

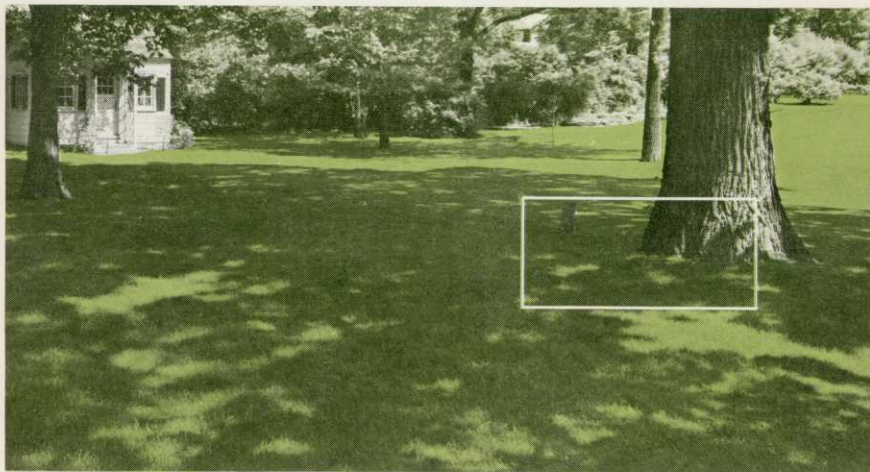
Lawn Care

T.M. REG

Fall is the best lawn fix-up time!



TREE FEEDING — An Aid to Lawns



HERE is a section of lawn that gets little sunlight. Some sun filters through in the late part of the day but, by and large, it is grass growing without benefit of direct rays of the sun.

This lawn area is beautiful year after year from early spring continuing thru summer and fall, until zero temperature takes away the bright green color. The reasons for its success are (1) *feeding the trees so their roots do not compete strongly with the grass for the nutrient supply*, (2) *feeding the grass three times each year*, (3) *watering early in the summer and often to keep a constant generous moisture supply*, (4) *cutting the grass at 3 inches during mid-summer, and (5) keeping leaves removed.*

Tree culture is a science in itself and experts in that field should be consulted on most problems. However, the benefits of feeding trees have been well established and this is one thing

the lawn owner can do himself for the good of the tree and the lawn beneath.

What to Use. The important factors of tree growth are the same as those of grass; luxuriant foliage and strong roots. It accounts for the fact that many report excellent results in feeding trees with Turf Builder. This special food meets the need of both grass and trees for a correct balance of nitrogen,



Note inset above. Luxurious grass right up to the trunk of this giant tree.

phosphate and potash derived from ingredients that assure immediate stimulation plus long lasting feeding.

How Much? The size of the tree and the kind of fertilizer determine the amount to be used. If Turf Builder is selected, a safe quantity is three pounds per inch of diameter of the trunk. Thus a tree measuring 10 inches through would need 30 pounds for one feeding.

The May 1949 bulletin of the Missouri Botanical Garden (St Louis) contains an informative discussion on tree feeding. Their recommendation on the basis of a fertilizer formula similar to Turf Builder is to use the number of pounds obtained by adding together (1) *height of tree in feet, plus* (2) *branch spread in feet, plus* (3) *circumference of lower part of trunk in inches*. Thus a tree 20 feet high with a branch spread of 15 feet and trunk circumference of 30 inches (roughly 10 inch diameter) would need 65 pounds of fertilizer.

The author of the bulletin goes on to explain that this may sound like a lot of fertilizer but it isn't so much when one considers that a tree of the size described might have a root zone occupying the equivalent of a half acre of topsoil. The dosage prescribed is for a starving tree. The bulletin suggests the rate might be cut in half for a tree in good growing condition. That is near the Scott recommendation of three pounds per inch of diameter.

When. The excellent USDA 1949 Yearbook *Trees* suggests feeding regularly, preferably in the spring, but safely until mid-summer at least. Late fall, after the trees have lost their leaves, is also recommended for trees other than evergreens.

Application. The method used to get food into the root zone depends on the value of the turf above it. If there is a fair lawn under the tree and it is not desired to disturb the grass, the first step is to carefully cut out plugs of sod which will be replaced after the hole is made and the fertilizer in-

serted. A flat spade or turf edger may be used to remove the sod, keeping at least two inches of soil with it.



Tree food is placed deeply into the soil by making a series of holes 18 to 24 inches deep, staggered at 2 to 3 foot intervals. These holes are

placed in the feeding zone beneath the branches, starting about one-third way out from the trunk.

The boring tool used to dig post holes is satisfactory for making tree feeding holes. Special soil augers two inches or so in diameter and 24 inches or more in length are often used. These are available with handles for hand use or with shanks, these latter augers to be driven with a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch electric drill. (Available from A M Leonard & Son, Piqua, Ohio).

A crowbar is often used to make holes for tree feeding. It is also possible to make feeding holes in some soils with the force of water from a hose nozzle. Some use special root feeders to open holes in the soil.

In case a new lawn is being built or renovation is necessary, holes for



Use a wide funnel to pour Turf Builder so it is not spilled on the grass. Holes may be straight or at an angle.

tree feeding can be dug with a narrow ditching spade. In such situations it's a good idea to improve the soil condition under the trees. A generous addition of humus matter and plant food should be worked into the soil to the depth of a foot or more.

The number of holes needed is determined by the quantity of fertilizer to be applied. The amount per hole should be one-half to one pound (About a pint of Turf Builder). Thus a tree needing 30 pounds should have at least thirty holes.

After the fertilizer is put in the holes, replace dirt, tamping it well, then replace sod plugs.

It is then a good idea to take the spreader and give the lawn a general feeding of Turf Builder. This will hasten rooting of the sod and the repair of any turf injury.

An investment in trees and shrubs can be safeguarded and made to pay extra dividends if supplied with a generous amount of plant food. It's better to get expert advice before feeding evergreens.

Spotted growth of grass sometimes results from improper feeding. Grass is stimulated unduly if fertilizer is not placed deeply enough or it floats to the top of the hole in a heavy rain if the soil is not firmed above the fertilizer.

When feeding shrubs or foundation plantings, scatter the Turf Builder over the bed or work it into the soil mulch to a depth of two or three inches. Use one or two handfuls within the radius of two feet of each stock. Feed shrubs in early spring and again in the fall to assure maximum foliage color.

Sirs:

The tree was set out in front of my home two years ago. It didn't die—that is the most that could be said for it. But when I put the Turf Builder around it as shown in Lawn Care 69, it was only a short time until my neighbors were asking, "What have you done to your tree?"
Huntingdon, Tenn.

MRS. LINNIE M CARTER

Sirs:

Here is how I solved the problem of keeping good turf on traffic spots, wash areas under trees, terraces, spots killed by dogs, etc. For years these places have really tried my patience. In spite of my best efforts, care, etc., I was unable to correct these



blemishes in the lawn. My solution to the problem now is to plug in good turf. To get the turf for this patching, I have a "turf nursery" at the back of the lawn which is stripped out as turf is needed. As the sod is removed I fill in the areas with good topsoil, plant seed and in a year it is ready for use. Naturally, it's seeded with Scotts, fed Turf Builder and mowed just like the balance of the lawn.

To repair traffic damage areas, the old sod is removed and the soil worked up to a depth of several inches. The nursery sod is stripped out to not less than 3 inches so as to insure plenty of root growth. Soil should be moist when transplanting is done. Less shock occurs to the grass too, if a normal feeding of Turf Builder is made and well watered.

Be sure joints are close so as to eliminate cracks. A light top dressing of sandy loam will also help to fill these joints.

Marion, Ohio

PERRY BACHELDER

Sirs:

My Spreader did not have the man attached when received. Can you forward him (any size, shape or color) under separate cover?

Seriously—how about an issue of LAWN CARE devoted to ladies who garden without help of the so-called "stronger sex"?
Takoma Park 12, Md.

MRS. VINCENT P. GOMEZ

¶ After one trial we believe Mrs Gomez will find the Spreader so easy running that she wouldn't want to be bothered having the man around.—ED.

Sirs:

Thank you very much for your LAWN CARE. It is very helpful indeed. Your Turf Builder is the best and cheapest. My grass stays green longer, my trees stay brighter and with more leaves than any other trees I know. My trees were still with leaves last December 4. I'll admit we did have a long fall, but still Scotts is the best.

Gary, Indiana

LEON PIETRZAK

Turf Builder Never Out Of Season



Last Year LAWN CARE reported on how at least one reader applied Turf Builder to make a non-skid surface on his ice-covered walks and drives. Another winter has since intervened and more reports are in. As with most ideas, the use of Turf Builder on slippery walks has good and bad features. Some wives complained about the stuff being tracked in. Probably it's no worse than sand but salt is less a villain in that respect.

Salt, however, is an enemy of grass. Where a lot of salt is used and it gets over on the lawn, it will kill the grass. In extreme cases the soil is sterilized. In contrast, the secondary effect of Turf Builder is helpful to the lawn and not harmful to concrete work.

Lawn areas adjacent to driveways are often injured in the winter by car wheels. This may happen after snow falls because the edge of the driveway is not plainly visible. Some of this damage may be forestalled by setting short stakes at five foot intervals to mark the edge of the drive.

Late Fall Lawn Program

Weed Control. If other than grass weeds are evident in the fall lawn, they should be cleared out with an application of 4-XD or Weed & Feed. The lawn will look better and the grass thrive better if the competition of broad-leaved weeds is curtailed.

Nothing is gained in the application of controls to Crabgrass after this pest has matured and dropped its seeds. The old plants will be killed by frost but the damage from self-seeding will have been done.

Feeding. Grass receives extra benefit from a fall feeding of Turf Builder, so if that has not been done, an application should be made promptly.

Seeding. Nature sets the example of fall seeding. The seeds fall on warm soil and germination is usually good because of longer and cooler nights, heavier dews and usually more favorable rains.

The last statement has to be hedged because of the recollection of last year's dry fall in the midwest and south. General rains did not come until well into October so a lot of germination was delayed and spotty.

By and large, fall seeding will produce a better stand of grass with less seed needed than for a spring planting. This applies to the seeding of brand new lawns as well as where a thickening up is needed.

Maintenance. Rather short cutting is the advice for the fall season for most lawn areas. One exception is under trees where large drops of water may drip from tree leaves and wash away the soil. Continue fall mowings as late as grass grows.

Remove leaves so they don't mat down and smother grass. A leaf sweeper or power grinder will save time and labor where there are a lot of leaves.

Snow Mold. The injury from this winter fungus disease was described in LAWN CARE No 118. Most lawns escape but where the bleached out patches have occurred in previous years, it may be a good idea to make preventative fungicidal treatments. SCUTL is suggested at normal rate in late November or early December—preferably before the first heavy snow.

Liming. Late fall is a good time to have the soil tested to see if lime is needed. If it is, then the winter months afford a good time for lime applications.

O M SCOTT & SONS CO.



MARYSVILLE - - OHIO

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