

Making a Lawn

The lawn. Which, after sweeping broadly round the house, is to be the scene of the family life. It is to be the place where the children will play, where the old people will sit, where the young people will love to be. It is to be the place where the family will gather, where the friends will come, where the guests will be entertained. It is to be the place where the family will live, where the family will be, where the family will be.

When putting down a lawn, a good plan, where conditions will permit, is to lay a few lines of small tile (two inches) for subirrigation. By placing these tile lines eight or ten inches below the surface, at suitable points, a beautiful green may be maintained throughout the summer at a low cost for labor and water—J. H. G.

THE SOIL

The best grass growing land is a good farm. Any well drained, well prepared area of any other sort of soil may, however, be so handled as to insure a pleasing result. Where building operations have recently been going on, such as residues of 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 somewhat 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 plowed or spaded. If time presses, or labor is too expensive, as will be the case in many homes, into which Farm and Dairy goes, plowing or spading may be done only the once, and that to a moderate depth. If it is desired to insure the very best results possible, the land should be plowed, 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 plowed 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, leveling and rolling till in good shape, it should be left untouched for a week or ten days.

SEEDING

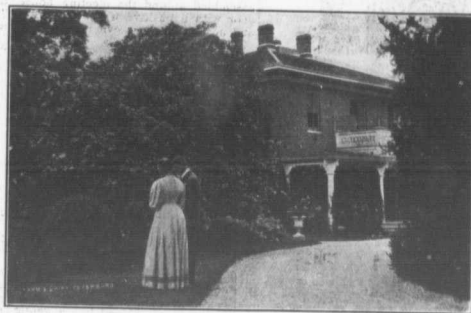
After the surface has lain fallow for 10 days or so, it should be again levelled and well harrowed. If not very firm underneath it will be advisable to roll with a heavy roller once or twice before seeding. The seed should be divided into two equal portions and the first part scattered as evenly as possible 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

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.

SODDING A LAWN

The process of getting a lawn by



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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 moist 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 burying it too deep. 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.

THE SEED

Many lawn grass mixtures are to be had at seed stores. Not infrequently these ready prepared mixtures contain a rather large portion of seed weeds. It is important to bury grass seed from from weed seeds, since if preparation has been made as above outlined, the chances are very strongly in favor of the lawn being free from weeds other than such as spring from seeds sown by wind or mixed with grass seed subsequent to proper preparation. Taken all in all, probably the best grass to sow is Canadian Blue Grass, or failing that, 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 50 lbs. an acre, or one pound to the 100 square yards.

AFTER TREATMENT

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 rolling should be done, however, if the surface is at all damp when the seeding is performed. It could 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 dry up, 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 insure a better stand. Care should be taken not to use the lawn mower upon the young grass, since this machine is almost certain to pull the grass out

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 should be made as for seeding. The lawn maker

should see that the sod supplied is thick enough to include a fair proportion of growing roots, and so insure the grass getting a good start in its new feeding ground.

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