

Spring Lawn Care Should Be Started During February

Washington—(Science Service)—February is the time to begin spring lawn care. For seeding, weeding and feeding, U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists suggest the following:

Add lime to acid soil. If a lawn does not get a lime treatment every six or eight years, it may develop a case of acid indigestion. Put ground limestone on top of snow or ice. Melting and refreezing will help the limestone penetrate deeper.

Nitrogen Needed

Apply fertilizer late in February or early in March. Grass plants need large supplements of nitrogen, phosphorus and potash. Complete inorganic fertilizers contain mixtures of all three elements. Organic fertilizer contains less nitrogen and releases it more slowly, stimulating growth over a longer period of time. Urea-form fertilizer is high in nitrogen content (38 per cent) and releases it slowly but does not contain phosphorus or potash.

Re-seed or thin spots. Scatter seed in loose, roughened soil and cover to a depth of no more than one-fourth inch. If the front yard is completely bare, plant a temporary lawn in domestic rye grass and wait until fall to sow perennial grass seed.

Firm the soil. Roll the lawn early in spring when soil is moist. This may do away with some of the small bumps, but the main purpose is to firm the ground rather than to level it.

Spray Weeds

Control the weeds. Keep crabgrass and other annual grasses in check by spraying a mixture of phenyl mercuric acetate (PMA) and 2,4-D just after the weeds come up. Broadleaved weeds such as dandelion and chickweed should be sprayed with 2,4-D or silvex. Herbicides can help control weeds but they are not a substitute for the other methods.

Mow regularly. Start mowing when grass reaches recommended mowing height, one and one-half or two inches for bluegrass, fescue and rye grass. If the grass gets too tall, do not cut off more than half the height at one time.

Water the lawn only when it needs it. Prevent shallow grass roots by forcing plants to go deeper for their water. Wait until the grass begins to wilt and then give the lawn a good drink, preferably in the evening when the water does not evaporate so easily. Saturate the soil to a depth of six inches. This is equal to about an inch of rain, and can be measured by setting a can on the lawn. When the can has an inch of water in it, turn off the "rain."

Air Passenger Clearance Eased

Washington—(Science Service)—Red tape for persons flying into the U.S. is being slashed by the U.S. Public Health Service. Abandoned are delays that kept visitors in planes while their health was visually checked.

Passengers will now go directly to the individual quarantine inspection area where they are quizzed and inspected. They must still meet immunization standards before entering this country.

Elimination of the group clearance resulted from inquiries by both commercial airlines and the public, questioning the necessity of group clearance procedures. Under the new procedure, if the pilot of the plane certifies that no illness has been observed during flight, only individual clearance of passengers is required.

The only major airport where passengers will be kept in groups is Miami, Fla., where the means of access to quarantine facilities make the change impractical.



TIGHT QUARTERS—State Senator Hi Corbett, only Republican in the Arizona Senate, barely can squeeze into his new office in the new State Senate wing at Phoenix, Ariz. Corbett believes his four foot by four foot quarters are carrying Republicanism and conservation to an extreme. Actually the architect made a mistake and the builder didn't bother to correct it. —(UPI Telephoto)

Five Reasons for Happier Marriages

St. Paul, Minn.—(UPI)—Reuben Hill, director of the University of Minnesota Family Study Center, says he has found five reasons why today's marriages are happier:

—Husband and wife are more frequently partners in the realm of earning and spending the family income.

—Authority in decision making is more likely to be shared in all phases of life, including recreation, choice of friends, sex relations and child discipline.

—There is today a much less pronounced division of labor within the home.

—Integration of recreation for both sexes has increased the possibilities of companionship in play.

—Trends in the husband-wife relationship have their counterparts in the parent-child relation where increasing sharing of authority and greater companionship between the generations have made parents and children closer friends than their predecessors.

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