

Lawn Care

T. M. REG
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EASY WEED CONTROL

IN 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



Before and after. This lawn, treated just as the trees were beginning to leaf, was clear of dandelions by the time the trees were in full glory.

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 and since that time 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 cold, 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.

Lawrence Huber, superintendent of the famed Ohio State golf course, made an interesting observation last year. 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 Ameri-

can 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

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!"



control purposes, and simplifies the 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 8 or 10 hours. It is a good idea to then water the area thoroughly 24 hours after application.

Not Burn, Starvation

Quite often folks write in after plant food applications saying they seemed to have yellowed streaks of grass and that the grass seems to be dying. The assumption is that burning is the cause. On investigation, it is usually found that instead of burn, the streaks are the result of starvation, that is, they were missed in the application of plant food.

SIRS:

"I have now tried your Weed & Feed on a portion of my lawn where I had quite a lot of weed growth. I am glad to say this has disappeared, which is a tribute to the efficiency of the weed killer content of the product. The grasses appear to have been stimulated, so that it would seem your "Weed & Feed" works under Australian conditions just as well as in your own country.

DENHAM BROS. PTY. LTD.

Rockhampton, Australia.

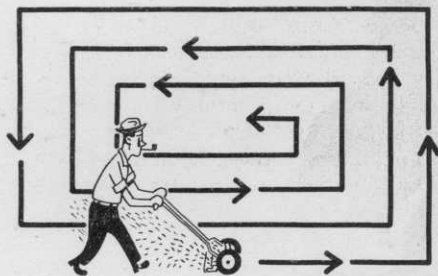
Grass Clippings

To fall or not to fall, that is the question.

In answering this question to the satisfaction of all, Mr. Shakespeare would come in mighty handy. It is controversial only to this extent—is the lawn being maintained for its beauty or to return to the ground an inconsequential amount of humus?

The LAWN CARE position has been frequently stated. The clippings are probably of more value used elsewhere than on the lawn. They have little or no plant food but do serve as a mulch for gardens or shrub beds. If allowed to dry on the ground 24 hours after mowing, the bulk necessary to rake up is greatly reduced.

Our best story about clippings came some years ago from a housewife who apparently had fought a heated battle with her husband on the subject. She wanted us to umpire the bout, provided we sided with her. She stated her position and gave us this helpful hint: "It is absolutely necessary that you agree with me because I have had very harsh words over this."



A recent suggestion for "easier mowing" comes from LAWN CARE reader W. Philip McBride of Evanston, Illinois: "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."

SIRS:

"I have found that your Weed & Feed does a marvelous job of destruction on Canadian Thistles. They do not die fast, but they do die."
A. L. ALIE. Ft. Wayne, Ind.

Maryland Alert To "Black Dirt" Gyps

Through the courtesy of L. E. Bopst, Maryland State Chemist, we learn that they were recently successful in securing convictions against two peddlers of worthless trash sold as "magic humus, fertilizer and grass restorer." Fines were meted out for false representations and failure to have licenses.

Good work like this on the part of state officials, publicity in Better Business Bureaus' bulletins and other publications have saved some folks from this illicit operation. In spite of it, many homeowners fall victim every year to truck peddlers who not only deliver poor materials but arrange to do so in such a way there is no chance to determine the amount applied.

Many have written that various articles in *LAWN CARE* on this subject have saved them and their neighbors from succumbing to such schemes. To be safe: Buy lawn materials from known sources only; be wary of itinerant peddlers, no matter how glib their story.

Many Soil Samples Show Lime Need

A summary of soil tests in the Scotts laboratories during the past two years shows an interesting pattern as to soil reaction. These tests were made on samples taken from thousands of home lawns across the country.

New England soils were preponderantly on the extreme acid side with lime being recommended for these proportions of samples tested: Maine 93%, New Hampshire 87%,

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.

Massachusetts 88%, Rhode Island 95%, Connecticut 85%.

The Middle Atlantic States samples did not show quite as much lime need, the figures varying from a high of 86% in Delaware to around 60% for Pennsylvania, New Jersey and New York.

Over 78% of Florida samples called for lime, 65% in the Carolinas and Virginia.

As was to be expected, mid-western soils ranked low in relative number needing lime though over a third of the samples from Ohio, Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota were too acid for best grass growth. Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Nebraska were under 20% but over half the Missouri samples showed lime need.

SENDING SAMPLES. Those residing east of Ohio or in the area of the Japanese Beetle Quarantine Zones should address samples of soil to:

O. M. Scott & Sons Co.
Ridgefield, New Jersey

All other samples should be mailed to the company at Marysville, Ohio.

This Scotts service includes soil testing and examination of sod samples if such are sent. A report is mailed to the owner describing the physical classification of the soil, with suggestions regarding improvement and amount of lime needed, if any. The charge is one dollar for the first sample and fifty cents for each additional sample submitted at the same time.

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