

Making a Lawn

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"The lawn
Which, after sweeping broadly round
the house,
Went trickling through the shrubberies
in a stream

Of tender turf, and wore and lost itself
Among the Acacias."

Mrs. Browning here paints such a picture as all love to dwell upon. Who among us has not some pleasing memory of just such a grass set scene. Such surroundings bespeak the peace, the calm, the restfulness so welcome to the weary soul, so kind to the tired eye. Not one of us but admires a well kept lawn, and better still, not a man or woman among us but may have one at small outlay of time and money.

THE SOIL

The best grass growing land is a good loam. Any well drained, well prepared area of any other sort of soil may, however, be so handled as to ensure a pleasing result. Where building operations have recently been going on such residues as bricks, stone chippings, etc., should be buried at least six inches below the surface. The surface should be graded with a slight fall away from buildings and any depressions or hollows should be filled in, even something higher than the surrounding land to allow for settling. Manure should then be applied, about one pound per square foot of lawn surface. After scattering the manure evenly over the surface, the whole area should be well ploughed or spaded. If time presses or labor is too expensive, ploughing or spading may be done only the once, and that to a moderate depth. If it is desired to ensure the very best results possible the land should be ploughed, burying the manure to a moderate depth (four or five inches) then later, after harrowing and rolling several times, or when in a good state of tilth ploughed again about half an inch deeper than before. Harrowing and rolling will be again in order and any new unevenness due to settling should now be corrected. After harrowing, levelling and rolling till in good shape it should be left untouched for a week or ten days.

SEEDING

After the surface has lain fallow for ten days or so, it should be again levelled and well harrowed. If not very firm underfoot it will be advisable to roll with a heavy roller once or twice before seeding. The seed should be divided into two equal portions and the first part scattered as evenly as possible over the whole lawn, walking from east to west while sowing. Each and every square foot of the whole lawn having received its fair share of the first half of the seed, the sower should then proceed to sow

the second half of the seed as evenly as possible over the lawn walking from north to south during the process and again being careful to give every square foot of land its fair share of this, the second part or other half of the seed, as well as a fair proportion of the first part. Carelessness in seed scattering is responsible for many patchy looking lawns and is in fact the cause of not a few failures. The seed once sown, the whole surface should be lightly and evenly raked or harrowed. On most soils a rake will give better results than a harrow. The main point is to cover the seed, although at the same time, one must guard against too deeply burying it. After raking or lightly harrowing the land should be rolled again, unless very damp, in which case the rolling operation should be postponed till a later date.

Many lawn grass mixtures are to be had at seed stores. Not infrequently these ready prepared mixtures contain a rather large proportion of weed seeds. It is important to buy grass seed free from weed seeds, since if preparation has been made as above outlined, the chances are very strongly in favor of a lawn free from weeds other than such as spring from seeds sown by wind or mixed with grass seed.

Taken all in all probably the best grass to sow is Canadian Blue Grass, or failing this, Kentucky Blue Grass. Pains should be taken to secure a good

sample of this grass and it should then be sown liberally at the rate of about fifty pounds an acre, or one pound to the hundred square yards.

After the seed is sown the lawn should be well rolled, care being taken to pack as evenly as possible and retain a smooth surface. No raking should be done, however, if the surface is at all damp when the seeding is performed. It would be much better to postpone the rolling for a day or two, or if the soil continues moist it might be advisable to postpone the rolling for two or three weeks.

After the grass is well up should a drought occur or a heavy rain come and the surface later become very dry, it would be found advantageous to roll again, using a light roller. This will break the surface crust, create a mulch, and so encourage growth and ensure a better stand.

Care should be taken not to use a lawn mower upon the young grass, since this machine is almost certain to pull out by the roots rather than clip it at this stage of growth. If weeds spring up or the grass becomes unsightly, the whole area should be carefully gone over with a sharp scythe rather than with the lawn mower.

The process of getting a lawn by sowing is of course rather slow. The seeding down method may be very often improved upon, at least so far as speed is concerned, by sod laying. For laying sod, practically the same preparation



An Inexpensive Beauty Spot Where the Birds Delight to Stay. Lily Pond in the Garden of Mrs. McNair, Hamilton, Ont.