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About The Farm ---

By John J. Inskeep, County Agent

Our activities involving farm programs are so demanding that we can devote only a small portion of our field-work to lawn problems. This spring, however, we have had occasion to look over quite a number of problem lawns.

Here are a few of the causes of lawn failures and damage we have seen this spring: poor fertilizer practices, cutting too short, rolling established lawns when the soil is carrying too much moisture, poor soil structure, leaving cuttings on new lawns, dogs and children running over the lawn before it is well established.

Unsatisfactory mixtures—A number of the mixtures now on the market contain excessive quantities of ryegrass and other undesirable species for use here. Any ryegrass is too much but it is cheap. Some of the mixtures of seeds are put up for national distribution and are not well adapted for local use. Some are near worthless for our conditions.

Stick to the red fescues—chewings and creeping red, and/or creeping bent, or mixtures of these. There are some good ones on the market put up for use in this area. Some of the best are purchased in large burlap bags. A good seed store operator knows which from what, but he is in business and cannot be blamed for carrying a full stock to fill all demands. Some prospective lawn keepers are insistent even in spite of good advice from their seedsmen.

Merion bluegrass may do well in well-drained, heavily-limed lawn areas. We have not yet had enough experience with this grass locally. It does very well as a substitute for Kentucky bluegrass in humid sections of the northeast coast. Kentucky bluegrass is certainly not one of general local adaptation. But this one carries a popular name and certain mixers include a little Kentucky blue in the mixture as a selling point. Don't blame them.

While minerals are necessary, up to a point, grasses feed predominantly on nitrogen. Minerals include calcium (limes in various forms), phosphorus, potash, sulfur, and sometimes magnesium and boron. The inexperienced lawn grower loads his soil up with phosphates and potash while failing to apply enough nitrogen.

Occasionally, a lawn becomes too acid and limestone is needed as a corrective or neutralizer. Obtain a reliable soil test and have someone interpret it who knows his business. If sulfur is lacking in the fertilizer used, apply land-plaster each year.

Too much of many of the fertilizers not properly watered in, especially during dry weather, may burn even to the point of de-

COMING EVENTS:

The Oregon Holly Growers Association has scheduled its annual tour and picnic this coming Saturday, June 16, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Visitors will gather at the H.C. Bayley orchard, 237 N.W. Skyline Boulevard, at this time.

To reach the Bayley farm from Portland, go out West Burnside to the Mt. Calvary cemetery, where Burnside intersects with Skyline. Keep to the right on Skyline for about 1/4 mile. It is the first driveway on the left past Willamette Stone Park and Griffin Real Estate Office.

The Leader-Stewart orchard is straight on out Skyline Blvd. to McNamee Road, about 8 miles from Bayley's. Turn right on McNamee and go about 2 miles. The holly orchard is on the left. McNamee Road is the first road leading north, east of Cornelius Pass Skyline School.

Visitors will then assemble on the large commercial planting and holly nursery belonging to Alfred Teufel, president of the association. Here they will inspect the Teufel acres which are located on 1144 Cornell road north of the Sunset Highway and East of Cedar Mills in Washington County.

Notices for these activities have been mailed to members of the association by Mrs. Hugh Ping, Stafford, organization secretary. Mr. K.A. Swenson, Entomologist, Oregon State College will discuss control of the holly leaf tiers as a special feature of the program. According to Mrs. Ping, everyone interested in growing and marketing holly is invited. Visitors are requested to bring a basket lunch and eating utensils.

Notes by the wayside.

Oregon Blueberry Grower Association members will meet this Sunday, June 17, beginning at 10:30 a.m., on Ray Leach farm, Aurora. The Leach planting and nursery is located on highway 99E overlooking Pudding river just north of the bridge at Aurora. Visitors may look for the sign. Host Ray Leach, is also president of the association.

The noon luncheon will be pot-luck. The association will provide coffee and dessert. Visitors are asked to bring a food item for the luncheon and to provide their eating utensils.

The Leach plantings will, be inspected before luncheon. Afterward the group will proceed to the V.R. Hines blueberry farm on Abiqua Creek in Marion County. All persons interested in growing and marketing blueberries are invited to attend this gathering.

Farm Calendar

June 12-22 4-H summer school, OSC, Corvallis
June 16 9:30 A.M. Oregon holly growers association spring field trip.
June 17 10:30 A.M. Oregon blueberry growers association field trip. Starts at Ray Leach farm highway 99E overlooking pudding river bridge at Aurora. All persons interested in growing and marketing of blueberries are welcome.

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stroying grass in the area. Some of the best and cheapest per pound of nitrogen are the worst to burn when improperly used. It's a good idea to supply summer nitrogen through the water.

The length of roots of grass plants is directly in proportion to the top growth. Cutting shorter than two inches weakens grasses in the lawn.

Don't roll established lawns except possibly on sandy soils. We could nearly say "don't roll".

When the lawn becomes uneven, broadcast some good sandy loam topsoil in early spring and level with a board used as a straight-edge. Heavier soils tend to pack even from normal use. It may be necessary to redo such lawns in dry weather after using a rototiller to destroy remaining grass. Mix the new soil with the old using a rototiller. Some prefer covering the lawn completely and planting in the new soil.

Remove clippings especially on young grass. Wads of clippings will kill young grass underneath. For details and additional information obtain "Home Lawns for Oregon", extension bulletin 516, from the county extension office, basement post office, Oregon City. Write in care of Box 511 or call 2641 and ask for the extension office. Finally, don't be a faddist unless you are willing to pay the cost of experimenting.

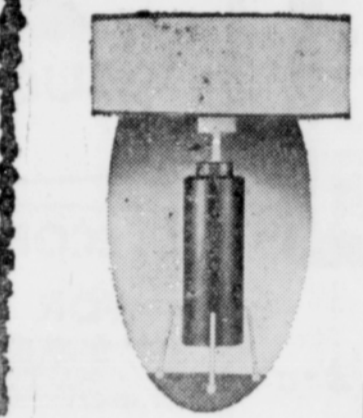
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