

Cecil Solly's GARDEN HELPS

PREPARE SOIL NOW FOR FALL LAWN PLANTINGS

By **CECIL SOLLY**
Because of the many homes now being built, there will be hundreds of new lawns planted in the near future.

Because of poor original preparation, many old lawns are thin and full of weeds. In that case, the simplest way to have a good one is to remake it—from the bottom up.

Old and poor lawns get brown, patchy and weedy because the soil, before was not made fertile enough before planting.

When proper care and attention are paid to preparation of soil for a lawn before it is planted, a good grass turf will be assured for many years with little consequent upkeep.

PLANT IN SEPTEMBER—Although grass lawns may be planted from March until October, the best time of fall is during the last two weeks of September.

There are many reasons why this is so. The most important is that September is the time when grass seeds grow naturally.

The grass plants send up their seed heads in June, July and early August. Then they ripen and the seed falls from them onto the ground. This seed germinates naturally and starts to grow with the first rains in early fall.

There are other reasons why September planting is the most satisfactory. The soil, the weather and the rain are all factors that promote a heavy and rapid germination of the seed. The young grass plants grow stronger and as the cool weather of fall arrives at the tops of the grass plants slow down in their growth, but the roots continue to grow and thicken so that by spring a heavy growth has been established.

It is an accepted fact that with good grass roots, a thick turf is assured. In early fall weeds do not germinate and grow as well as they do in the spring, the grass can become thick and strong enough to choke out most of the later growth of weeds.

Temperature and humidity are greatly in favor of grass growth in early fall and a fine turf may be had before cold weather arrives, provided the right soil conditions are there.

Since the best time for planting grass seed will be around September 23, 24 and 25, there will be a period of five weeks in which to make the necessary preparations for sowing. This work should be done as soon as possible to allow the ground plenty of time to settle and become mellow before seeding.

MOST IMPORTANT—The work that is done between now and seeding time is of the utmost importance if the lawn is to be a satisfactory one for years to come.

The finest grass seeds and highest quality fertilizer cannot produce a good turf in soil that is not prepared properly. Any good blend of seed and any good plant food will be successful provided instructions for primary soil preparation are followed.

The soil condition is of utmost importance, if grass is desired where excavated soil from the basement or subsoil from leveling is exposed to the surface. Soil that has been under the ground for years and never before exposed to air will never grow grass without correct preparation.

It is definitely wrong, also, to expect to produce a lawn by spreading top soil or peat moss OVER the existing surface. I have seen hundreds of lawns treated that way that have been dismal failures.

ADD LIFE TO SOIL—Lawn grass roots should go down into the soil at least four inches. To make this possible the ground must be properly prepared to at least twice that depth. This is done by spading deeply both before and after adding the necessary materials to aid plant growth.

Briefly, this is the system:
1—Level the area as carefully as possible. Do not have any steep or abrupt banks, for grass is never satisfactory on them and cutting is too hard. The best lawns are those that are not quite level. Gentle slopes or curves are more attractive and easy to care for.

2—After leveling, take time to really look at the soil. If there are any areas of hard-pan, basement soil or poor ground it would pay well to remove them and replace with the good garden soil now, as this cannot be done after the seed is planted.

3—Spade over the whole area. Remove any large roots or big rocks. It is not necessary to screen the soil or remove the smaller stones.

4—Leave the spaded area rough for about a week. Then rake it down to the right contour.

5—According to the quality of the existing soil, spread peat moss over the whole area. Generally it is advisable to spread at least two and generally three inches of this humus over the area. Peat soil, leaf mold or any other equal humus are good, but peat moss is recommended.

If the original soil is heavy with clay it is wise to spread an inch of coarse builder's sand over

the entire area.
7—Apply the correct amount of a good brand of commercial plant food fertilizer to the area. The amount to use depends on the present soil fertility. As a general average use not less than five pounds to each 100 square feet.

8—Mix the soil, peat moss and fertilizer thoroughly. Whether this work is done by spading, working or cultivating does not matter provided the work is well done and the whole area is thoroughly mixed to at least a depth of six inches. On this mixing depends the success of the turf.

After the soil blending has been completed satisfactorily, the ground should be raked until it is level with the contour desired. Rake both down and across the whole area. When this is being done, remove any small stones or rocks that are on the surface.

All the work described thus far should be completed by the first of September. Then water the soil thoroughly several times. This watering will expose bumps or hollows, which should be corrected right away, but take care not to wash any places.

The watering, warm soil and weather will start most weed seeds growing. There are some weed seeds in every soil. The more that germinate, the more can be destroyed before the seed is planted. Killing tiny weeds is easily accomplished by a final cultivation of the area about September 15 or a week before the seed is planted.

BUYING THE SEED—The quantity of seed to use is easy to estimate. One pound of good seed to every 450 square feet is sufficient. More is a quicker, thicker stand, but don't use less. I generally use one pound to 100 square feet, but this is a quite heavy seeding.

BUY GOOD SEED—Use only the best grade of grass seed. Buy a mixture, but not a cheap one. Cheap seed contains much chaff. All the reliable seed firms will sell you a good grade of seed. The higher price you pay for seed, the more good seeds you get for each penny spent.

WHAT SEED TO USE—This depends somewhat on the prepared soil mixture in which it is to be planted, but be sure to get a properly blended mixture. It should be an attractive all-season lawn, the mixture should contain several sorts of suitable grass seeds, mixed together in the correct proportions.

Things to Be Done: FLOWERS

IF spring bulbs are to be taken up for replanting this fall, do not delay in digging them.

Fertilize rose beds now. This will help the woody branches ripen and harden in the fall and the bushes will suffer less from disease.

Experiments with phlox and chrysanthemums to prevent lower leaves turning brown show that plants with the least roots are most affected. Give them Vitamin B-1, as well as plenty of fertilizer and water.

Spread lime, wood ash, shalk or marl around wallflower, brompton stock and snapdragons and cut off all flower spikes as soon as they go to seed.

Japanese maple, cut leaf maple, aucuba and several other shrubs' leaves suffer from photosensitization, which is just sunburn. Best cure is to move to a place partially shaded from afternoon sun.

The All-American Flower Trials at the University of Washington Arboretum are a "must see." More than 350 flowers await for you to see.

Mole like rich moils in which to work. The better your garden, the more likely you are to have moles. There are several excellent commercial baits for placing in the runways.

Plan to start tulips and hyacinths in pots outdoors at once, brought indoors about October 15, they will flower for Christmas.

cooler days and nights coming, it is usually necessary to cut the grass only twice before allowing it to rest through winter. This permits it to make the necessary strong root growth before spring.

A healthy stand of grass will combat weeds successfully. Once the seed is germinated and established in the fall, the grass uses the warmer days of winter to grow. The more severe weather seems to harden and develop a sturdy root system, ready in the spring to spread into a thick turf and to combat the weeds.

Do not skim on the amount of humus you put in the ground. If a sufficient quantity is used, you will have the cost many times over on reduced water bills in succeeding years and have the pleasure of a good lawn that remains green with little cost or effort for many years.

BOY SCOUTS Court of Honor Awards Given At Big Class

CAMP PARSONS, Saturday, Aug. 16—The following awards have been made here at a court of honor:

Second class: John Tanner, Jack Dransky, Jack Scham, and Walter Hansen, troop 6; Depn man, 80; Bob McLaughlin, Doug Callender, Billy Cobb and Jack Shields, 100; Bob Owens and Ben Stark, 215; Paul Edgar, 241; Robert Miller, 313; George Kimmel, 435.

First class: Cecil Webb, troop 1; Robert Eschbach, Bob Moffat and Tom Garvin, 11; David Skellenger, 20; O'Brien, 281; Bob St. Louis, 284.

Merit Badges: Cecil Webb, Remi Bell, Jack Smith, Bob Halpern, Gene Bailey, Louis Garvin, Phil Sulman, Jim Tuohy, Tom Reed, Chuck Roach, Chet Burrell, Jack Roderick, Fred Moffat, Alvin Hutchinsion, Larry Lindberg, Carsten Lein, Charles Stickle, Mark Galt, Alvin Eystrom, Eddie Gubbe, Harold McKeever, Bill Daner, Bill Holam, Jack Kelly, Malcolm Hume, Bob Hutchinson, Ronald Hutchinsion, Dick Walcott, Chuck Treat, Bob Jacobsen, Bob Will, Mickey Weisinger, Bill Walters, Glen Southwick, Dan Evans, Dick and Peter Eystrom, Paul Kellogg, Don Magowan, Walt Kato, Frank Ottersbach, LeRoy Kirsop, Don Duncanson, Lynn Eystrom, Skellenger, Ellwood Pelton, Bill Carpenter, Dave Fenton, Jim Barnes, Bob Shafer, Ken Lowman, Bernard Stender, Art Sommer, Floyd Fike, Jack Munsell, Norval Latimer, Leroy Hill, Deryck Christy, Elton Curtis, Larry Trent, Curtis Gildow, Don Thomas, Bernard Anderson, Jerry Johnson, John Carter, Jim Corlett, Pete Fume, Joe Buck, Curtis Gildow, Don Taylor, Don Livingston and Bob Johnston.

Star rank: Phil Sulman, troop 2; Alvin Eystrom, P. E. 2; Guthrie, 181; Curtis Gildow, 481; and Bernard Anderson, 491.

Life rank: Norval Latimer, 376; and Carl Jensen, 571.

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Dorothy Neighbors

New Things in Seattle Shops

Former Boat Builder Designs Striking Furniture
By **DOROTHY NEIGHBORS**

(This is one of a series of articles on home decoration in which Dorothy Neighbors presents new ideas from Seattle shops and stores.)

A boat builder turns furniture designer, and after years of varied experiences creates furniture of distinctive charm and beauty. Oak is the wood selected and it is a happy choice for the substantial pleasing designs shown in the accompanying picture.

As a young man, this furniture designer was drilled in the lesson of soaking woods in oil and wax to create a desirable and durable finish. In keeping with the directness of his designs, this method of finishing is used to produce a light warm color which adds to the natural beauty of the wood itself, and harmonizes well with the atmosphere of the Pacific Northwest.

The combination of design and finish makes this new line of British Oak furniture shown by R. J. Skewes, 211 Broadway No., an outstanding contribution to the furniture field. The wide variety of pieces includes upholstered furniture for living rooms; tables, chairs and cabinets for dining rooms; and chests, beds and dressers for bedrooms. Many occasional tables and naites are also available. The mantel pictured is included in the group and there are charming wood carvings for wall decoration.

Plates, bowls, service dishes and "executive" or vacuum bottle sets have taken on new life. An electroplating process has been used to give them rich, highly lustrous colors, and the unique quality of the surface is the result of the process used.

In the china section of The Bon Marche you will see luscious, deep-toned dishes which might be selected to give a definite color accent to a room furnished in the period manner. The soft green and peach tones harmonize well with pastel colors so popular for modern interiors.

A most unusual handling of two Chinese tables has attracted much interest. The pair replaces the customary single coffee table. While they may be placed together to give the effect of one long table, they also may be separated. It is this latter arrangement—placing them closer to the chairs which flank the sofa—that catches the interest and allows for more convenient use of these pieces.

The tables are of Chinese design executed with careful regard for subtle proportions and detail. The ones shown are finished in black lacquer and have a leather top decorated in gold leaf. These pieces are available in almost any shade of lacquered finish or in mahogany.

The William L. Davis Co., 1300 Fifth Avenue is showing these tables with other fine pieces of English furniture.

Many persons prefer wooden card tables. The quality of their appearance is in harmony with their fine furnishings. The new Leg-O-Matic card tables combine the desirable features of wooden leather top tables with the ease of stowing away provided by the automatic opening and closing of the table legs. This automatic operation is used for the chairs as well as the tables.

These tables and chairs, in the housewares section of Rhodes Department Store, are available in three color combinations. A light blonde finish wood has a blue simulated leather top. The maple table has a green top and the walnut table a deep red top. The tables and chairs are well designed. The top is of suitable thickness for the size of the table.

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HOROSCOPE

"The Stars incline but do not compel"
LEO—(July 23 to August 23)—Subjects of this sign have strong personalities and fine mentalities. Men may be stubborn and dictatorial, but they are natural leaders. They possess magnetism and are emotional and intuitive.

Monday, August 18
This is an unimportant day in planetary direction, but the aspects are good. There is a promising sign for industry, also for aviation. Home-making in the autumn will assume great significance.

National Issues—Much confusion will continue in the American mind regarding international affairs. Next spring is to be a period of increased activity for all branches of the armed services.

International Affairs—Great activity by our Navy and by our picked aviators is forecast for next month. Devastating battles on the seas and in the air are foreseen for the British and their allies. Dwellers in the Western Hemisphere will realize that the war has become their own affair.

Persons whose birthdate it is have the augury of a year of extreme experiences. Caution is counseled, especially in dealing with superiors or employers.

Children born on this day probably will be fearless, erratic and restless. They should be disciplined carefully, for they may be too temperamental for their best interests.

Band Concert Scheduled
The Foster Community Band, directed by Harold G. Best, will present a concert at 7:30 o'clock Wednesday night in the o'Fester-Tukwila Community Presbyterian Church. The Ladies' Aid Society of the church will serve a pre-concert corn dinner at 6 o'clock.

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Members of the Divan of Nile Temple will leave Boeing Field at 10 o'clock tomorrow forenoon in their annual two-week pilgrimage to Alaska.

It will be the first time the group has flown to Alaska.

The party, led by Lewis J. Dowell, Nile Temple potentate, includes James W. Woodford, Harold E. Gray, George R. Cooley and Harry Gawman, all of Seattle, and Marshall T. Cornett of Klamath Falls, Or.

The group will fly to Juneau and then to Fairbanks, where they will entrain for Anchorage. The group will go by boat to Ketchikan and return home.

Purpose of the pilgrimage is to tour Shrine Temples and visit members of Nile Temple who reside in Alaska, Dowell said.

During 1939 the United States imported 66,264,372 pounds of black pepper.

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