

Lawn Care

T.M. REG



"Take a tip from Nature—Seed in the Fall"

LATE SUMMER "SCOTTING"

All "Lawn Care" Applications Easily and Accurately Made with a Scotts Spreader

1 4-XD or WEED & FEED

Apply one or the other to stop broad-leaved weeds — Dandelion, Plantain, Buckhorn, Chickweed.

2 SCUTL



If Crabgrass green and thriving, apply SCUTL to check prolific seeding. Delay SCUTL-ing at least until second day after application of 4-XD or Weed & Feed.

3 LAWN LIME

If soil test indicates lime need, apply at least a week ahead of Turf Builder and soak into ground, or wait until ground frozen.

4



TURF
BUILDER®

After completion of Weed Control program, give lawn generous feeding — Use Turf Builder at 10 lbs per 1000 sq ft.

5 PEST CONTROL



If beetle grubs present or invasion likely — as in Jap beetle infested sections — apply Scotts Pest Control. Indications of soil insects: birds tearing up sod, invasions of moles or skunks.

6 SEEDING

Most lawns are benefited by some seeding after a tough summer. Good seed is scarce. Don't waste it.

7



MOWING

Continue summer mowing height but do not mow for day or two after application of weed control.

8 WATERING

Advisable to keep lawn moist, especially after feeding and seeding. Suspend watering for day or two after weed control applications.

LATE SUMMER OR FALL is the one best time to start a new lawn, to renovate a poor one, give a beauty treatment to any lawn. In most climates from the last of August through September is ideal for seed germination and seedling growth.

In their natural state, grasses bloom in summer but Nature delays the after-ripening and germination of seeds until early fall. The seeds then fall on warm soil at a time when hot days are grow-

ing shorter, cool nights longer, dews heavier, and soil moisture generally more favorable.

Economy in fall seeding. Usually growing conditions in this period give each seed a better chance to produce a mature plant. Weed competition is reduced and there is less disease, the bane of spring-seeded grass. When the right seed is selected for fall planting, a low rate of seeding will produce outstanding turf.

What to Sow. What is the right seed for fall planting? 1) *It must be composed of perennial varieties that do not ordinarily winterkill.* 2) *The seed should be of properly cured and thoroughly re-cleaned quality, free of bulky chaff and obnoxious weeds.*

Good seed should be planted sparingly. Heavy seeding is wasteful and harmful. The grass comes up too thick. It is just as wrong to crowd grass plants on a given area as to house fifty children in a small school room.

Folks often have the mistaken idea they should sow heavily because "the soil is poor". This is wrong. A given area of soil can support only a limited number of plants and poorer soils fewer than good soils.

Prepare for Seeding. In the late summer schedule, weed control followed by feeding is suggested prior to seeding. The use of *Turf Builder* may precede the last application of weed control, or it may be applied a couple of days after the last weed treatment.

To be sure that residue from weed controls will not affect grass seeds, a heavy rain or sprinkling should soak the ground before seed is sown. This does not delay the program since abundant surface soil moisture is needed to germinate the seeds. If the lawn cannot be watered, let seeding follow the first soaking rain.

Seeds need moisture to germinate and the root hairs from the sprouting grass must be able to reach soil moisture quickly. Little moisture is available to seeds lying on top of the ground exposed to sun and wind. Hard crusted soils must be loosened.

Surface Roughing. If seed is sown into a rather good turf, shade from the grass will protect the seed and sprouts to a degree. But if sowing in thin grass with sizeable bare spots, some help is needed. Any roughening, perforating or loosening of the soil gives the seed a better chance. Tools that can be used to aid in perforating



the surface for better seed reception include the heavy iron garden rake, a spading fork, a spike tamp.

A flat spade, ice hoe, an edging tool, or even an axe may be used to cut shallow gashes in the soil. If the seed lodges in such openings, it will be better protected from the sun and more likely to find a moisture supply. If the roughening operation severs grass roots little harm is done as the

plants will soon heal the injury.

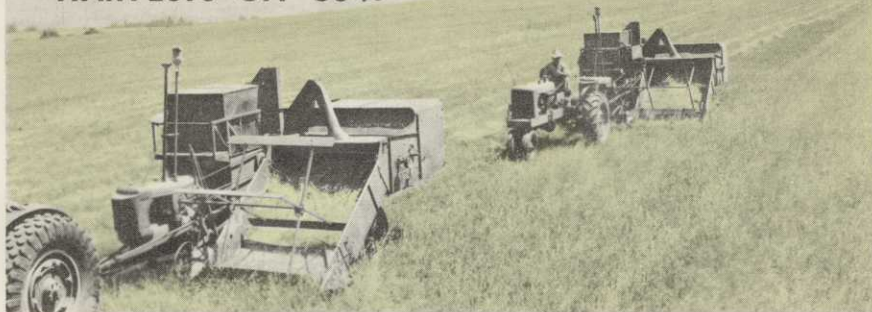
Topdressing. A good practice after seeding is a shallow covering of soil that has been screened through a quarter-inch mesh screen. Some folks are expert at scattering this with a shovel, others broadcast the topdressing by hand or screen the dry soil carefully and apply with a fully open Scotts spreader. Only a light covering is advised, not over a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch. *Heavier covering may prevent germination.*

One cubic yard will dress 1,000 to 2,000 sq. ft. To avoid covering seed too deeply, rake or brush topdressing lightly. One effect of topdressing is introduction of weeds. There is no such thing as a weed-free soil but usually the weeds disappear in mowing or are eliminated with chemicals.

Seedling Care. If possible, keep newly seeded areas moist using a fine spray. This hastens germination and seedling growth. Once started, a good moisture level must be maintained until the grass is well rooted. If it's not feasible to follow this watering program, do not start it. Sooner or later rainfall will come and when soil moisture is adequate, the grass seed will germinate.

The standard recommendation for most lawns is cutting at one or $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. As new grass starts coming up in an old lawn, cutting at an inch or

GRASS SEED HARVESTS OFF 50%



Seed harvesting is mechanized but it costs as much to take off a half crop as a full one

The enormous production of wheat may lead many to think the same big yield applies to all growing crops.

Not with the quality varieties of grass seed. Take the most important lawn variety—Kentucky Bluegrass. A normal good crop is around 20 million pounds. This year government reports estimate hardly half that. To make it worse, consumption has been outrunning production. Usually there is a carryover of close to a year's needs. But after record seedings of last spring, the bins are almost empty.

This necessarily adds up to *sharply higher prices* on the more desirable grass seeds. Growers are expecting and getting prices that are double or triple

those of 1939. Yet their dollar return per acre is less because it costs just as much to take a small crop off the land as a big one.

The packer of lawn seed has two possible courses. He may go through the painful procedure of raising his prices—or take the easier way out, change his formulas to reduce Kentucky Bluegrass, Bentgrass and Poa Trivialis and substitute cheaper, less desirable grasses.

Those who have followed Scotts Lawn Seed over the past thirty-five years will know the decision on that brand. The quality will be maintained. The price is higher but the increase held as low as possible, about 23%.

We're just as sorry as you are!

even less to prevent the old grass from smothering the new is advised. Clippings and leaves should be carefully removed lest they mat down and smother young grass. Trampling over the area should be at a minimum.

Fall is new lawns time! It's the very best season for soil preparation and seeding of a brand new lawn or a major overhaul of an unsatisfactory one. Earlier issues of *Lawn Care* may be helpful and are available for the asking:

Planning the Lawn	Digest 1, 2, 3, 4
Use of Lime	Issue 114
Soil Testing	Issue 115

Sprayer Complications

Earlier in the summer, one of the important home and garden publications carried a warning about the use of 2,4-D liquids in sprayers that might also be used for applying insecticides or fungicides to garden plants. They pointed out the danger of harm from the residue unless all parts of the sprayer were carefully rinsed with Kerosene, thoroughly washed with soap suds.

All this danger and extra work is avoided when you use Scotts dry materials, applied with the spreader. You don't have to wash out the spreader in switching from properly formulated dry weed controls to seed or whatever material you wish to put on.

Another advantage of spreader application is that there is less danger of drift than with pressure spraying.

Late Summer SCUTL-ing Success

For a moderately good lawn with not too severe Crabgrass invasion:

Apply to damp vegetation, as when dew begins to settle in evening.

Use Scotts Spreader at Normal Rate—Scale Mark No 7.

Repeat at weekly intervals for total of four treatments.

If poor lawn, dry conditions:

Foliage should be wet.

Double Rate—Scale Mark No 9.

Repeat in one week.

Scutl is truly a "Lawn Treatment" and helps grass in many ways. Besides control of Crabgrass, it suppresses damaging activity of turf diseases as well as algae causing green scum. Scutl definitely improves the tone and color of desirable grasses.

*Everything alive needs food.
Grass does better if it's fed
three or four times a year.*

Clover vs Crabgrass

Earlier in the year, the Production and Marketing Administration of the United States Department of Agriculture issued a bulletin concerning misrepresentation of White Clover Seed.

The department reported receiving many inquiries regarding seed offered as "wild white clover" supposedly from New Zealand. According to the department there have been no importations in recent years of Wild White Clover from New Zealand.

The bulletin did state that some so-called "Permanent Pasture" clover has come in but that this produces larger plants [which would hardly do for lawns, Ed.] As to clover subduing crabgrass the U S D A bulletin had this to say: "Some of the inquiries received by the Department have to do with the effect of white clover on crabgrass. The Bureau of Plant Industry does not recommend planting white clover as a means of controlling crabgrass."

"A Rose is a Rose is a Rose"

It's not a geranium, a delphinium or a columbine even though they are all dicotyledons in the botanists' classification.

All grasses are mono-cotyledons but not all wild or coarse grasses are species of Crabgrass. It's hard for experts to distinguish between grasses but SCUTL does. SCUTL goes right to work on every branch of the genuine and hated family of Crabgrass (*Digitaria*)—it does not make any difference whether Mr. or Mrs. Crabgrass changes shape from narrow blades to broad, or its coat from hairy to smooth.

Other grasses are left alone so where a program of SCUTL seems not to have controlled what was thought Crabgrass, send specimens of the offending grasses to Scotts for identification. The grass may turn out to be Foxtail, Goose Grass, Witch Grass, Barnyard Grass, Paspalum or Dallis Grass. Occasionally samples of desirable grasses are sent in because unusual weather have caused them to develop into coarse, stemmy growth.

Lawn Care, International

We have just received your number 128 Lawn Care issue and we must sincerely congratulate you for this really interesting bulletin. As you know, we are specialists here in Belgium in the care and upkeep of lawns and more than once your Lawn Care has been of use to us.

You will also be glad to hear that last year we tried your Scutl product to kill Crabgrass and were glad to report that we have had very good results with it.

F L Lenoir

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Brussels, Belgium

Climate Control with Grass

House Beautiful magazine has long urged landscape planning to help hold down summer temperatures within the house. Proper use of trees and vines and hedges contribute to climatic control. A good lawn does too. It can be cool, friendly and inviting. The air over a watered lawn will be 20 degrees or more cooler than a pavement. A large green lawn has a noticeable cooling effect around the home, especially as the sun dips in the mid-afternoon.

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