

# Lawn Care

T.M. REG

PUBLISHED FIVE TIMES YEARLY FOR LAWNTHUSIASTS

## FALL - PLAY BY PLAY

**T**HE wonderful advantages of the Fall season for lawn planting and renovation are still overlooked by too many people. LAWN CARE was a pioneer in disseminating information



about these advantages and welcomes this opportunity of outlining again the following easy steps that bring such a favorable response from grass:

**Get Rid of the Weeds.** This is one of the first things needed to beautify any lawn. With the new modern chemical weed controls there is no need to tolerate these broadleaved unwelcome visitors. Hand pulling is now old-fashioned. So is the spraying that necessitated measuring out a solution and carrying water. The new dry compounds can be used just as they come in the package. Distributing through a spreader assures most even application and without waste. If weeds are no problem in your lawn, omit this

step, but if you do weed, wait a week for the chemical to work before proceeding.

**Cut Close.** This is one time of the year when a close cutting is good. By moving up the mower roller, adjust the height of cut to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 1". Follow mowing with a vigorous raking. This will clean out any excessive accumulation of undecayed clippings. Such an accumulation, if left through a rainy winter season, is conducive to the activity of winter fungus. Fall clipping and combing opens up the turf and makes it more receptive to the following steps.

**Beat Down the Bugs.** Keep in mind that lawn moths are still active through September and October in many places. Also that beetle grubs feed on grass roots in the fall, preparatory to hibernating deep in the soil over the winter. If birds have been flocking to your lawn or there is any evidence of insect activity, then Pest Control is good insurance. It is now possible to get dry-applied materials made especially for turf insects. They can be applied by hand or with a spreader in just a few minutes.

**Build Up Low Spots.** Water stands in low spots and grass roots can't breathe. Add a little top soil to the depressions and smooth it out with the back of a rake.

**Apply Lawn Food.** Plenty of nourishment will help to keep your lawn green over winter. If the right fer-

tillizer is used, its benefits will even carry over to early spring. Spread it evenly for even growth. Another application a month from now will help even more, but at least plan on one good feeding.

**Seed Bare Spots** to cover any unsightly scars. First cultivate the soil with a claw type hand cultivator or by chopping with a spade. Then "tickle" the seed in with points of a rake to just partially cover it. On thin spots simply scratch with a rake, seed, and then tamp lightly.



## Lime Now Will Penetrate

Acid soils, which prevail in the humid regions of the Northwest and in the North Coastal counties of California, have a way of tying up soil nutrients. Thus fertilizer applications may not produce the expected response. Reducing the acidity by proper applications of lime helps to correct this condition and is something that can be done by any homeowner.

In addition to reducing acidity, lime also replenishes calcium in the soil — an important element likely to be deficient in areas of high annual rainfall. Calcium builds up the tissues of grass plants.

Lime can be applied to the surface of established lawns. Winter rains, or freezing and thawing, help to work it in to a good effective depth.

The most common source of lime is agricultural limestone which is raw, ground limestone. Dolomitic lime can also be used, or finely ground oyster and clam shells.

Most garden supply stores carry at least one of these forms of lime. If ground limestone is used, do not apply more than 50 pounds per 1,000 square

feet in the fall season. If more is needed, another 50 pounds can be put on in late winter or early spring. If hydrated lime is used, the maximum amount recommended is 35 pounds per 1,000 square feet per season. *Do not use oxide of lime (quicklime).*

In most parts of California the soil reaction is neutral or even alkaline so the acid-reducing reaction of lime is not needed. Calcium can be supplied in California by gypsum.

Agricultural gypsum also helps to crumble sticky, clay soil such as adobe. However, it does little good when applied to the surface of established lawns. It requires an intimate mixing throughout a 6 inch depth of soil, using 1 or 2 bags of gypsum per 1,000 square feet.

## Keep Leaves Raked Up

Leaves, especially if wet, can mat against the ground and press so firmly that they smother the grass underneath. This is particularly true of the small barbed leaves of live oaks. That pock-marked appearance of some lawns in early spring is the result of matting of leaves.

They are easiest to rake or brush off while they are still atop the grass and before they mat down. Therefore frequent raking in the fall is more important than thorough raking.

Because they make such quick, easy work of leaf removal, lawn sweepers, like lawn spreaders, are rapidly becoming standard equipment and a welcome gift for the person who takes pride in his lawn.

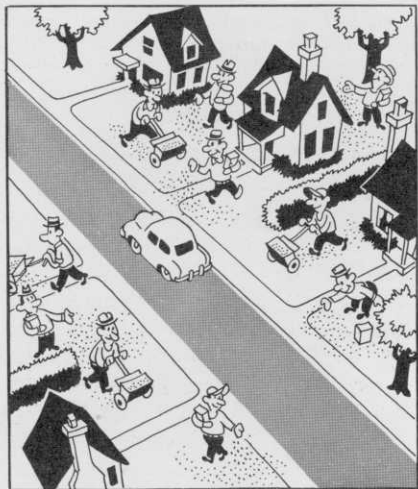
Sirs:

For the last eight months I've been using Turf Builder with such excellent results I want you to know about it. My lawn is just a small patch under our plum tree but it wasn't doing very well last year. So I fed it Turf Builder and again twice this spring. Our soil is pure sand here but my bit of lawn is as green as an emerald and growing beautifully.

San Francisco, Calif. MRS. MABEL EDWARDS

## Improving The Tract Lawn

Ever since the war, rush development of small homes on a mass production basis has resulted in thousands of "hurry-up" lawns which have proved a disappointment. This is not intended as a condemnation of all tract lawns, but the situation exists in sufficient cases to be of more than just casual interest.



When the homeowners arrive on the scene early enough, they can usually specify the seed to be used and the planting procedure to be followed. Some development offices will make an allowance if the owner puts in his own lawn. These individuals will find many helpful suggestions in the complete set of LAWN CARE bulletins available for only 25c at local Scott dealers or from Scott's at Palo Alto.

Most young homeowners move into a new tract only to find they have inherited a lawn of questionable value. It was built in a rush with a minimum of preparation and seeded with cut rate grass. What to do? Some of the more inexperienced concluded that if this were typical of a grass lawn,

then grass was not for them. They unfortunately tried planting one of the grass substitutes, only to find it was no better.

Tearing up and rebuilding a lawn is an expense to be avoided if possible when paying for a new home. By following this simple Scotts program, thousands have achieved amazing improvement with a minimum of cost.

**Topdress to Smooth.** Probably a rush job of grading was done so that irregularities appeared either from settling or because grading was not properly done in the first place. These irregularities can be corrected by topdressing.

First mow the grass short. If the clippings are long and tend to pile up, rake them off. Otherwise let them fall and remain.

**Get some good topsoil.** Contact your garden supply store or the yellow pages of your local phone directory under "topsoil." Try to get good friable loam that contains some humus — in between extremes of clay and sand. Don't be deceived that soil is good just because it is dark in color.

The physical nature of a soil can be determined by a simple experiment. Take a sample of the soil, wet it thoroughly and roll it into a ball, exerting as little pressure as possible. Allow it to dry a couple of days under normal room conditions. Then drop the ball to a hard surface from a height of three feet. If it crumbles readily it can be considered of good consistency. If it remains intact there is too much clay. If it goes all to pieces or crumbles in the hand there is too much sand.

If good topdressing soil is not available, less desirable grade can be used by first improving it. Dump it on a cement driveway and thoroughly mix in peat moss. If it is heavy, also mix in coarse sharp sand.



LAWN CARE reader reported this sign in effective use last winter:

A cubic yard topdresses 1,000 square feet  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep so plan at least this much for topdressing an established tract lawn.

Place the topdressing in small piles about the lawn and distribute with the back of a garden rake or drag it with a steel door mat. Apply it heavier in the low spots.

**Provide Nourishment.** Next apply a turf building lawn food. Use a spreader to get it on evenly. Then water the lawn thoroughly.

**Sow Seed.** Next sow a top quality lawn seed mixture. This is the step that will make permanent improvement in the character of the lawn so don't sacrifice quality to save a few pennies here. Good seed will provide finer textured grasses of perennial growth. Sow 2-4 pounds per 1,000 square feet. The latter rate will be a heavy seeding if good seed is used.

Unless there are bare spots the seed will not have to be covered. Simply keep the lawn watered well, using a fine spray whose drops are not heavy enough to wash. And avoid puddling that may "float" the seed.

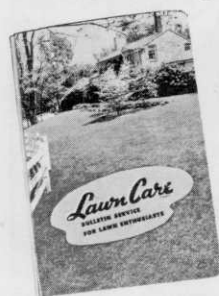
A little additional seed can be sown each spring or fall until the population of desirable grasses has sufficiently increased in the lawn to give it a more uniform and distinctive appearance.

As with any lawn, feeding regularly each spring, summer, and fall will help to keep it green and beautiful and a continuing source of much enjoyment.

A *LAWN CARE* reader reports that *Turf Builder* is Ivy's friend. He says he uses Ivy in shaded areas bordering close to the house. For years it grew slowly, never appeared to be healthy and looked like the sort of stuff that ought to be torn out. Then it occurred to him two years ago to try feeding it with *Turf Builder*. He reports the ivy soon took on a deep green color and began sending out new shoots in all directions. Now it has made a thick green mat completely covering the shaded areas. His conclusion is that *Turf Builder* has worked as well on ivy as on his lawn.

## Seasonal Advice In Other Issues

LAWN CARE has promoted the idea of fall lawn fixup starting with the



first issue in 1928. Fall is the best time to seed a new lawn. Specific suggestions are given in the *LAWN CARE* Digest Chapters.

Any back issue of *LAWN CARE* will be mailed free for the asking. Better still is an investment of 25c for the paper bound File (illustrated) of *LAWN CARE*. The set in a loose ring binder with room for many more additional issues is \$1.00.

See your local Scott dealer or mail coin, stamps or check to Scotts at Palo Alto, California.

Sirs:

My son recently bought a home in town with an old lawn infested with dandelion and used your Weed & Feed. It is amazing to see the results.

Lompoc, Calif. MRS. EMILY MARTIN

O M SCOTT & SONS CO.



MARYSVILLE - - OHIO

EVERY PACKAGE OF SCOTTS LAWN CARE PRODUCTS BEARS THIS TRADE-MARK AND IS SEALED FOR YOUR PROTECTION