

CHOOSING LAWN SEED PROBLEM

Good Varieties few; Bent Grasses Popular now, Oregon Produced

By F. HOWARD ZINSER
There are comparatively few good lawn grass seeds. In the past few years new grasses have been discovered which are proving well adapted to good turf making and are coming more and more into general use. Chief among these new grasses are the Bents.

Care should be used in selecting good seed for a lawn and it is preferable to obtain these from a reputable seed house where seed men make a study of seed and know the different characteristics and habits of growth. It is well to have a statement of what is contained in a lawn mixture. Sometimes seeds are employed to cheapen the cost, add bulk or weight to mislead the purchaser. Reliable seed houses will sell you the straight variety for your own mixing if you desire. Under ordinary home lawn conditions a mixture of standard lawn grasses is often better than sowing any one individual grass. The reason for this lies in the fact that each grass has its own growing and dormant season and as a consequence the use of a mixture gives one a more permanently green lawn.

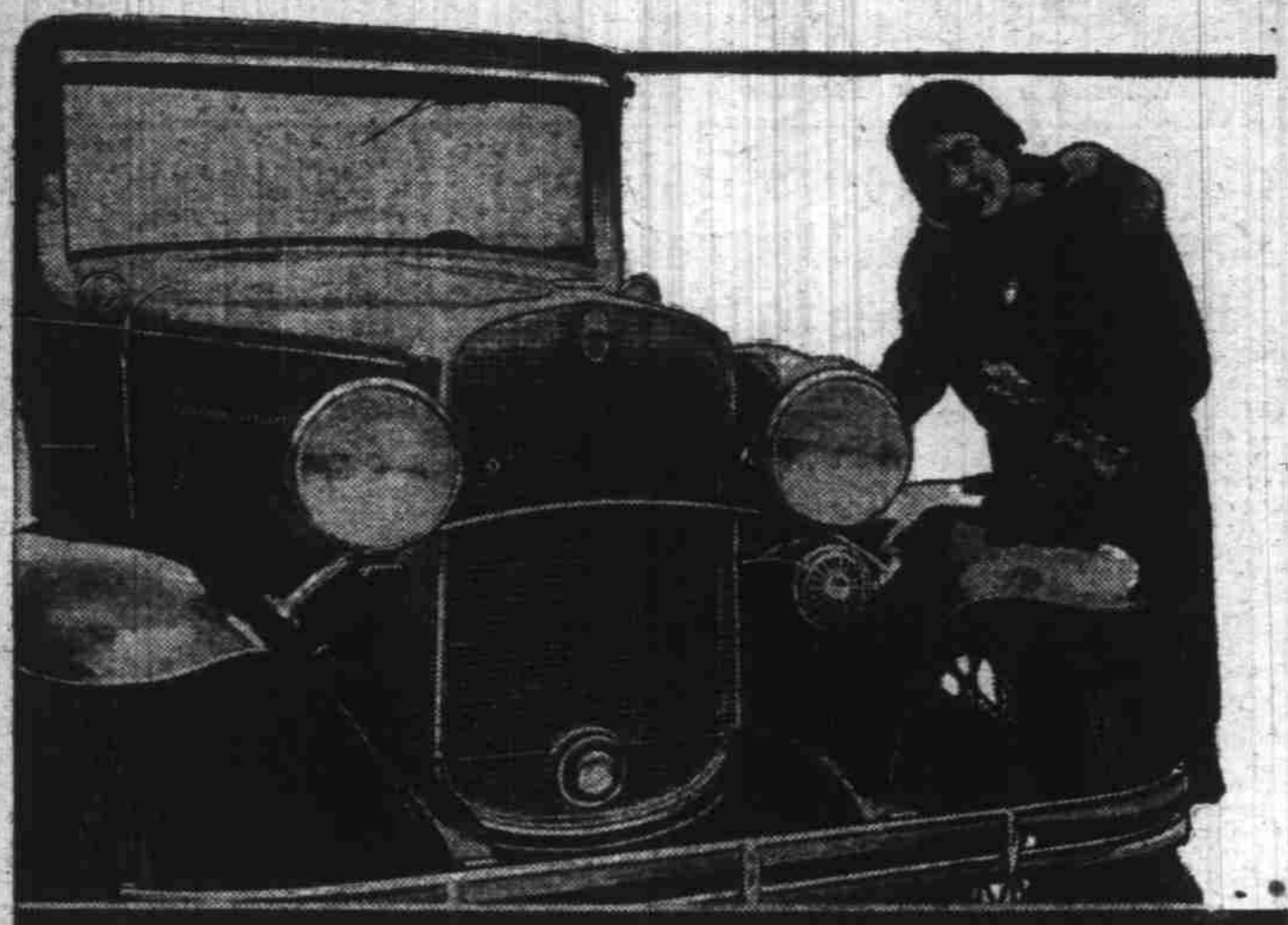
Clover Losing Its Popularity

Nearly always when considering a lawn the question is asked, "Shall we use clover?" This is a lawn habit that is hard to overcome as this practice has come down to us for years. Recently, however, clover is not being used as much as formerly. We are speaking of course of the White or Dutch clover, trifolium repens. A great many of our best landscape men are not now using it. One reason is that clover does better on an alkaline soil while the other and more important grasses like an acid soil. Then again the type of growth of clover and its dark green color makes a lawn made up of the lighter green grasses, look somewhat blotchy. Whether clover is added or not is a personal matter. The better class of lawn mixtures do not contain clover.

Depend upon it that if you purchase a good grade of lawn seed from a seed house it will contain a minimum of weed seeds. It will be as free as good cleaning machinery can make it. The first blame for weeds in a lawn comes from the seed. With so many other sources of weed infestation it is hardly probable that all the blame can be laid at the door of the seed. Birds and the wind bring them in. Weed seeds may lie dormant in the ground for years and then when brought to the surface will germinate.

Every section of the United States has its grasses particularly adapted to that region, some of these are also generally used in other regions. We will list here the grasses commonly used here in the northwestern states. Kentucky Blue Grass, poa trivialis, is the basis of most mix-

IT'S AN ALL-YEAR TOURING COUNTRY



Winter fails to tie up our cars here in the west. We use them all year 'round. This view shows the new 1931 Chevrolet sport sedan with the chromium plated radiator grille, which is standard equipment on all sport models this year. Thousands of the new cars have been delivered to owners in the west since the car was announced last November.

tures. It is spreading, fine bladed, a beautiful color and makes a permanent turf. It has been generally held that it required an alkaline or sweet soil, but recent tests have proved that it will adapt itself to mildly acid soils if an abundance of plant food is available. As a rule blue grass should not be planted alone, because the seed germinates slowly and therefore will do better with some faster seed such as Red Top.

Red top, agrostis palustris, grows readily in most soils and while not a permanent grass, it is used largely to start the lawn and keep it green while other slower seeds are establishing themselves.

Chewings Fescue, festuca duriuscula, is a fine leaved light green grass imported from New Zealand which makes a fine turf. It is a creeping grass and is used in mixtures because of its hardness, ability to withstand tramping and adaptability to shade. It is even being used as a single grass, and when cut rather high makes a good putting green.

Bents. There are several of the bent grasses commonly used. The German Bent is a mixture of several types of bents and sometimes contains some red top. It is produced in Germany and is the most reasonably priced of the bent grasses. Colonial bent is another of this type of seed and is a true bent. It is imported from New Zealand, makes a good turf and is superior to the German.

Oregon Producing Some Fine Bents
Oregon is the producer of some of the finest of bent seeds. There are two of these native to this coast. Seaside Bent, agrostis stolonifera maritima, is native to the

GARDENS HERE TO BE REPRESENTED

Many of Salem's lovely gardens will be represented in the garden show being planned for May 2, 3 and 4 at Laurelhurst park in lowlands of Coos county, but it has a wide range of adaptability. It is now used on golf courses and its use as a lawn grass is increasing.

Astoria bent is another one of this family produced in Clatsop county and has been given the scientific name of agrostis stolonifera Astorianus. The Seaside is slightly coarser, lighter green in color but a stronger creeper. The Astoria is a little finer darker green and has rhizomes as well as stolons, but is not so strong in its creeping habit. Both make a very good turf.

All bent grasses require considerable care and fertilizer in order to have them continue in good condition and look well. There is a tendency to turn brown at certain seasons and for that reason they do better in mixtures for the ordinary home lawn.

Some good mixtures are as follows:
40 per cent Blue Grass, 30 per cent Red Top, 20 per cent Fescue, 10 per cent Clover.
25 per cent Bent, 25 per cent Chewings Fescue, 25 per cent Red Top, 25 per cent Blue Grass.
For shade: 3 lbs. Chewings Fescue, 1 lb. Bent, 2 lbs. Poa Trivialis.

Portland. The affair is sponsored by the Portland Garden club and the Portland bureau of parks. Entries will come from all parts of the northwest. It has been arranged to give equal opportunity to the gardener of the small city lot and the owner of large country properties, as judging will recognize many different classifications.

The general layout of the show as arranged on the shore of Laurelhurst lake affords many picturesque effects. Large tents will house the delicate table displays and cut flowers, and naturalistic rockeries will dot the slopes of the lake. Among the features planned for the evening programs are musical numbers and interesting lighting effects.

Special week end rates are arranged so that out-of-town exhibitors as well as other visitors may go in and out of the show at will to study the different exhibits and attend all the sessions.

Additional information will be obtainable from officers of the Salem Garden club of which F. A. Doerfler is president and Miss Mirpah G. Blair is secretary. Garden clubs throughout the state are cooperating to make this the big spring garden event in Oregon.

Auxiliary Soon To Get Charter

INDEPENDENCE, March 14—A joint meeting of the Independence post of American Legion, and its auxiliary will be held in

How Does Your Garden Grow?

By LILLIE L. MADSEN

Not always are our winters as mild as this one has been so that we could have bouquets grown in our own garden throughout the year, nor are we all so fortunate as to be able to afford a constant supply of greenhouse flowers throughout the winter. But, be it summer or winter, in this age, home is not quite home without a bouquet here and there in the house. For this reason the "ever-lasting" which were so conspicuous in our grandmother's day have come back into favor. We may have new sorts and use them in different fashions but we are again growing summer flowers for winter bouquets.

In the olden days, the custom was to braid these flowers into wreaths which were placed about the ancestral photographs which hung in the "parlor." Now they are arranged with a few grasses in vases, and these are placed in some corner of the house where their color bring a bright note into an otherwise flowerless room.

Those who do not wish to keep them for winter bouquets will find these flowers and grasses which dry so beautifully, interesting to braid these flowers into annuals. The grasses particularly, besides their attractiveness in bouquets where they add lightness and grace, lend themselves to various uses in the garden.

The fountain grass (penstemon ruppelii) with its long feathery plumes of a purplish hue, is wonderful at the edge of a pool or a little stream—if you are lucky enough to possess one. It is also attractive in the border of salvia or cannas. The cloud grass (agrostis nebulosa) with reddish-green heads, is a good plant and blooms for such a long period, usually from the first of July until frost. Then there is the plum grass (trycholaena rosea) with its lovely pink plumes, and the interesting small quaking grass (briza maxima) which grows but 15 inches tall.

Likely best known of the flowers is the helichrysum, more commonly called the "strawflowers." These grow about 20 inches high and bloom profusely. They come in very pretty shades of pink, lavender, yellow and red. There are also waxy white ones.

One of my favorites of the everlasting flowers is the round one always reminds me of a large clover bloom. But the Amaranth can be had in pink, lilac, yellow and pure white. This is also a comparatively tall plant, reaching at maturity about two feet in height. The entire bush is covered with the odd ball-shaped flowers throughout its blooming

season. The beautiful sea lavender (statice) is not as well known by the average gardener as it deserves to be. Perhaps this is because its seeds germinate rather slowly. Otherwise there is no difficulty in growing it. The sea lavender grows well over two feet tall and the flowers come in clusters. The blooms are not all lavender as their name would imply. In fact, the "lavender" comes in more nearly a clear blue than a lavender, and there are lovely shades of rose and even yellow.

As a rule the old Lunaria or honesty, which we as children called the "dollar plant" because of the "dollar" appearance of the seed pods, is listed as an everlasting. However, the seed pods and not the flowers of the Lunaria, are kept for the winter bouquet. Perhaps it is also well to mention that this is a biennial which will bloom the first year if the seeds are sown early enough, but which does not come into its best until its second season.

There is little or no difficulty in the culture of the everlasting flowers. They are as easily grown as radishes or carrots. For that matter, if one grows them rather for winter bouquets than for summer display, a row of them planted in the vegetable garden proves an efficient way of caring for them. They will do quite well in almost any sort of soil, even comparatively heavy clay. Their one weakness is sunshine which they crave throughout the day.

The grasses are almost as easily cared for as the flowers, although they do appreciate more moisture. This is particularly true of the fountain grass which really does its best when it has access to an abundance of water. The grasses will also repay one for a little richness added to the soil.

If they are to be prepared for winter bouquets the flowers should be gathered very early in the morning while the dew is yet on and hung in a cool and airy place with their heads down. The grasses should also be gathered while the dew is on but they are dried with their heads in their natural position. They, too, must be dried in a cool place where there is plenty of air.

AUTO ACCESSORIES AND SUPPLIES

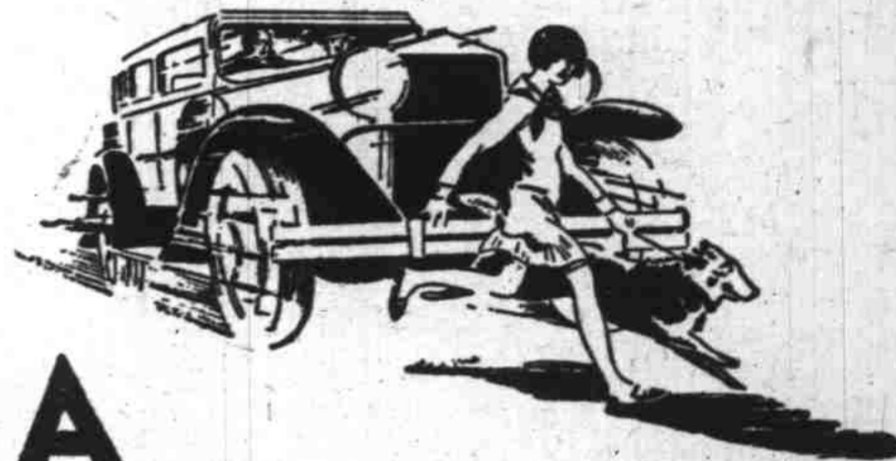
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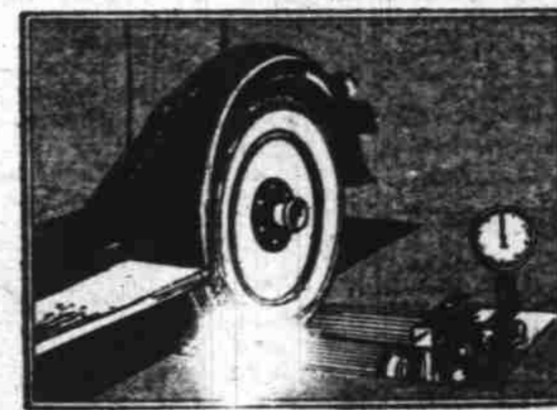
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