

Spot used as home base challenges all lawn buffs

Unless those bare spots on your lawn are at least one foot square or larger, attempting to thicken up the grass sod by overseeding may be a waste of time and lawn seed, say turfgrass specialists at Michigan State University.

Competition from the established sod does not give the young seedlings a chance to get started, explain the specialists. They recommend a good fertilization and weed-control program.

They also suggest filling in the small spots with plugs of sod removed from other areas of the lawn.

However, for the larger spots, Robert Shearman, MSU extension turfgrass specialist, recommends the following steps:

1) Go over the bare spots with a garden rake to loosen the soil. Soil

moisture is right for seeding when the soil rakes loosely (does not form small clods).

2) Select a good seed (certified if possible). Use a Kentucky bluegrass variety for sunny areas and a red fescue variety in shaded spots.

3) Sow the seed by hand, sprinkling it evenly over the entire area. A small handful of seed will cover a bare spot six feet in diameter.

4) After seeding, rake gently so that the seeds will have good contact with the soil. This is important for even seed germination and grass growth.

5) Soil moisture shouldn't be a problem in the spring. However, if the top inch of soil does dry out, give the seeded area a light watering with a lawn sprinkler or sprinkling can.

Check plant's pot

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live. One of the aerosol sprays like Raid House and Garden will do an excellent job. On a mild day—with temperatures in the 60s—take all your house plants out on the patio and spray them. A light misting is all that's required to do the job. Spray from about 36 inches away and avoid wetting the plants with the in-

secticide. Be sure to bring the plants in at night.

This is also a good time to fertilize all your house plants. Use a soluble plant food—the feeding is done at the same time as watering. All house plants could use some nutrients in early spring—remember the key to fertilizing is to apply it just before the plant's most active growth.






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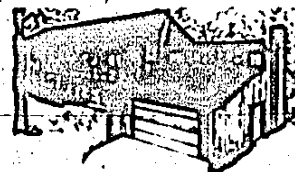
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