

# Lawn Care



Do it yourself with a Scotts Spreader

## First Spring Step -- Feed Lawns

**F**OR MANY YEARS *Lawn Care* has been advocating an early spring meal for lawns. A good sound breakfast starts the grass on its new year of activity with a feeling of confidence and well-being. Each year, as the practice gives additional evidence of its soundness, more western homeowners are taking it up.

**Why Feed Early.** In the temperate rainy winters along the West Coast, plant nutrients are leached by the downward drainage of water through the soil. This natural loss needs to be replaced before your lawn starts its spring sprint.

In high altitudes or east of the Cascades and Sierras, alternate snow and thawing cause much the same need for replacement of food.

Grass that has been weakened or thinned out from fungus and other causes will often recuperate quickly and completely if given good nourish-

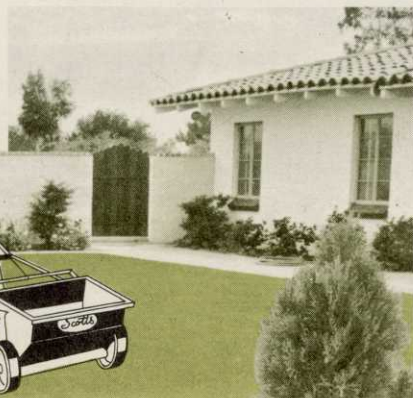
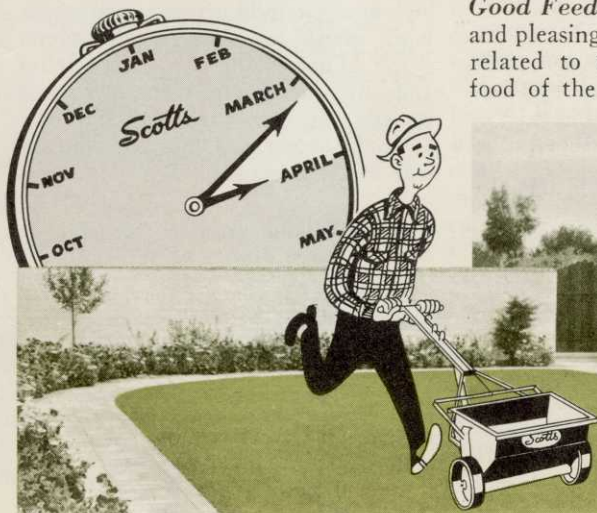
ment in the form of Turf Builder. Early spring is the best time to start a feeding program.

The unseen portion of grass plants is involved too. In the spring grass generates new roots to replace those sloughed off in fall and winter — a sort of self-pruning. This is the most important reason for spring feeding, because the quantity and vigor of new roots depend largely on the food available at the time.

**No Need to Wait.** March is a good time to serve your lawn a nourishing meal even if the soil is still wet, cold or even frozen. It is better to make application when the grass foliage is dry so the fertilizer particles don't stick to it. However, sprinkling afterwards will wash the particles off the grass onto the soil.

The beauty of it is, this is one step that can be finished before the press of other gardening duties.

**Good Feeding Program.** The vigor and pleasing color of a lawn is directly related to the availability of ample food of the right kind.



Most lawns are nourished haphazardly or left entirely to forage for themselves. But like any garden plant, grass has to stay put. It can't go wandering around in search of food like an animal or bird. It is solely dependent on what is within its very limited reach. Lawns hastily built on a shallow layer of topsoil have shallow roots and their reach is even more restricted.

*Mild acting feeding is healthiest.* Overstimulation is not good practice and makes too much mowing.

*Light feedings are safest,* less likely to streak. They provide the moderate and uniform stimulation that is most helpful to grass.

*Frequent application is the secret.* It is the regularity of feeding rather than the amount that really counts. Frequent applications avoid the risk of the grass wanting at any time. Remember the food is used up in growth. Each of the millions of plants in a lawn consumes its share of the total. Providing food three times a year — spring, summer and fall — should be a minimum. Once every other month is even better and most of the really brilliant lawns get their rations each month.

A right feeding program such as this can save money on seed and when good seed is scarce that is important. Obviously it is wasteful to sow more seed on soil already so deficient it can't adequately support what is there now. Provide fertility first.

*What Food Is Tops.* Using just any fertilizer is also wasteful. One composed of choicest ingredients is usually the most economical for less of it does a better feeding job, just as good paint on a house "covers" better and holds up longer.

A complete meal is required — that means Nitrogen, Phosphorous and Potash. If any of these is lacking or in the wrong proportion grass growth will be improperly balanced. Minor

elements needed are present in most complete fertilizers.

At present there are three types of food easily procured for lawns: (1) *Inorganic or chemical.* These are water soluble, quick acting but rapidly dissipated. (2) *Organic.* They are slow acting but last longer. (3) *Combination of organic and inorganic.* These rate in first place because they combine the benefits of each type.

An example of inorganic food is Ammonium Sulphate. It is dramatic in its effect but is of short duration. It provides only Nitrogen and a steady diet of it can be likened to a growing boy subsisting on cake alone. In the long run it has ill effects.

Manures or sewage sludge are examples of common organic fertilizers. They are slower for they must decompose before releasing any food. These particular ones are surprisingly low in food value, usually analyzing not more than 3 or 4% nutrients. Since complete commercial fertilizers analyze 18 to 20% or even 23% food, it is plain that manures have to be used five or six times heavier — a fact which nullifies their advantage in cost per pound.

Turf Builder combines several chemical ingredients with clean organics. These are selected for their high analysis, mild action and freedom from weeds or disagreeable odors. Apply Turf Builder in early spring and as frequently thereafter as needed to keep your grass green and vigorous. It is the surest and most economical way to lawn beauty.

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**Outmoded lawn practices include:** 1) *hand-pulling or digging of weeds;* 2) *raking out crabgrass, dead or alive;* 3) *avoidance of watering in hot sun — it's good, not bad.*

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*Sirs:*

"I have no hesitation in saying once one uses "Scotts Lawn Food" and sees the results he will always want to use it."

W J BARRISKILL  
VICTORIA, B C, CANADA

## Here are a few easy steps to take on your lawn now —

**1** *Apply Lime if you live west of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington or in the North Coastal Counties of California.* Twenty-five pounds of agricultural lime per 1,000 square feet is a safe amount. Use at least two weeks prior to fertilizing or seeding. Your Scotts Spreader applies lime evenly. Set it wide open and go over area twice.

**2** *Mow soon as weather permits.* Cutting opens turf to receive food and seed. However, if the lawn is too wet to mow, go ahead with the feeding and seeding and mow later.

**3** *Lawns under or near trees —* rake to remove twigs, also matted leaves that smother grass. Particularly Oak and other leaves which hug ground, decompose very slowly.

**4** *Spread Turf Builder 5 pounds per 1,000 square feet.* Double rate for faster results if lawn especially poor, or quicker results needed because of late start. If double rate or damp grass, sprinkle immediately.

**5** *Seed can be sown right after Turf Builder.* If Scotts Lawn Seed is used, 2 pounds or even less will be adequate per 1,000 square feet. Scotts Spreader will sow evenly and without waste.

## Per Pound Cost is Up

Last fall LAWN CARE readers were informed of the extremely short harvest of Kentucky Bluegrass seed. The crop was less than half normal yet the demand for it is the greatest in history.

Fortunately this critical situation has developed at a time when more

and more folks are realizing it is possible to develop good lawns with only a few pounds of quality seed. The cost per lawn need not go up in relation to the cost per pound.

Modern turf management, including the use of grass food, weed controls and fungicides, reduces the need for heavy seeding. Instead of sowing five or six pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet folks are urged to use only two or three pounds of Scotts Seed. This small amount can not be sown evenly by hand but it is easy with a Scotts Spreader.

It is interesting to note that Mother Nature (*as if in a spirit of revenge*) reduced the yield of Kentucky Bluegrass seed just when the virtues of this traditional grass were becoming more appreciated. There had been a flurry to turn to something "new" in grasses, the result of premature conclusions reached after only brief observations. As so often happens, the weaknesses of the "new" were overlooked at first but they appeared conspicuously in the last year or two. Now, the attributes of Kentucky Bluegrass, proven through the centuries, stand out more favorably than ever in modern-day lawns.

Watch the quality of the seed you buy this year. There is an inclination to dilute quality and have only token amounts of the basic turf forming varieties such as Kentucky Bluegrass. Good seed costs more per pound but less is required. Coarse quality seed has to be sown heavier so the total cost is about the same. However, mediocre seed, even if sown heavily, can do no more than produce a mediocre lawn. Sow less of the best because when you choose your seed you choose your lawn.

Sirs:

"I am well pleased with Scotts products which I have been using for the past 12 years. They have always done a fine job for me."

F J GLEASON  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON



## New Clover Product

Those who like Clover in their lawns have difficulty in sowing it because the seed is so small and the rate of seeding so light. Usually they get uneven distribution and patches of Clover rather than a uniform blending into the lawn.

To overcome this difficulty Scotts Research has developed CLOVEX — a blend of the best Clover seed and an organic carrier. Because of the greater bulk, CLOVEX is easily distributed with a Scotts Spreader or seeded directly from perforations in its package.

Clover is especially useful to effect more complete coverage on poor soil and to provide vegetation that stays greener in heat and drought. It is an inexpensive way of bolstering the loose spindly growth of tract lawns.

*A Research Institute Bulletin* points out that a dollar saved is more than a dollar earned. A \$6,000 bracket family man has to make \$302 to have \$200 of after-tax pay with which to hire a job done around the house.

With reference to the same thing an acquaintance of ours tells that he makes \$10 an hour by working on his lawn. Here's how: If he paid \$2.50 an hour to hire it done, it costs him \$5 of income as he is in a 50% tax bracket. Then, if he wasn't working on the lawn he'd be out spending \$2.50 an hour at the club and that too would cost him \$5 of income. So he's ahead \$10 an hour when he stays home and gets his recreation on his own lawn.

Sirs:

"My lawn is still under snow but I thrill to thoughts of the near future. I do have a lush and beautiful lawn, thanks to Scotts — and some work. There is nothing to equal it in this part of the country. With a small investment and effort I have perfection."

FLORENCE MCCULLOCH  
COVELO, CALIF

## Beetle Grubs Hungry Now

In March and April as the soil warms up, grubs of the May or June Beetle move up from hibernating headquarters deep in the soil. They are ravenous and start "chomping" on the roots of western lawns.

Watch for signs of these grubs. The grass may not turn brown until May when it gets hotter and drier. But your suspicions should be aroused if birds, moles, skunks or racoons seem especially attracted to your lawn. They relish the fat, white shrimp-like grubs which you may find curled up like a letter C just below the top of the ground in the root zone. Grass derooted by grubs is loose and lifts up like a door mat.

Apply Lawn & Turf Pest Control at double rate and keep the lawn watered well.

Sirs:

"I have enjoyed Scotts LAWN CARE for over two years now and believe me, it has really been a helping hand. Have also used Scotts Turf Builder and find it to be of top quality. My back lawn is sown with Scotts Special Seed and I have yet to see one as green and sturdy as it is. Again I say, Scotts is tops with me and you may quote me as saying so."

DICK WHARFF  
SANTA CLARA, CALIF

## Checking Fungus

Many of the fungus diseases which occasionally blemish lawns in cool moist weather can be checked with SCUTL. The mercury in it has a fungicidal action and a couple of applications spaced two weeks apart are usually sufficient. Spreader application at normal rate to the entire infected area will be more successful than spot treating. While fungicidal treatments serve to check the spread of fungus disease, they will not repair the damage already done. Feeding will help do that.

*Moss and Algae.* These two growths appear where there is lots of surface moisture such as in shaded areas, particularly if the soil is compact. They are often confused with fungus but are actually low forms of plant life. The green algae or "scum" turns black as it dies. These growths can be killed by one or two applications of SCUTL at normal rate. For permanent riddance the soil drainage should be improved.

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