

The HOME GARDEN

What is Home without a Garden?

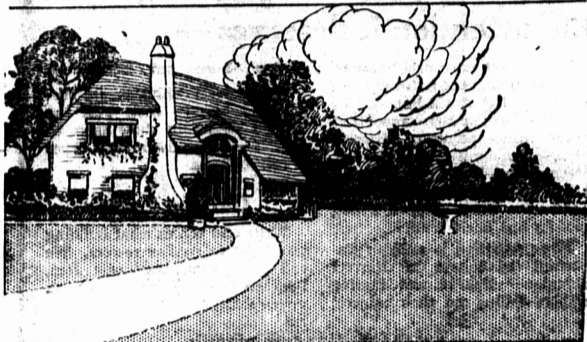
LAWN MAINTENANCE

Sowing lawn seed is only a start toward securing a velvety green sward. Its maintenance is even more important for it is a subject demanding constant care and attention. The important items in order are rolling, mowing, weeding, watering, and fertilizing and the last named is the start and also last on the program.

The occasional application of manure to a lawn need interfere in nowise with its enjoyment with the development of modern commercial fertilizers. It is not considered advisable nowadays to spread the coating of farmyard manure over the lawn which made

Lime for soils inclined to be acid and as an alternative for commercial fertilizers which applied too steadily are likely to induce an acid condition, and nitrate of soda sprinkled lightly at intervals of two weeks or more are all excellent to keep the grass growing vigorously.

Special lawn fertilizers are handled by every reputable seed house which can be applied from time to time with assurance that they will give the soil the proper food that it needs. Turf usually needs some renovating in the spring, along with the regular house-cleaning. The quickest way



it an eyesore for half the year and which invariably started a great crop of weeds and often introduced the pest of blight and dock into the lawn which it took many seasons to eradicate.

Dressings of pulverized sheep manure or shredded cow manure fill among the roots of the grass and the bill and are odorless, devoid of weed seed, quickly washed down are not unsightly. Best slag broadcast in the fall, a slow working potash fertilizer, is effective

to repair bad patches is to put in new sod but this usually results in a bumpy appearance for some time. New seed is the best and this seed can be sown at any time until hot weather sets in, in earnest, cutting and give a constant sheet of bloom all summer, being particularly fine for bedding. The dwarf German is the favorite strain for annual beds and the surest and earliest to bloom. The Cut and Come Again type is taller growing and later blooming. It is fine for pots in the house and may be lifted from the ground and taken inside. The stocks of the florist which are favorites during the winter are usually the Bismarck type, growing into huge bushes with proper culture. Some growers recommend that the stocks should not be given too rich soil but if the strain is from a reliable seed house, selected against "blind" plants, rich soil will do them no harm. They need full sun and good cultivation. Mixed beds or beds to color are beautiful all summer. They are which may be sown in the open as very easily raised from seed soon as the ground can be worked as they will stand a few frosts without damage.

THE TEN WEEKS' STOCKS

Something happened to the old favorite annual, the ten weeks' stock a few seasons ago that caused it to lose its popularity temporarily. It caused a tendency on the part of this formerly reliable bloomer to go "blind" and produce of its grey-green leaves but no blossoms.

This trick aroused considerable study among European growers who began to renovate and breed their stock against this trait so that now we once again have reliable sure-fire blooming strains of this handsome and spicily fragrant old-time favorite.

One of the reasons attributed to the "blind" growth was that the biennial and perennial sorts became crossed with the annual in the search for new strains but if this were true, it has been removed by several seasons of careful selection.

These compact growing annuals with their spikes of double flowers above clusters of gray-green foliage give a range of color from white through pale yellow, pink

rose, red and a series of lavenders to deep purple. They are fine for cutting and give a constant sheet of bloom all summer, being particularly fine for bedding.

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Ten Points About Plant Food

Ten articles of food are daily consumed by a growing plant and are necessary for its life. Some of these the plants take out of the air, but the others must come from the earth through the roots. The gardener must make up any deficiency for the best success of his crops. The ten are chemical elements, as follows: hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, carbon, phosphorus, potassium, usually known as potash, calcium, iron, sulphur, and magnesium. Some of these are used only in very small quantities but they are essential to the health of the plant. Three others are usually found in plants, sodium, silicon and chlorine, but they are not so essential and need not be considered in feeding growing crops.

The hydrogen and oxygen in the form of water make up the greatest part of a plant, a cabbage, for instance, being 91 per cent water. A few plants can take their nitrogen, a very important part of their food, from the air, these are the members of the bean family. All others must get it from the soil in the form of various nitrates. All

plant food must be soluble in water to be available for the use of the plant.

So the importance of a plentiful supply of water for the plants is apparent, both as a direct supply and as a carrier for other essential foods. Carbon alone is secured wholly from the air while a part of the oxygen used by the plant also comes from the air. Fertilizers are made up after a study of the lack of any of these plant foods in the soil. If they are not present or present in too small quantity the deficit must be made up in the form of fertilizers or manures.

The amount of water taken from the soil by a plant in comparison to the amount of solid or dry material it produces is amazing. Corn, according to experiments conducted by the government investigators, takes 269 pounds of water to one of solids. Alfalfa tops the list with 1263 pounds of water to one of solids. Oats takes 614 pounds. It will be seen very readily that oats require more moist conditions than other vegetables. Alfalfa, because of the great depth to which its roots penetrate, stands drought

conditions better than many other crops because surface drought does not affect it so much.

Preservation of water in the soil is of prime importance and the most effective means is by cultivation of growing crops, keeping the soil about them stirred so that evaporation carrying the moisture from the soil into the air, is retarded.

It also shows why such crops as cabbages, which are principally water, will not flourish under drought conditions or in soil which is naturally dry, such as sandy soils. When such conditions prevail, they must be changed by the gardener in order to furnish the plants proper growing conditions. Fortunately this change is not difficult and is easily accomplished by spading or plowing in stable manure or by the use of commercial fertilizers.

Taking Pains

Stradivarius' friends made all sorts of fun of him because he spent so much time and took so much pains in making his violins. Today, a Stradivarius anywhere in the world is worth from five to ten thousand dollars! Stradivarius is remembered among the immortals while the friends who criticized him sank into oblivion at their death.

Connolly Estate Scholarships

Applications will be received by the undersigned until June 12th, 1924, from all students desirous of competing in a written examination for one of the Connolly Estate Scholarships offered annually by the "Trustees Estate of Owen Connolly." This examination to be held in the third week of July, in Charlottetown and Summerside, will be open to all deserving students, who upon investigation shall have been found eligible to compete, in accordance with the provisions of the Will of the Late Owen Connolly. Each applicant must state (1) His name in full; (2) Age; (3) Names of both parents; (4) Post Office Address, and (5) The nature and extent of his studies during the past year.

M. J. SMITH,
Secretary "Trustees Estate of Owen Connolly."
Kinkora, P. E. I., May 15, 1924.
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