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BETTER HOUSING

Lawn Seeding Can Be Done In Cold Weather

While it is customary to complete the seeding of new lawn areas and the renovating of established lawns during September it is quite feasible if necessary to delay this work even well into December. The largest operation of this nature was undertaken on a 10-acre tract: Hippo Park, Mansfield, Ohio. The seeding in this instance, through force of circumstances, was not completed until December 16, 1939, and that winter was the severest on record in the previous twenty years and it was followed by a cold wet spring. By May 1940, in spite of the intensity of the seeding and the drastic winter, a uniform growth of young grass of brilliant color was achieved.

At the Scott Lawn Research, as well as those conducted independently by several state experiment stations, have shown conclusively that when, for one reason or another, seeding has to be deferred until winter, it is still entirely possible to achieve a good lawn the following spring if certain fundamental practices have been observed.

Fall or Early Winter Seed

Of course, lawn seed sown after early October in sections north of the Mason-Dixon line will not germinate before winter sets in, but this seed will be dormant and unharmed until the first days of early spring. Such seed, overwintering in the soil, will germinate and develop into grass much more rapidly than if seeding had been delayed until spring.

Effect of Winter on Grass

A well-fertilized, sturdy sod will withstand practically any extremes of temperature according to J. W. Lewis, Director of the Scott Lawn Research. The plants merely go into cold storage and, though they may perhaps lose their color for the time being, they will continue to live and breathe in readiness for the period of active growth in early spring. A thick sod, this same note of authority on lawn problems declares, is highly resistant to the action of frost. Its sturdy, fibrous roots actually bind the surface soil together and in long blades shade the soil and thereby reduce the amount of thawing during mild spells.

The use of any kind of a mulch on lawns during winter should be avoided as it has been the observation of the Scott Lawn Research that the use of a mulch is one way to introduce weeds into a lawn, to say nothing of the tendency of a mulch to smother the grass which becomes matted. For the same reason, falling leaves from the trees should be removed by carefully raking the grass with a flexible rake. A good precaution, too, is to keep the lawn area with the advent of cold weather as walking on the brittle grass is apt to do considerable damage.

Good Lawn Mixture

One basic principle in lawn making that cannot be too strongly emphasized is to avoid low, first-coast lawn mixtures, especially in fall seeding. They are invariably composed of annual grasses which have not the resistance to withstand winter conditions. The high-grade mixtures composed of deep-rooting varieties of perennial grasses on the other hand are the most economical and give assurance of a good all-over lawn carpet.

The home gardener or the professional greenkeeper who uses weed-free perennial mixtures and keeps the lawn well fertilized and cut sufficiently high has little reason to fear that it will be damaged by the rigors of even the severest winter nor, for that matter, by summer droughts. Lawns are what you make them. They can appear very bedraggled and unkempt if the areas are improperly prepared in the first instance and planted with cheap seed mixtures. They can, on the other hand, be good-looking, healthy and luxuriant if the ground was properly prepared and seeded with a good mixture, fertilized with a reliable lawn food, and properly mowed and maintained the year round.

(Presented by the Garden News Syndicate)

Changing for the BETTER



The basic of every Colonial type home is a rectangular shape... and no matter how badly original detail has been omitted, there is always a hope for the old home as long as the basic shape is correct.

This house is too young to be Victorian and too drab to be Colonial. It belongs to the "in-between" period.

Neglect, old-style windows and a poorly designed porch seem to be the only exterior weaknesses. These are easily remedied.

Due to the fact that the house has been given a new overcoat of wood siding, and since we are changing the old windows to a Colonial type, it is easy to move the door from the right side to the center.

Given a new overcoat, we have America's favorite type of architecture—a neo-renaissance New England Colonial.

Shutters on the windows and two porch extensions—one on either end—have helped to reduce the tall, slim lines of the original structure. There is no way to guess from finished appearance that the entire property was not designed and built at one time.

(Presented by National Lumber Manufacturers Association)



Corn-On-Cob Season Calls For Delicious Pot-Roast

It's the season for corn on the cob, and other autumn vegetables are also plentiful and tempting. To bring out their full value, what better main dish can you choose than beef pot-roast? A boned and rolled pot-roast is preferred by some homemakers because it is so easy to carve. It makes a very fine appearing dish, brown and crisp outside, tender and juicy within.

Beef pot-roads are cut from the less-tender parts of the animal. The beef rump makes a good pot-roast, either with or without the bones. A three-cornered boned-out which makes a fine small pot-roast is the best of the round.

The same method of cooking is used for any of these cuts. The meat is browned in hot lard, then a small amount of water or other liquid added, the pan is closely covered and the meat cooked slowly for a long time. It may be cooked on top of the range or in the oven, whichever is most convenient.

To give pot-roast a distinctive flavor, spices may be added to the liquid in which it is cooked. Here is a delicious way of preparing it, suggested by Inez S. Willson, home economist.

- Savory Pot-Roast**
- 4 pounds beef rump or chuck
 - 1 clove of garlic
 - 3 teaspoons salt
 - 1/2 teaspoon pepper
 - 3 tablespoons lard
 - 1 cup hot water
 - 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
 - 1/2 cup chili sauce
- Rub the meat thoroughly with a bruised clove of garlic. Add salt and pepper. Brown the pot-roast on all sides in hot lard melted in a heavy kettle with a tight fitting cover. Add water, Worcestershire sauce and chili sauce. Cover and simmer gently until meat is tender, about three and a half hours. Turn the pot-roast occasionally. Add more water, if necessary, a little at a time. Make gravy by thickening the liquid with flour smoothed in water.
- Serve it with peas and carrots, diced, and corn on the cob.

Landscaping Service

CHAPTER XXIII

Bulbs and Tubers

Q. How should Dahlias be stored?

A. Dahlias must be taken out of the ground every Fall. As soon as frost kills the tops, dig tubers carefully, avoiding cutting or bruising. Cut the tops off 8" to 12" above crown of plants, then allow tubers to dry in the air about 2 hours and store in a cellar free from frost and not too dry. Store the roots upside down in boxes. If the cellar is too dry and warm, pack tubers in boxes filled with dry sand or sawdust.

Q. How can bulbs be best grown in the house?

A. Tulip, Hyacinth and Daffodil bulbs should be potted, then set in a cool, dark place and kept moist until the bulbs develop a mass of roots. Then they are exposed to warmth and light with the result that each bulb blossoms beautifully. No attempt should be made to force top growth by warmth and light before the roots are fully developed or you will grow plants with short stems and very poor blossoms.

Q. What is best method of storing Gladiolus bulbs?

A. Remove bulbs from the ground in the Fall after they have blossomed and the sap has drained from the stalk back to the bulb. Store in a moist, cool cellar that is free from frost. Pack bulbs in a box filled with dry sand or sawdust. Plant bulbs again in the Spring as soon as the ground becomes warm.

LILACS

Q. Why do some Lilacs fail to bloom, and what can be done to make them bloom?

A. There are two distinct types of Lilacs; namely, Common Lilac and French Hybrid Lilac. Common Lilacs; namely, white, purple and red, sometimes do not produce flowers for as much as four years after planting. French Hybrid Lilacs produce flowers the SECOND YEAR AFTER PLANTING.

Some of the causes for common Lilacs not blooming are as follows:

1. Soil is too acid or sour. In such case the ground should be treated with lime. Three pounds of Lime worked in the soil around each bush is sufficient to correct this difficulty.
2. Suckers or new shoots are allowed to grow. It is a bad practice to allow suckers to grow as they absorb too much strength. Trimming out these new shoots enables the Lilac to generate the strength required to produce an abundance of flowers.
3. Where Lilacs grow vigorously and do not bloom, root pruning is advisable. This is done by cutting a circle with a spade, 18" from the base of the plant, and 12" to 15" deep, completely around it. By this process you cut off feeding roots which retard the growth of the bush and throw the strength into flowers.

Defense Home Projects Gain New Backing

WASHINGTON, D. C. — President Roosevelt has now signed a bill to increase by \$200,000,000 the Federal Housing Administration's authorization to insure loans financing privately-built defense housing in designated areas where shortages are threatening to impede the defense production program.

The new measure will assure financing facilities for the construction of approximately 60,000 additional dwelling units under Title VI of the National Housing Act, Federal Housing Administrator Abner H. Ferguson said yesterday.

Congress added Title VI to the Act on March 28, 1941, as a supplementary program designed to broaden the effectiveness of the FHA's activities in stimulating private construction of needed small homes in vital defense industry centers. Operations under Title VI have been conducted in 210 defense areas designated by President Roosevelt and new areas are being added as the need develops.

Under its original Title VI mortgage insurance authorization of \$100,000,000, the FHA through August 30 had received applications covering 32,343 small-home mortgages totaling \$110,734,300. Commitments have been issued on 23,904 of these mortgages in the amount of \$85,022,300.

Through August 30, construction had already started on 12,273 new homes being financed under Title VI and this total is being increased by close to 1,000 new homes each week. Meanwhile, between 4,000 and 5,000 additional small homes are being started weekly under the regular phases of the FHA program. Since January 1, construction has started under FHA inspection on 147,349 new small homes. More than 85 percent of these are located in or near important defense industry centers.

Mortgages Limited

Mortgages insured under Title VI are limited to a maximum of \$4,000 on a single family home, \$8,000 on a two-family dwelling, \$8,000 on a three-family dwelling, and \$10,000 on a four-family structure. The average amount of mortgages actually insured has been well below the maximum, demonstrating that the new construction stimulated by the program is in price ranges well suited to the purchasing power of most defense industry workers.

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