

# Sod lawns fast and simple

Establishing a lawn by using sod is a simple way to avoid the six-to-eight week struggle of coaxing a newly-seeded lawn into existence. Where growing a lawn from seed would be extremely difficult or impossible, sodding offers a good chance of success.

If lawn sod is used, it's important to install it correctly. Proper site preparation and the choice of a turf grass variety that is adapted to local conditions are also important.

A blend of selected fine fescues and improved Kentucky bluegrass is found in most of the sods commercially available in Oregon. Some blends also include perennial ryegrass.

The area where the sod is to be planted should be rototilled, graded, fertilized, rolled and raked. The yard should be sloped so water will drain away from the house.

Sod won't thrive if placed directly on subsoil or worn-out topsoil. If additional topsoil is needed, do the grading first, then add the topsoil and rototill it lightly into the top inch or two of the planting site.

If there isn't time for a soil

analysis, use a fertilizer that will supply two pounds of actual element each of nitrogen and phosphorus per thousand square feet.

Remove all trash, rocks and other debris from the soil surface before laying the sod. Do a final light raking and pack the soil surface lightly with a roller before the sod is delivered.

For best results, install the sod immediately after it's delivered. Sod doesn't keep well in a stack. When ordering sod, arrange to have it delivered when the soil is completely prepared for planting.

Sod can be installed by do-it-yourself, but it is usually installed by the supplier, who contracts to both furnish and lay the sod.

When laying the sod, it is best to establish a straight line through the length of the area and lay the sod along it. Before installing the sod, irrigate the soil lightly. Dry soil beneath the sod will pull moisture from the new grass and increase the risk of damage.

Fit the pieces of sod together as tightly as possible. Don't

stretch or overlap the pieces. Butt all ends tightly against each other to prevent air spaces that will cause the roots to dry out.

Make sure the sod is in firm contact with the soil by rolling it after installation. After rolling the sod, add a top dressing of nitrogen fertilizer at a rate of one pound per thousand square-feet, and then water.

Water the sod enough to moisten it and soil below to a depth of several inches. Keep the sod moist until it has become established.

During the spring and summer this may require two or three waterings a day.

Wait seven to 10 days or until the sod is firmly-rooted and secure in place before mowing. Set the mower height so no more than 40 percent of the grass height is cut with the first mowing.

For more information about lawn sod see the OSU Extension publication, "Establish Lawns by Sodding," EC 966. It's available at the Extension office of the OSU Extension Service in the old Administration Building.

## Extension Notes



from Pennie Little and Clint Jacks

## Shrubs may need fertilizers

In most cases, home lawns and landscape shrubs respond to spring with a flush of green growth. Shrubs and lawns that don't are usually in need of some spring fertilization.

A shot of fertilizer can do wonders for washed-out looking shrubs or lawngrass that has taken on a yellowish cast.

Many fertilizer formulations manufactured specially for grass are available. Weed and feed combinations will do double duty by killing early summer weeds. Directions for using these fertilizers should be

printed on the package.

Ammonium nitrate contains 33 percent nitrogen; a five-pound box will cover 1,000 square feet. Ammonium sulfate contains 21 percent nitrogen.

Washed-out evergreen shrubs can use some fertilizer to green them up again.

A fertilizer high in nitrogen, such as a 12-4-8 combination, can put the green back in evergreen shrubs and will help eliminate stunted growth. It can be applied at the rate of one pound, or two cups per 100 square feet.

# Ways to cut calf losses

Calf losses in heifers are often high and most of these deaths are a result of dystocia (calving difficultly) problems, according to the new Oregon State University Extension Service publication, "How to Handle Calving Difficulties."

The new publication states that many of these calf losses can be prevented if the heifers are closely watched and the dystocia problems detected

and corrected early.

The Extension circular describes some routine techniques that can help reduce calf losses. It also recommends that any serious and complicated problems be handled by a veterinarian.

"How to Handle Calving Difficulties" explains how recognize normal calving, the dangers of interfering during birth of a calf and when and

how to examine the cow.

Also included are sections on how to prepare before helping with the calf birth and forced extraction of a calf.

The publication stresses that it is important to know, with complete confidence, how long to leave the cow during calving and when to seek help.

"How to Handle Calving Difficulties," EC 1074, is available free at the Extension office.

## 4-H Summer Camp

Applications are still being accepted for 4-H Camp to be held June 22-26 at Round Lake. The camp is designed for all youth completing the 4-6 grades.

4-H camp is a well-supervised educational outdoor adventure experience

with responsible leadership in group living from which each youngster will benefit.

Cost to youth from Warm Springs is \$25. Registration deadline is June 1. Additional information and applications can be picked up at the Warm Springs Extension office.



Is this hole deep enough?

## "Earth Week"

# Simnasho students plant flowers



"Look! I did it!!"

For their "Earth Week" project this year, Rich Little's Simnasho students learned about germination, where the roots and stems come out of the seeds, and how flowers push up through the soil. On May 8, they planted Dahlias, Marigolds, Zinnias and a mixed bag of garden flowers. They tend the plants every day and now know what's weed and what's flower.

Spilyay Tymoo photo by Rangila