

# Lawn Care

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PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES YEARLY FOR LAWNTHUSIASTS



This little publication is in its 25th year. It seems but a short time ago that it made a trial run of a few thousand copies. Now it's grown into millions. The folks who put the first issue together are still very much on the job—a bit heavier and balder than in 1928, but just as enthusiastic about Lawn Care's mission.

Those who received Lawn Care Vol I, No 1 can hardly be called charter subscribers since they did not ask to receive the publication. They were merely exposed to it. But loyal readership developed quickly. In fact, the only set of original issues in our files at Marysville was sent to us by a kindly lady from Minnesota who was moving to a beach apartment in Florida and felt that she would no longer need them. She guessed rightly that her late husband had done a better job of saving than we had.

The lasting interest in the Lawn Care bulletins was not anticipated. However, the demand for back issues soon indicated the bulletins were being referred to often, passed around the neighborhood. This led to the reprinting of material from the earlier issues in digest

form and the development of the paper covered file and loose-leaf binder.

In the beginning Lawn Care was dedicated to serve the typical lawn enthusiast. His help was asked and received. Good ideas were passed along in succeeding issues. Lawn Care became a sort of clearing house, reporting reader experience as well as the latest in experimental information.

In reviewing those earlier issues it is evident the major and almost unsurmountable lawn problem of 25 years ago was—weeds. They were the bane and despair of those who wanted nice lawns. The lawn enthusiasts wrath and abuse knew no bounds . . . all sorts of attacks on weeds were in use. They were chopped at, slashed and dug, smothered or burned, but still they persisted.

The second issue of Lawn Care named Crabgrass as the king of weed pests, and frankly, there was little to offer but sympathy. Most correspondents seemed to give up in hopeless despair on that problem until 22 years later Scutl came along. Readers did devise clever ruses to overcome the No 2 pest—Dandelions. One man trained his Boston Bull to nip off the yellow



tassles. He did stop seed production but the old plants continued merrily on.

Others in the weed battle became acid-throwers. Inventive minds devised torture tools by the hundreds, claiming easy extermination. But in most cases two or three Dandelions appeared in a few weeks after the plant was supposedly cut out. Then there were those hollow canes filled with poison, so one could take a stroll about the lawn of an evening, nonchalantly dropping destruction on the hated Dandelion with each grounding of the cane.

Happily, those days when weeds reigned supreme are past. No lawn need now be marred by their ugliness. Materials for control are more easily applied than mowing the lawn. Convenient granular materials, such as 4-XD, Weed & Feed and Scutl are placed in the spreader—a walk over the lawn and the job's done.

Weed control is just one of the many advancements in lawn culture over the past quarter century. While science and research have played their part, they would never have been utilized had it not been for the intense interest and keen desire of those who wanted better lawns. Today's lawn methods make the job easier, at less cost and with the assurance of more satisfying results. We like to think that this little publication has played a vital part in making Americans more lawn-conscious.

### Lawn Mowing and Ecclesiastical History

A faithful Lawn Care reader sent in this report taken from the minutes (year 1797) of one of the earlier Episcopal Churches of the country:

1797-May 10 The Church called Rev E D Rattone . . . He was to preach in Flushing every other Sabbath . . . His salary per annum was the interest of 900 pounds, and 100 pounds additional were pledged if it could be raised.

Olive Browne was named sexton on a salary of 6 pounds per annum and the *privilege* of cutting the grass in the Church yard.

The clerk was allowed the same sum but instead of the grass extra, was to receive an admonition for past irregular conduct.

☞ Rumping on the grass?—ED.

## Primer on Weed Control

**What to Use?** To catch seedling grass-type weeds as they are sprouting—apply Scutl at two-week intervals see Lawn Care #120.

Established weeds of other than grass types, i.e., Dandelions, Plantain, Buckhorn, Chickweed, Heal All, Ground Ivy:

Use 4-XD or Weed & Feed. Each of these products carries the same weed control chemical. However, Weed & Feed also supplies a generous feeding for the grass. If lawn has been fed, is hale and hearty, use 4-XD. If rundown, give it the extra stimulation of the double action Weed & Feed.

Crabgrass is controlled with Scutl. If a series of treatments is not started in April or May, then begin applications as soon as Crabgrass is plainly visible in the lawn. Depending upon the climate, this will be June or early July.

Other wild grasses cannot be chemically controlled except in process of germination as described in first paragraph.

**How to apply** Scutl, 4-XD and Weed & Feed are easily and accurately applied with Scotts Lawn Spreader. Setting directions are in each product package.

## English Lawns Then and Now



The excellence of lawns in England was noted in the first issue of Lawn Care. The following quotation from an English gardener was included as his answer to the query of how to do it:

*"That is easy. You simply prepare the seed bed carefully; sow clean seed; roll; weed; water; fertilizer; and mow —after a hundred years of such practice you have a real lawn".*

The time required seems more exaggerated now than it did then. Furthermore one of this country's most renowned turf scientists made an observation 25 years ago that is still applicable now. He felt the gardener failed to name the most important reason for the excellence of English lawns, namely—their favorable climate. Their grass is not subjected to extremes of

cold and heat, moisture conditions are usually favorable because of frequent rains (even the fogs help).

Now comes an authority who thinks the English lawns are good because they are not used like American lawns—that is they are enjoyed visually only and not used for play and outdoor living like our lawns.

Actually we don't know the real answer. We do know it's pretty hard to beat cool weather, optimum moisture and intelligent care when it comes to the matter of grass growing.

## Farm Editor Reports on Weed Controls

(From the Utica, N Y Daily Press,  
August 31, 1951)

We have looked with a sort of jaundiced eye on the so-called weed killers especially where the label reads that those plants you don't want will be picked out and killed, while the grass in your lawn grows better, because the competition has been eliminated.



We spread a bag of some stuff called 4-XD on a part of the front lawn and kept a section untreated to have a sort of check plot. The stuff was supposed to pick out the Dandelions and kill them off, while the grass grew greener. *Well, it did.* First the Dandelion stems curled up, then the crown of the plant rotted away, the whole thing disappeared. The grass did grow better because it had more room.

Now this new stuff will not kill the seeds so we had to put on a second application in about three weeks to stop the baby plants from growing.

This week we examined the lawn, along with the Managing Editor, and there were practically no weeds where the 4-XD stuff had been broadcast. The untreated section was loaded with weeds.

Now the label said nothing about killing Chickory, but the untreated sector was loaded with this weed and its blue flowers and we couldn't find a single plant where we had spread 4-XD. Which all goes to show there is a lazy man's way to get the weeds out of the lawn today.

*Want Ad:*

PECONIC BAY, Attractive bay-front bungalow, summer rental, 3 bedrooms; beach, Scotts lawn. Mattituck 8481.

## THE GRASS

Have you noted the tendency these days to belittle standards and to promise something for nothing in a rather dim future? We've noted it about grasses. The grasses which have produced beautiful lawns the country over for many years are now unfairly castigated by many magazine writers. This with a promise of better things to come *if, as, and when* this happens or that happens,—glowing promises that may or may not mean something to the next generation.

Seeds have been our business since 1870 and Scotts Research is probably the largest devoted to the home lawn. We favor progress and lay claim to many lawn "firsts" as Lawn Care readers know. However, just as we recognize the good in all folk even if they are not perfect, we honor the proven, time-tested grass varieties that have been making good lawns for so many years.

It was refreshing to come across a poem on grass, sent to us by one of the earlier Lawn Care readers. The authors evaluation of grass is even more pertinent today than a half century ago.

*The grass knows well in her secret heart  
How we love her cool green raiment,  
So she plays in silence her lonely part  
And cares not at all for payment.*

*We say of the oak, "How grand of girth!"  
Of the willow we say "How slender!"  
And yet to the soft grass clothing the earth  
How slight is the praise we render.*

*Each year on the earth's wide breast she waves  
From spring until stern November;  
And then she remembers so many graves  
That no one else will remember.*

*And while she serves us with gladness mute  
In return for such sweet dealings  
We treat her carelessly underfoot,  
But we never wound her feelings.*

The author of those stanzas is reported as Edgar Fawcett, American poet, novelist and dramatist, born in New York City, May 26, 1847, died in London, May 2, 1904.

## What Class Is Your Lawn?

In most every case a lawn can be placed into one or the other of two groups (1) the picture lawn and (2) the utility lawn.

Proper classification of the use to be given a lawn immediately suggests the kind of turf that should be developed.

Whether you are planning to build a new lawn or just renovate an old one, your choice of seed will be wiser if you first determine its use.

The "picture" lawn is planted primarily for its beauty. Its texture is uniform and smooth. It adds a distinctive look of quality to any home, large or small. To establish a picture lawn one should provide reasonably good soil and a program of adequate fertilizing and watering. The beautiful carpet of velvety grass which then develops is a very worthwhile reward.

This is the type of lawn most folks desire in front of their homes. Leading stores in each community carry a picture lawn blend of grass seed that fills this need.

The other type is the "utility" lawn. Besides being seen, it is used. A typical example is the back yard of most any home. Here is an area turned over to the children for play, an area where four legged pets can frisk outside the pen, where "keep off the grass" signs are neither wanted nor needed. Its primary purpose is service—providing a safe covering to absorb the bumps of youngsters' tumbles, the pounding of feet, the skids and quick turns. All these require a ruggedness of grass and quick healing qualities. They do not however, necessitate any compromise with quality. Perennial grasses which will keep right on growing, freedom from weeds and chaff are just as desirable in the back yard as the front.

These same utility features are needed for lawns where the soil is not very good—places near the beaches where the soil is sandy; or where sticky, hard-baking adobe can not be replaced or improved. Fairly steep slopes present another special problem and a quick start on such areas reduces washing. These special conditions require "Special" seed.

As pointed out in Lawn Care 115, the right selection of lawn seed is just as important a part of successful lawns as proper mowing, feeding and watering. If you pause for just a moment now to classify your lawn, you'll know better which seed to sow.

### "Never underestimate the power of a woman"

The following report is verbatim from one of the outstanding California nurserymen:



Customer was told by an expert of the Country Club that Scutl had not proven successful. Customer's wife was not con-

vinced so she decided to use it against her husband's wishes. The results were so good after the first application that hubby fell in line 100% and asked his wife to get more Scutl.

### 4-X Spray For Weeds

Quite a few readers have asked about the Scotts 4-X powder which was formerly available. This material is dissolved in water and applied as a spray to control dandelions, plantain, chickweed and other non-grass weeds.

We still have some of the 4-X even though it is no longer shown on the price list. Available sizes include No 2, 1400 sq ft \$1.00; No 3, 6000 sq ft \$3.25; No 18-6, 18,000 sq ft \$6.85.

### Gastronomic Department

A recent list of wild plants suitable for eating as greens included dandelions, dock, wild onion, cress and lamb's quarters. *Maybe so, but we say if you don't wanna eat 'em—4XD 'em.*

O M SCOTT & SONS CO.



MARYSVILLE - - OHIO