

# Preventative Maintenance Keeps Weeds in Check

A little "preventative maintenance" can go a long way in keeping weeds from taking over your lawn.

James Beard, Michigan State University crop scientist, points out that much of the problem of poor or spotty lawns can be corrected with good lawn management. This means proper seeding, weed control, mowing and watering from the first sign of spring to the first sign of winter.

Beard offers three alternatives for improving lawns where weeds predominate over perennial grasses, bluegrass and red fescue:

- Correct the original cause of deterioration. Beard says possible causes could include low fertility, acidity, improper use of grasses, poor drainage, droughty soil condition, improper mowing, improper pest control or improper weed control.
- "The first essential in lawn improvement is the correction of mismanagement," comments Beard.
- "If sufficient perennial grasses are present to fill all open areas within a year, then no additional renovation practices may be needed. Perennial grasses no larger than your hand will fill in within a year under proper management."

Lawn renovation. Where a lawn is infested with a high percentage of broad-leaf weeds and annual weedy grasses but still has some perennial grasses present, then full renovation may be the best procedure.

Best cost and effort for lawn renovation is much less than for complete re-establishment.

• Complete re-establishment. This is the method used for

# Observer GARDEN PAGE

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ALL AROUND Clarencville School District students and teachers took time to plant trees on school property for Arbor Day. In Grandview Elementary School, Junior and Senior High Schools and (above) Stotsford Elementary School where (left to right) Bob Vedder Jr., Superintendent L. E. Schmidt, Walter High and Principal Leo Larue planted trees.

## Need for Landscaper Increasing

More attention is given by homeowners to landscaping for living than at any time in the country's history.

Color is a predominant factor in the modern landscape. In order to enjoy the recreational facilities of the property, including outdoor entertainment, color tends to make all leisure-time activities more enjoyable.

Plants which do not require re-planting every year are preferred.

These include perennials, ground covers, roses, flowering trees and evergreens like rhododendrons, azaleas and camellias.

Nurserymen can help home owners select plants whose flowers accent and harmonize with the house and patio colors.

Annuals in beds or containers, such as geraniums, candytuft, petunias and many others afford continuous summer color when it is needed most.

Shade is essential in modern outdoor living and it may be placed to give greater coolness morning, noon and afternoon when the sun's stifling rays come beating down.

Color in the landscape provides an aura of gaiety and beauty for more carefree recreation on the home property.

Consult with professionals to obtain the colors you like best.

## Good Lawn Needs Wholesome Diet

Is "hidden hunger" plaguing your lawn?

Chances are that your lawn is suffering from an imbalance of elements it needs for nutrition.

Although ample fertilizers may have been applied, the wrong ratio of potash to nitrogen can cause reduced or abnormal growth, a pale color, and susceptibility to disease and other environmental factors.

"Hidden hunger" may not be readily apparent in the appearance of your lawn. However, using a lawn fertilizer with an imbalance of nutrients will not allow even the finest of turf grasses to reach maturity in a healthy state.

For best performance, a turf fertilizer should be balanced to replace the nutrients used up by grass growth. Turf scientists have known this for years.

Now the fertilizer manufacturers are learning how to produce these high potash fertilizers.

Recent advances in the science of turf management show that many fertilizers do not adequately replace the soil elements taken out by growing grass.

Studies show the major elements needed for replacement in the soil are nitrogen, high levels; phosphate, low levels; and potassium (potash), high relative levels.

This balanced formula is best suited to meet nature's requirements for a healthy lawn.

Results from soil test data throughout the country show that most lawns have sufficient phosphate, but are lacking in nitrogen and potash.

Many fertilizers available today are high in nitrogen, but lack sufficient potash to meet the natural requirements of grass plants. High nitrogen fertilizers can actually make a lawn when the grass plants don't get sufficient potash for cell growth.

Potash is vital for a healthy, vigorous lawn. It provides for thicker growth by increasing the branching of roots; helps older lawns regain new life; improves drought and heat resistance.

Nitrogen is used in larger amounts by grass plants than any other soil nutrient.

Consequently, larger amounts are needed to replace the nitrogen utilized by plants in the growing season. Limited availability of nitrogen results in pale-green color and reduced growth.

Grasses do not require

## Man Finds Many Uses For Trees

Trees have many values. Not only do they bring color to homes, communities and highways, but they offer protection to man and other animals.

Cows produce more milk when grazed in tree-protected pastures, while beef cattle grow larger.

Man is benefitted greatly by trees as anyone knows who has cooled off in the shade, eaten fruits and nuts, enjoyed the lovely flowers.

Cities with many trees are cooler in summer. Homes are protected from cold winter winds by windbreaks.

Trees add natural beauty to homes, factories, institutions, communities and highways.

Employees like to work where trees supply beauty and comfort.

Highways can be made safer by tree planting to reduce headlight glare, guide cars in particularly hazardous areas, as well as providing cooling shade in rest areas.

Trees conserve water in the

soils of forests releasing the water gradually to keep more even flow of water to reservoirs.

Nurserymen grow trees for every purpose.

Ordinarily it takes from four to ten years, sometimes longer, to grow a tree in a nursery to the landscape size planted on home properties.

Trees add dignity and value to the land.

Evergreen trees give all-year color in temperate zones; in addition, lumber and the lovely Christmas tree during the Yule season.

Some evergreen trees have lovely flowers.

Deciduous trees offer the lively fall and spring colors in leaves, the colorful bark from the pure white of the birch to grays, reds, yellows and blacks.

Without trees there would be no real fruits and nuts, no oranges, apples, pecans and many others, no plywood, no turpentine, no maple syrup, no wooden desks.

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## Always Scrub Down Your Flower Pots

Porous or glazed clay flowerpots, which are re-used repeatedly for planting, transplanting or decorating, must be kept clean and scale-free.

They need to be scrubbed thoroughly and often with hot suds because dirt residue often contains disease "bugs" or insects that destroyed the previous plant.

If left-over soil is not washed out, it remains to repollute new soil and damage the plant.

Use a stiff-bristled or wire brush, well-lathered, to wash the pots and their saucers.

Very dry pots which would be soaked for a few hours in a pail of hot suds to loosen caked earth or the white film which insecticides or fertilizers sometimes deposit on porous clay surfaces.

Some experts suggest adding 1 cup of bleach to the suds. Rinse several times, and line the flowerpots up in the sun to dry.

Red, porous bones — a mark of top beef grades — indicate that the meat comes from young animals.

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## Researchers Blame Aphid For Troubles

Researchers trying to trace the cause of common bean mosaic virus are pointing a big finger at aphids (plant lice).

But the big problem is which of the more than 2,000 species of aphids transfer this virus, and where do they come from.

Among the aphids most prevalent in experimental bean fields were yellow clover, cornleaf and apple-grain varieties.

Generally, aphids come from neighboring plants.

If the nature of the crop or weed that harbors the most virus-transmitting aphids was known, a major bean battle would be won.

In traps set in three bean fields, the three most prevalent species accounted for 36 percent of the aphids caught.

The remaining 64 per cent contained 50 other species.

One control of such bean diseases as halo blight, white mold and pythium rot is a 2-to-4-year crop rotation to avoid infection from old plant debris.

Other suggested control measures are reduction in fertilizer and irrigation, deep plowing in fall or early spring, use of fluids with good air and water drainage, running bean rows in the direction of prevailing winds, elimination of milkweed, ragweed and other large weeds, and application of the fungicide PCNB dust at first bloom.

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