

# Lawn Care

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## SPRING '46 LAWN PROGRAM

**T**HIS should be the year when that better lawn can become a reality. Time, materials, and even tools will probably be available, so the lawn need no longer be neglected.

Do you have a sturdy, sharp-toothed garden rake that you will need to scarify those bare spots? A spading fork is good to open up hard, compact areas. A comb type rake is handy to clean the lawn. What about a spreader for applying seed and food evenly and without waste?

If you can borrow a roller when you return the neighbor's snow shovel, all well and good. If not, you may want to buy one but be sure to get a water ballast type as most others are too heavy. Unless a soil is sandy or gravelly it may be harmed by heavy roll-

ing. A roller is not to be used to level a rough lawn—only to firm heaved grass roots back into the soil.

They tell us that new lawn mowers will be available for the grass cutting season. Look for one that can be adjusted to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches cutting height.

### What To Do Before Thaws

**Liming**—If a soil test shows that your soil needs lime, late winter is a good time to put it on. About the most that should be applied at one time is 50 to 75 pounds of raw ground agricultural limestone per 1000 square feet. If you have to use the hydrated form, reduce the rate to 35 to 50 pounds. If your lawn has not had lime in recent years it may be a good idea to make a trial application on part of it and see if that section is more thrifty through the summer. If so, the balance should be limed the following fall or winter. LAWN CARE No. 48.

**Grub Control**—Lawns in areas of potential Jap Beetle invasions should be treated with one of the newer materials available to eliminate grubs.

**Feeding**—While the ground is frozen and the grass still dormant is a good time to apply Turf Builder. There is then no danger of burning and nutrients will be ready for use as early as the grass starts growth. The rate to use Turf Builder is about 10 pounds per 1000 square feet (20 ft. x 50 ft.) or one pound per 100 square



feet. The best way to apply it is with a Scott Spreader as then all that is necessary is to set at the required rate, fill the hopper and run over the ground.

**Seeding**—After feeding it is well to do necessary seeding even though the ground is frozen and lots of cold weather is expected. During periods of alternate freezing and thawing the ground often becomes checked and cracked, making what is called a honey-combed surface. This is ideal to receive the seed, as weathering tends to work it into the soil where it is ready for germination when the ground warms. Feeding and seeding on top of a light snow is good practice.

The amount of seed required varies from 3 to 5 pounds per 1000 square feet, depending upon thickness of turf and the amount of bare places.

#### After Thaw

Removal of the fall and winter accumulation of leaves and other debris is one of the first jobs after the ground thaws. At this time patches of dead Crabgrass should be raked out. If general feeding and seeding have not been done before, they should be next in sequence.

When all of the frost is out of the ground, the surface fairly well dried and seeding completed, rolling is in order. Only this one rolling a year is advised. A water ballast roller only partly filled avoids packing or puddling the soil. A firming of the surface is all that is desired.

Sooner or later the lawn mower will need to be wheeled out. It is advisable to start cutting as soon as the grass grows to cutting height, in fact, it's a good idea not to let it go too long. Those early mowings may be fairly short while the weather is cool, especially if new grass is coming up. The old grass, if allowed to grow too long,

is apt to smother the younger growth. Under such conditions be sure to catch or remove clippings.

#### If Program Delayed

If the active growing season is under way before feeding and seeding, some modification of procedure may be necessary. Applications of Scotts Turf Builder are better if made when the grass is dry. If the grass should be damp there may be some burning of the blades but this damage usually is only temporary. The roots are unharmed. If the grass is long and matted, it is a good idea to comb it out and mow before the feeding so that the Turf Builder falls to the ground instead of sticking to the blades.

Seed sown after frost will be surer of germinating if it can be lightly worked into the soil by a surface scratching of the soil with an iron rake. A light covering of topsoil, not to exceed an eighth of an inch, is helpful, or the seed may be mixed with soil before broadcasting. Covering lightly with soil is especially helpful in fixing up bare spots.

#### No More Hand Weeding!

This year for the first time we do not need to recommend hand weeding in the suggested spring program. Chemical control will definitely come of age this year—for practically all lawn weeds except Crabgrass.

As a result of our own greenhouse and lawn experiments of the past two years we are convinced that a safe and effective weed control program can be outlined, making it possible for most anyone to have a weedfree lawn. The right materials will be available early in 1946 and we know LAWN CARE readers are going to get as much of a kick out of putting pesky Dandelions to rout as we have. Wait for Scotts 4-X.

# Cumulative Index to Lawn Care

Bulletin numbers under heading of New Series apply to  
LAWN CARE files and binders furnished after March 1945

	New Series	Old Series		New Series	Old Series
Acid Soils . . . . .	48	48	Knawel . . . . .	71	24
Algae . . . . .	41	47	Knotweed, Knotgrass . . . . .	71	17
Ants, Control of . . . . .	84	84			
			Lead Arsenate . . . . .	44	44
Beetle Grub . . . . .	44	44	Leaf Spot . . . . .	41	47
Brown Patch . . . . .	41	36	Liming Soils . . . . .	48	48
Buckhorn . . . . .	82	82			
Burlap, Mulch . . . . .	51	51	Mallow . . . . .	67	67
			Manures . . . . .	46	59
Chamomile . . . . .	54	54	Mildew . . . . .	41	47
Chickweed . . . . .	53	53	Moles . . . . .	86	86
Chinch Bugs . . . . .	80	80	Moneywort . . . . .	65	65
Clay Soils . . . . .	46	46	Moss . . . . .	47	4
Clover in Lawns . . . . .	68	38	Mouse-Ear Chickweed . . . . .	53	53
Compost . . . . .	46	3	Mowing . . . . .	54	54
Crabgrass . . . . .	70	70	Muhlenbergia . . . . .	61	23
Crawfish . . . . .	86	86	Mulch . . . . .	46	63
Creeping Buttercup . . . . .	56	14	Mulching with Burlap . . . . .	51	51
Cutworms . . . . .	41	37	Mushroom Soil . . . . .	46	59
Damping-off . . . . .	41	47	Nimble-Will . . . . .	61	23
Dandelions . . . . .	49	49	Nutgrass (Sedge) . . . . .	73	28
Devil's Paint Brush . . . . .	72	72			
Digger Wasps . . . . .	82	82	Orange Hawkweed . . . . .	72	72
Dogs, Repellants . . . . .	76	76	Orchard Grass . . . . .	45	45
Dollarspot . . . . .	41	36	Organic Matter . . . . .	46	59
Drainage . . . . .	40	34			
			Pearlwort . . . . .	54	54
Earwig . . . . .	52	45	Peat . . . . .	46	59
Excess Moisture . . . . .	41	47	Pennywort . . . . .	75	75
			Pepper-Grass . . . . .	50	33
Fall Program . . . . .	81	81	Pigweed . . . . .	74	32
Feeding Lawns . . . . .	64	64	Plantain . . . . .	82	82
Feeding Trees . . . . .	69	69	Poa Annua . . . . .	62	39
Fertilizer for Lawns . . . . .	64	64	Poison Ivy . . . . .	57	57
Foxtail . . . . .	42	42	Purslane . . . . .	74	32
			Pusley . . . . .	74	32
Goose Grass . . . . .	70	22			
Gophers . . . . .	86	86	Quackgrass . . . . .	63	19
Grass Substitutes . . . . .	54	54			
Ground Covers . . . . .	40	54	Salting Sidewalks . . . . .	77	77
Ground Ivy . . . . .	55	8	Sandwort . . . . .	54	54
Grubs . . . . .	44, 86	44	Sandy Soils . . . . .	46	46
			Sedge . . . . .	73	28
Heal-All . . . . .	56	11	Sewage Sludge . . . . .	46	59
Henbit . . . . .	55	40	Shade Problems . . . . .	40	34
Humus . . . . .	46	59			
Hydrocotyle Rotundifolia . . . . .	75	75			

## Cumulative Index (Continued)

	New Series	Old Series
Sheep Sorrel . . . . .	59	18
Shepherd's Purse . . . . .	50	26
Silver Crabgrass (Goose- grass) . . . . .	70	22
Skunks . . . . .	44	44
Slime Mold . . . . .	41	36
Snowmold . . . . .	77	77
Sod Webworms . . . . .	41	5
Soils . . . . .	46	46
Speedwell . . . . .	65	13
Spiking . . . . .	46	67
Spotted Spurge . . . . .	71	20
Spring Care . . . . .	83	83
Sprinkling Lawns . . . . .	60	60
Spurge . . . . .	71	20
Summer Problems . . . . .	41	36
Terrace Problem . . . . .	43	25
Termites . . . . .	84	84
Thyme-Leaved Speedwell . . . . .	65	13
Tile Drainage . . . . .	40	34
Toadstools . . . . .	41	36
Topdressing . . . . .	46	46
Tree Feeding . . . . .	69	69
Trefoil . . . . .	58	21
Turf Diseases . . . . .	41	36
Turfing Daisy . . . . .	54	54
Vitamins . . . . .	64	62
Wasps . . . . .	82	82
Watergrass (Crabgrass) . . . . .	70	70
Watering Lawns . . . . .	60	60
Webworms . . . . .	41	5
Wild Garlic . . . . .	52	52
Wild Onion . . . . .	52	52
Winter Damage . . . . .	77	77
Winter Mulch . . . . .	77	63
Wiregrass (Crabgrass) . . . . .	70	70
Wood Sorrel . . . . .	58	
Yarrow . . . . .	66	9
Yellow Jackets . . . . .	47	41
Yellow Trefoil . . . . .	58	21
Zonate Eyespot . . . . .	41	47
Zoysia Grasses . . . . .	82	82

Is Robert Rownd, *LAWN CARE's* oldest reader? People of all ages like pretty lawns. These bulletins are read by small boys who have been bargained into the lawn mowing assignment, up to those of advanced years who like nothing better than to work in the grass and make it look its Sunday best.

In the latter group is G. A. R. Veteran Robert M. Rownd of Ripley, New York. Mr. Rownd is a user of Scotts Seed and a reader of *LAWN CARE*. His age?—101. Last fall Mr. Rownd came to Columbus, Ohio, for the Annual G. A. R. Encampment. Incidentally he was once Postmaster of Columbus, having been appointed by President McKinley. He came to Columbus unescorted, had a grand time, looked about 30 years less than his age, and will soon no doubt be pushing the mower over his own lawn at Ripley.

## 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. Hundreds of

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