

Thatching helps lawns green up

If the home lawn seemed less vigorous this year when it began spring growth, thatch buildup may be slowly choking the grass turf to death.

Thatch is old leaves, stems and grass clippings. This organic debris builds up on top of the soil at the base of the grass plant.

Thatch is responsible for many lawn problems and its removal is an important lawn maintenance operation.

Thatch sheds water, which keeps water from the root zone of the grass plants. This will cause brown spots to appear in the lawn.

Thatch also blocks air and fertilizer from reaching grass roots and provides a haven for weeds and diseases, says Ray McNeilan, Oregon State University Extension home gardening agent.

Remove thatch buildup

either by hand or with power tools. For small lawns less than 1,000 square feet in size, hand raking is usually sufficient. For larger lawns power tools such as a power rake or rotary mower make the job easier.

Begin the thatch removal process by first mowing the lawn. Cut the grass as low to the ground as possible. Then remove all the lawn clippings. The lawn is now ready for the dethatching process.

Set the dethatching tool to slice into the thatch near the soil surface and go over the lawn with it, says McNeilan.

After removing all debris by raking or sweeping, go over the lawn a second time with the dethatcher in a direction cross-wise to the first cutting. Then remove all the debris and go over the lawn with the lawn mower again.

As in the first mowing, set the mower to cut as low to the ground as possible. Remove all the clippings from this mowing and the dethatching process is done.

Thatch removal will leave the lawn in pretty sad-looking shape, but the grass will recover with renewed vigor, McNeilan notes.

You may want to thicken the stand of grass by overseeding after thatching. Also, if lime hasn't been applied in several years, this is a good time to put some on. Apply lime at the rate of 50-80 pounds per thousand square feet, depending on how long it's been since the last lime application was made on the lawn.

To stimulate quick recovery, fertilize the lawn and water it thoroughly. It will recover and look good again in about three weeks.

Let teens in on \$\$ management

So your teenager wants to buy a moped, but the money is needed to replace the washing machine that's on its last legs.

"Money can touch off conflicts between teens and parents, but parents can help the situation by letting the teen in on the family's financial situation," says Teresa Hogue, Jefferson County Extension agent. Young people probably won't be interested in every detail. But they should understand all the expenses that the family income has to cover.

"If the teen is included in the family decision to fix up the old car rather than buy a new one, he or she may learn the valuable lesson that taking care of things saves money," notes Alice Mills Morrow, Oregon State University Extension family economics specialist.

Take the teenager along when you shop for a major household item that will affect

him or her directly, such as the lawn mower the teen will be expected to use. That way, he or she will learn about comparison shopping.

"Teenagers also need to be involved in family financial decisions," Morrow adds. Whether they earn their own money or receive an allowance,

it's good money management experience for them to have money that they determine how to spend and save.

And as far as the moped purchase goes—if the teen has to earn and/or save his or her own money for a wanted item, financial management experience has begun.

Summer Fun in session

Swim suit making, hiking and day camps are just a few activities sponsored by the OSU Extension Service for Jefferson County youth. The activities are open to all youth ranging in grade level from first to twelfth grade.

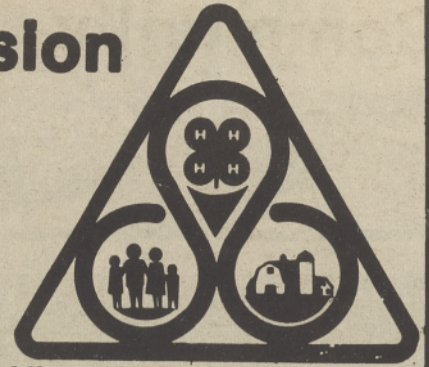
Options open include gardening clubs, day camps, swimming, karate, weight lifting, food preservation, manners and modeling, swim suit construction, kite making, field trips to the coast and local areas, bike trips, cooking classes for younger youth and cuisine classes for older youth. Some of the activities have

nominal charges to cover supplies being used in the activities.

The OSU Extension service is coordinating the programs with the aid of local support people. Adults and high school adults will aid in the activity instruction and guidance. The local 4-H leaders association contributes to the financial support.

Specific information as to dates, cost and times will be available at the Madras Extension Office, 530 D. Street, Madras, Oregon 475-3808. The activities will be on the first come first serve basis.

Extension Notes



from Pennie Albrandt, Lee Hamilton and Doris Brackett

Cut food waste

Did you know that one slice of bread wasted everyday adds up to more than 22 loaves of bread—purchased but not eaten—during the year? Good habits in the kitchen can help avoid waste. Simply put, a cut in food waste can decrease food costs as well.

Eight to ten percent of food purchases are thrown in the garbage according to a 1975 University of Arizona study. If your family spends \$3000 a

year on food, that means about \$300 is being discarded as food waste. (This study did not include food that was ground in the garbage disposal, fed to pets or otherwise discarded.)

Decreasing food waste requires planning ahead. It means preparing only enough for adequate portions so food is not leftover or planning to use leftovers immediately before they are forgotten. It means rotating foods and not over-cooking.

4-Hers attend Summer Week

Fourteen local 4-Hers left for Oregon State University in Corvallis Monday to attend as delegates to 4-H Summer Week.

The 4-Hers will represent Jefferson County and the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in a week long learning experience and getting to know over eight-hundred 4-Hers across the state.

"Reach for the Stars: A shared Journey," is this year's theme, and features workshops, exploring careers and involving delegates in a number of fun activities.

Local sponsors have made it possible for this year's delegates to attend. Erickson's Sentry

Market, 3-S Cattle Co., I.P. Callison and sons, Federal Land Bank, Brightwood, Full Circle, Gordon and Louetta Galbraith, Jefferson County and Warm Springs 4-H leaders Associations have all provided sponsorships.

Local delegates are Tammy Smith, Trudy Blann, Mikal Bowden, Dennie Smith, David Lucei, Leo Lucero, Edith Dominguez, Edward Harris, Barb and Sandy Larson, David Redfox, Stacy Peckham, Toni Stoddard, and Chris Thomas.

In addition, Mickey Killingsworth, Chris Brunoe and Clifton Brunoe are attending as 4-H leaders and will be teaching and acting as counselors.

Save \$ for future

Would you like magic tree that sprouts enough dollars to buy everything you want? Well, you can't just find one you have to grow your own. How? Read on.

To grow a sturdy money tree, you need to understand the financial resources from which it springs and the economic powers that ensure its growth.

You begin by: **Starting at the roots—your present income.** Do your pockets lost their jingle before the week is up? Analyze your income. If your paycheck doesn't cover your expenses, can you tap other money sources?

Planning—the sturdy trunk that supports your goals. How can you balance present pleasure against future enjoyment? A spending plan will help you stretch your money to reach your goals.

Purchasing power—branches that grow in every direction. With so many products to choose from, how can you decide which one to buy? How do you know you

won't regret your purchase later? Good planning and wise use of your dollar power can bring you immediate happiness and lasting satisfaction.

Saving power—ever green, ever growing dollars. The dollars you save not only hold the promise of future enjoyment, but more of it, since properly invested dollars multiply while you wait.

Every family looks forward to the day it can meet all of its expenses on time, have a growing savings account, and the peace of mind which comes from a well-organized financial plan.

It is possible to have all of these things if you can develop a spending plan that is realistic for your family. A written spending plan is not an account of how every penny of the family money is spent. It is a plan for the use of family money to meet all of the family needs. The families must decide how to allocate money on the basis of their values and goals. Start planning your money tree today.



Spilyay Tymoo photo by Shewczyk

Children recently boarded the bus heading for Round Lake 4-H camp. The camp activities included swimming, hiking, arts and crafts, campfire activities and, in general, five days in the sun of the woods. The week ended with a pot luck dinner with food being provided by parents of the 4-Hers.