

# Lawn Care

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## EASY WEED CONTROL

**I**N SPITE of modern and easy weed control methods, there are those who still resort to hand digging to try to get rid of dandelions and their ilk. This really is as out-dated as cooking with wood.

Not so many years ago the magic of spraying away weeds was hailed as a great emancipation. There are still those who don't seem to mind fussing with sprayers, carrying water, and keeping the pressure pumped up. But that method should be considered a choice rather than a necessity.

On the part of the professionals and turf

technicians, there is increasing acceptance of the value of using the combination fertilizer and weed control, a dry compound that is easily applied



**ABOVE** A few weeds spoiled an otherwise good lawn . . . **BELOW** The whole lawn free from weeds as a result of an easy application of Weed & Feed.

to the lawn. This procedure was originally suggested by scientists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture about five years ago.

Scotts Lawn Research workers were quick to follow up this suggestion in the past 4 years. LAWN CARE readers, by the hundreds of thousands, have found it the simplest way to clear up their lawns of most non-grass weeds, particularly

dandelions, plantain, buckhorn, heal-all, wild onion, thistle and ground ivy.

Some weeds, such as chickweed and speedwell, are more resistant to chemical weed controls. These are low growing vining types which are particularly prolific in cool, wet weather of early spring. They can be controlled but usually two or three treatments are needed, preferably in the late spring and early summer.

Last year an interesting observation was made by the superintendent of a famous golf course. In June and July, he tried weed controls against chickweed in the form of sprays and compared results with dry applications of Weed & Feed. Both methods removed the chickweed from fairway turf. However, crabgrass developed in abundance where the spray was used but not in the areas treated with the dry combination. Apparently the fertilizer provided slow, steady feeding of the desirable grass enabling it to hold the crabgrass in check.

### SCIENTISTS APPROVE METHOD

In reporting on the studies of practical lawn maintenance conducted at the Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Maryland, the comment was made that "a weedy grass is a starved grass." Because of this, application of plant food at the time of using weed control is of prime importance. A combination of fertilizer and weed control solves two problems simultaneously. They further pointed out that even distribution was one of the main factors in effectiveness and suggested either late spring or early fall application.

Another comment was to the effect that the weed control in such a combination will suppress clover temporarily but will not kill it.

One of the country's leading agronomists, a specialist in weed investigation, spoke at a recent meeting of the American Fertilizer Control officials on the

practical advantage of feeding and weeding in one operation. He commented on the saving of time and on the fact that otherwise many folks might not bother with either feeding or weed control. He emphasized the fact that the proper use of fertilizer and weed control mixtures practically eliminated the danger of harmful drift onto valuable plants. As he pointed out, it is much more difficult to prevent drift from pressure sprays and that such fog-like drift may be carried quite some distance by the wind.

Results on trial applications of weed and feed combinations in Pennsylvania have been reported in a State College bulletin. After making tests under wide ranges of conditions, they concluded that the method is "practical and satisfactory." Among the advantages: It eliminates an extra operation, saves investment in spray equipment that cannot be safely used for other than weed control purposes, and simplifies the

### Games On The Lawn

A reader wonders if others "have the fun we do playing games on the lawn?"

"Our folks are partial to croquet and badminton," he writes, saying they would like suggestions from other readers.

"It doesn't take a big lawn for croquet because you don't have to follow the standard dimensions. A neighbor has what he calls a 'dog leg' course since it forms an L across the back and around the side of his house.

"For badminton we just put up the net in the center of an area some 20 x 30 feet, don't even bother with court lines. Oldsters as well as youngsters like to play—and generally they play barefoot. We encourage this as it saves the turf. It's a pleasant sensation to feel Scotts cool green carpet underfoot!"



weed control program.

Elaborating on the latter, they explain the importance of providing plant food at the time of weed destruction and stimulating the grass "to fill in bare spots rapidly."

The landscape specialist of the extension service of Virginia Polytechnic Institute recommends the combination of fertilizer and weed control for Virginia lawns.

Those who have used Scotts Weed & Feed know it as a dry granular compound, of even consistency so it may be applied evenly and accurately. With the right spreader, the job takes hardly any time at all. Application is best made in late spring, early summer or in the fall when weeds are growing actively. Results are quicker if there is enough soil moisture for normal growth, but treatment should be made during a time of day when the grass is dry. Sprinkling should be delayed so the chemical stays on the weed leaves until it can be absorbed, a matter of 12 to 24 hours. It is a good idea to then water the area thoroughly 24 hours after application.

### PROOF OF THE PUDDING

"I sure am proud to say I used your Weed & Feed. Only regret I don't have more weeds to use it on. I wish you could see the Dandelions disappear. I have an asparagus knife with which I used to dig them. It gives me great pleasure to say it has now been discarded."—West Sacramento, Calif.

"I found the Spreader most satisfactory and practical. I also find it is the best buy in the spreader line on the market today. It has many features that you will not find on any other machine. I would also like to tell you how good the Weed & Feed treatment is. I applied it to the lawn in June. I was certainly surprised when I found all the Plantain and Dandelion dead in about ten days."—Anacortes, Wash.

"I have used several kinds of lawn food and weed killer but your Scotts Weed & Feed has been the best of all that I have used."—Midvale, Utah.

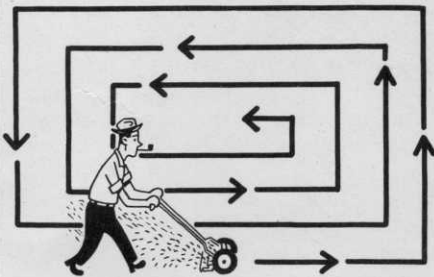
"Last year I used Scotts Weed & Feed. Results were very satisfactory and I have since recommended it to many of my clients."—(Landscape Contractor), South San Francisco.

"This year I used your Weed & Feed on a bad spot of weeds along one side of our lawn and had wonderful results. It also improved the grass. Thanks for your information to our garden club members. I am a booster of Scotts products."—Molala, Ore.

"I first purchased a box of the food with weed killer and this is my reaction for the benefit of those who purchase. For the first week I was disappointed for it seemed the weeds were not being controlled. But very much to my surprise after about 3 weeks I found they had practically all disappeared. I have a large lawn and was pleasantly surprised to see the beautiful growth. Not the growth that comes with a hypodermic type of food. The turf improved and the lawn took less water."—Portland, Ore.

"The Weed & Feed was spread on the terrace and parkway some time ago and I am glad to report that the Dandelions have completely disappeared."—Los Angeles, Calif.

"The Weed & Feed completely rid our lawn of Dandelions and the Spreader is swell. My lawn is greener than the ones on either side of it."—Prescott, Ariz.



A recent suggestion for "easier mowing" comes from LAWN CARE reader W. Philip McBride: "After the lush growth of spring is past, I detach the catcher and let the clippings fall. However, I mow completely around the plot, always walking in a counter-clockwise direction. Since the mower throws the clippings to the left, that is into the uncut grass where they are cut over and scattered again when the grass is cut. In mowing along a walk, it is well to remember that the mower throws the clippings to the left. By walking in the proper direction, the clippings can be thrown back on the lawn or on the walk as desired."



## Pest Control Made Easy

Healthy, well fed lawns have remarkable powers of recuperating from damage, which makes a strong case for putting turf areas on a regular feeding program.

This does not mean, however, that lawn owners should ignore the insect pests that damage grass by feeding on its roots and foliage. More and more people are learning the true economy of including an application of Pest Control in their maintenance programs.

Some pests, such as grubs, do their dirty work below the surface of the lawn. For these, applications are watered in to carry the control down to them.

Others, such as sod webworms, work at the surface. To kill them the control must be left at the top of the ground for a day or two before watering.

Sod webworms occur in damaging numbers in many of the western states. LAWN CARE therefore passes along this timely tip to alert its readers: Beginning in May and continuing into October, watch for the short, zig-zag, low-level flights across the lawn, of small tan moths. They are most likely to be seen at dusk. These are lawn moths laying their eggs in the grass. The larvae which hatch from these tiny eggs feed on grass stems and leaves causing brown spots to develop in the lawn.

These and many other pests including grubs, skipper larvae, several species of ants, cutworms and mole crickets can be easily controlled with a simple application of Scotts Pest Control.

### **FLASH!**

Wait for the June issue of LAWN CARE before you worry about Crabgrass in your lawn. You will receive an extra issue of LAWN CARE in plenty of time to tell you of a new, easy way to control this pest.

The days of Crabgrass are numbered. Its fate will soon be that of dandelions and other broad-leaved weeds—subdued by an easy spreader application of a dry compound.

In a recent issue of Business Week we note that tomorrow's factories will be built in "an uncrowded, campus-like atmosphere," and that factories are becoming "pleasanter to look at, to live with and work in."

Specifically mentioned are new plants of General Electric, Western Electric, A. G. Spalding & Brother, and Continental Can. They are big new modern plants surrounded by spacious Scott lawns.

### **Readers Call It Their Lawn Bible**

Send for a full set of these LAWN CARE bulletins. They're chock-full of timely hints and new ideas on lawn making and maintenance. Available in a neat green leather style ring binder for \$1 or in a heavy paper binding for only 25c. At your Scott dealer or write Scotts at Palo Alto, California.



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