weak that it does not harm the grass or soil. Have any readers had experiences to the contrary, either with salt or calcium chloride?

Crabgrass Rakes

Last year quite a few LAWN CARE readers bought the special Crabgrass Rakes described in LAWN CARE No. 70. These proved so popular that the supply was sold out before summer. Of course no more can be made until after the war.

We still get requests for them from people who have observed the success of their friends or neighbors in using this rake to pull Crabgrass out of their lawns during late summer. There is no way of supplying these people unless possibly some who bought them last year have no further use for theirs, and would care to return them to us.

If you have Crabgrass Rakes that are not needed or that were found unsuitable, we will be glad to buy them back at the full purchase price. They may be returned

any time charges collect to O. M. Scott & Sons Co., Marysville, Ohio.

Snails Impede Grass

SIRS:

My lawn has been a great success with the exception of a space two yards square. We discovered last September why this particular spot has not responded to my tender care. Inspecting the lawn at night with a flashlight, I looked at the sparse growth of seedlings in this space and discovered that the ground was covered with dozens of shell-like snails or slugs. These snails were munching away at the tender seedling blades until they fell off one by one. I picked up all the available snails then and there and disposed of them. Checking up a couple of nights later, I found a few scattered snails which I likewise removed and feel that the mystery of the sparse growth has been solved.

HENRY R. MULTER

Binghamton, N. Y.

Sweeping the snails into a dust pan with a stiff broom might be less strenuous.

Farmers, Take Notice!

In 1870 O. M. Scott was running a country elevator eight miles from Marysville. He dealt extensively in farm seeds and became known far and wide as the pioneer in re-cleaned seeds. His merchandise was enough better that farmers braved mud roads and snow drifts to make sure that the seed they bought was free from noxious weeds.

Throughout the years intervening Scotts Seed has been living up to that reputation. Discriminating farmers from all over the eastern half of the country send to Marysville, Ohio, for farm seeds. Most State Experiment Stations rely upon it for their test plots.

This Scott Farm Seed Department issues a bulletin of the Lawn Care type. If you farm a hundred acres or more you'll want on our mailing list.

The last issue discussed in interesting fashion the subject of stable manure and its value in soil building. The next tells the absorbing story of Hybrid Corn. These subjects do not sound exciting to outsiders but the man with farming interests will find them most absorbing.

Another Ivy Eater

A lively discussion has continuously followed the publication of bulletin No. 57 which featured the irritating subject of Poison Ivy. Latest comment is from a physician who supports the immunization theory of Indian origin which many others have questioned. Writes Dr. H. F. Curtis of Wolfeboro, N. H.:

"As a brash kid I always claimed that Poison Ivy didn't hurt me—I can eat it. And I did often eat the small tender leaves. Never, even in recent years, have I been troubled by Poison Ivy. In building a trolley line near Webster, Massachusetts, many years ago they had much trouble among the workmen with Ivy poisoning until a local physician advised having the men eat of the small leaves. It seemed to give perfect immunity. After all the Indians were pretty smart. They ate liver, too, long before white men knew of its value."

Weed—or Grass Substitute

In LAWN CARE No. 54 we discussed various plants which have from time to time been offered as substitutes for grass. Among them were Camomile, Sandwort, Turfing Daisy and Pearlwort. Their claims to fantastic merit in requiring no watering, cutting or feeding were examined and disallowed. They were shown to be valuable as ground covers under certain conditions, but to be entirely unsatisfactory for general use on lawns.

Lately there has been quite an attempt to exploit a southern California plant for lawn use. So many inquiries were directed to the Greens Section of the United States Golf Association that they published an article about it in Turf Talks of August, 1942. We quote in part:

"Considerable publicity has been given recently to the use of *Dichondra repens* as

a substitute for grass. One large mail order house is selling it in flats under the name Dew Drop grass.

"*Dichondra repens* is a low creeping plant related to the morning glories but superficially resembling white clover. The leaves, however, are kidney shaped and may be as large as an inch in diameter. It spreads rapidly by means of runners, and is difficult to destroy.

"It has been generally considered as a weed in turf. Its general adaptability for building lawns has not been established, nor has its general use in the replacement of grasses for turf purposes been justified."

SIRS:

Better look further into your tar paper fighting of Crabgrass (Lawn Care 73). I made the same discovery about ten years ago. That year I found three days long enough to leave the covering on in August, but the third year I tried it the grass was killed too. Probably there was some difference in the conditions. It is a good idea to experiment to find if the methods can be safely used.

FRANK J. DAWSON

Columbus, Ohio

Lawn Care Binder



This durable, loose-leaf ring binder, containing all issues of LAWN CARE and with capacity for five more years, will be sent for \$1.00 postage paid which represents our actual investment.

These binders belong in every garden library. Hundreds of LAWN CARE readers have presented them to friends as gifts and to public libraries and garden clubs. One seldom if ever finds such a complete file of useful lawn data.

The same complete set of bulletins in stiff paper binding is 25c.

O. M. SCOTT & SONS CO.



MARYSVILLE • • OHIO

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