

It's not too early

Crab grass and how to get rid of it

It is not too early to give thought to the crab grass problem. Here is some information on ridding this pesty stuff.

Crab grass is an annual. It will grow from seed which is now present in the soil. Crab grass grows in hot weather and it does quite well even in dry conditions. It does better in sunny locations than in shade.

The most successful herbicide treatments involve application of the weed killer before the crab grass germinates. This is because the plant is most susceptible to being killed in the germination stage. The herbicide should be applied

early enough, April, or as soon as the snow is gone in some locations, is the time to make the application.

In established lawns, Chlordane, Dacthal and Zytron have each been used successfully in keeping crab grass down. One of these herbicides, if applied at the proper rate early in April, can be expected to greatly reduce the weed's population. Don't be too disappointed if complete elimination does not result.

Generally the herbicide cannot be applied uniformly. Some spots are skipped or the application is not absolutely

perfectly made. The more exact the job, the better the results will be.

In Massachusetts in 1960, researchers obtained 99 per cent control with Dacthal, 98 per cent with Zytron and 89 per cent with Chlordane. In 1961, they had two tests obtaining 100 per cent and 99 per cent control with Zytron, 99 per cent and 97 per cent with Chlordane and 95 per cent and 95 per cent Dacthal.

Following Results
In Pennsylvania the following results were obtained: Zytron gave 96 per cent control in June and 74 per cent in August; Dacthal gave 94 per cent in June and 34 per cent in August, and Chlordane gave 20 per cent con-

trol in June and 18 per cent in August.

In an experiment in Connecticut the control was estimated in mid-September with the following values: Zytron 88 per cent, Dacthal 87 per cent and Chlordane 8 per cent. In a test at Rhode Island, Dacthal and Zytron gave 100 per cent control while Chlordane gave 39 to 68 per cent control.

Prof. L. J. Higgins, lawn and turf specialist at the University of New Hampshire, includes in his weed control recommendations each of the three above. Regardless of which herbicide is used, it should be applied at the proper time and the proper rate. Be sure to read all the instructions before use.

Sawdust NOT A Fertilizer

Don't expect the impossible from sawdust, Duane Hatch, Lane Extension agent in horticulture, advises home gardeners.

True, sawdust is a good mulching material for plants and shrubs. It holds down weeds; conserves moisture and eliminates the need for cultivation. But a fertilizer it isn't.

In fact, fresh sawdust mixed with the soil can have an adverse effect on soil and plants — depleting the available nitrogen and stunting plant growth, Hatch explains. Most of this depressing effect disappears when rotted sawdust is applied.

With the addition of nitrogen fertilizer, however, fresh sawdust becomes an almost perfect mulch — forming a handsome base around shrubbery. Sulfate of ammonia at the rate of 500 pounds to the acre (1½ lb. per 100 sq. ft.) should be applied with the first application of sawdust. Three to four weeks later if the plants are slow growing and pale, another 250 pounds (¾ lb. per 100 sq. ft.) should be added and watered into the soil. Plants and seeds should be protected from coming into direct contact with the fertilizer.

Louvers for Garage

To beautify a small home that seems to be more garage than house, add louver doors or shutters of ponderosa pine to each side of the garage door. If they're the same height as the door and painted to match the window shutters, they'll improve your home's appearance considerably.

Helpful Henry

by FLASH



"He burned himself out planting the grass seed!"

Foundation Plantings Help Bring Out Best in a House

Foundation plantings at the front of your house, skillfully chosen and strategically placed, will help bring out its best architectural features and help make it a part of the surrounding landscape.

The basic rule for foundation plantings, according to Better Homes & Gardens, is to develop strong corner groupings which will be colorful at least three seasons of the year.

Supplement these groupings with accent plantings placed at either side of the doorway. In general, place plants where strong vertical lines of architecture meet the ground, and use plants in beds, planters, and along the wall to create special effects.

To build up corners and the doorway, choose upright, rounded or pointed evergreens, which are different in form, color, and texture, such as junipers, yews, and pines. Support these plants with adjacent grouping of low-growing, spreading forms, such as Pfitzer juniper or spreading Japanese yew.

For striking color accents, add a few annuals and perennials in beds, along the wall, or in front of a privet hedge.

For the best effect, and maximum economy, use a relatively low number of plants. If you overplant, you may have to severely prune, or even remove, some of the plants.

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