

The process of farm home improvement is necessarily slow; but the opportunities for making it beautiful and attractive, that are given in Western Canada, cannot be excelled in any other part of the North American Continent.

Lawns

The beautifying of residence grounds by means of a handsome lawn is becoming more and more general. Not only in the cities, but on the farms are velvety lawns being sought for. There was a time when such a thing as a well-kept lawn on a farm was hardly dreamed of. Now there are many beautiful farm residence grounds in the West, but, of course, they are very few in comparison to the number of farm homes where there is not even a pretence at having a lawn.

In the cities lawns under the care of a practical gardener are a thing of beauty and a joy throughout the summer, but lawns under the care of people with no practical knowledge are often very much of a failure.

In preparing land for lawn making it should be put in a special state of cultivation. The soil should be finely pulverized, and, if possible, the surface should be enriched with some well decayed manure or some rich garden loam.

In obtaining good results in lawn making, the surface should be made perfectly level, or the seed bed put in any desired grade before the grass is sown. The proper time for seeding is during the early part of the summer, before the summer rains have begun.

The best method of seeding is to scatter the seed broadcast on the surface, and rake it in with a fine-toothed garden rake. Where different kinds of seed are sown some recommend the sowing of the different kinds separately in order to get an even distribution of the seed. After sowing the seed and raking it in, the surface should be well firmed with a garden roller to firm the soil around the seed and ensure quick germination.

Good grasses for lawn making purposes are: Kentucky and Canadian Blue grass, 35 per cent. each; red top, 20 per cent.; Rhode Island bent, 5 per cent., and white clover, 5 per cent. These are all fine grasses and will make a compact lawn. If fineness of grass is not so important a consideration, the amount of blue grass and red top can be reduced and say 25 or 30 per cent. of the mixture be made of Western rye grass, although this is a very difficult grass to clip with the mower.

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