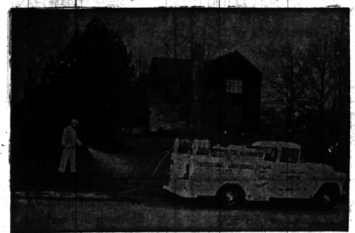


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SERIOUS

Definition: — In earnest,
not joking; sincere.

So many people have asked us what fertilizer they should use on their trees, shrubs and flowers that we feel we should not play around with this subject.

A good rule is to stop fertilizing them (except for very late blooming roses and plants) about the 15th of AUGUST. A nitrogen fertilizer might produce new growth and soft tissue which would be easily killed in the winter.

For many things such as young shrubs, young trees, perennial beds, peonies, perennials, etc., a dressing of BONE MEAL in October is splendid. Cultivate in lightly so as not to disturb the roots. It will go to work for you in the spring when the plants need it.

GRASS (sometimes called "lawn") is our next concern—and there are a few things we wish to remind you of at this time:—

1. This is probably the IDEAL time to apply whatever seed you need.
2. DO NOT expect to change the character of your lawn by the seed you use.
3. NO LAWN will develop fully unless you give it nourishment as you would your child, or your nephew, or even your grandchild. A grass plant is like a kid that will die unless he has six slices of bread and a jar of peanut butter about an hour before dinner.
4. Plenty of WATER is needed for the germination of new seed. We are short of water. By paying attention to this, we sowed some seed with RED TOP in it on August, Sunday 31st. On September 7th, the Red Top was 1/2 to 3/4 inches high.
5. When you sow seed, rake it in to a quarter of an inch. Cover with 1/4 to 1/2 inch of peat moss, water and go to bed.
6. Spray now for broadleaved weeds. They are growing well and will absorb the material well. Spray the entire weed-infested area. DO NOT spot spray because for every weed you can see, there are probably a dozen little ones you can't see. Use DOPONT'S LAWN WEED KILLER or ORTHO'S WEED-B-GON. Why? Because they are the best and that's all we carry.
7. A wonderful sprayer is available now at a discount—no rather, at a lower price than normal. It is a Bean-Oakes, 10 gallon, gas-line-powered sprayer developing about 60 lbs. pressure. With it is a three-nozzle boom which covers about 6 feet. The regular price is \$162.50. The lower price is about . . . er, is \$142.50. It also sprays tall trees, barns, cattle, etc.
8. The LAWN BEAUTY SPREADER is so designed that it will ACCURATELY SPREAD fertilizer, lime, phosphate rock, peat moss and so on. It will last for many years, if mama doesn't wreck it with the car, because it is easily cleaned WITHOUT WATER—just a rag or brush and loving thoughtfulness.

By the time you read this, 85% of our fall planting, spring blooming BULBS will be on display. 25 cases arrived today. They are all perfect except for a couple of bad ones.

Are we excited! Ara, You?

PAX or CHLORDANE 72% may be applied now to your crabgrass areas and will probably reduce your problem to close to zero for the next 3 or 4 years. You can see exactly where to put it now, but next spring will be more difficult.

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DOWN TO EARTH

Gardens of Europe Are Scouted for You

LONDON—By this time it's probably no secret to Down to Earth's readers that I have been in Europe continuing my study of good growing, plant culture and garden design in Denmark, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, France, Holland, Belgium, England and Scotland.

Gardens in each of these countries has its own style, as well as different plants. Besides the obvious climatic restrictions, the type and arrangement of the plants reflect the culture of the nation's people.

I interviewed growers in the fields and gardeners tucked away near forgotten country roads, and I visited the Queen's country home at Sandringham. Each stop was a contribution to my storehouse of garden information to share with you in the future.

Outside of Kings Lynn in Norfolk is Sandringham house, a favorite holiday home of the royal family. There the royal parents enjoy walks

and rides on scenic paths.

MR. B. and I had a special appointment to tour the estate with a well informed staff member. We took colored slides to reveal the combinations of flowers used in the colorful flower beds and "dole" lots of ideas we can use in Birmingham.

Here is a Sandringham lesson for you this week:
TO DIVIDE one area of a vegetable garden from another, the Sandringham gardeners espoused apple trees, which not only divide handsomely but provide fruit without the normal shade from an apple tree.

Metal posts were sunk in the ground 12 feet apart. Joining one post to another is a metal arch. At the base of each post was planted an apple tree. As the trees grow they were trained and guided over the frames. It looks now as we know climbing roses.

Flow beautiful this is in spring fertilizer to use is 12-6-6, 10-5-4, 10-10-10, 12-12-12 or 8-8-8. Use 100 pounds in a compost pile of 125 cubic feet. Also add about 25 pounds of finely ground lime, either mixed with the fertilizer or applied separately.

Next, sprinkle a little garden soil in each layer to inoculate the pile with decay organisms. Keep the pile moist, but do not apply enough water to cause drainage. The top of the pile should be saucer shaped to catch rain or water from a sprinkler. Woven wire or plastic fencing fashioned into a circle will aid building and confining the compost pile.

Compost Piles Change Leaves To Fertilizer

Don't throw away those leaves and lawn clippings this fall. Those leaves can be turned into valuable fertilizer, according to James Porter, Michigan State university extension soils specialist. Most garden soils are lacking in organic matter and can use the fertilizer.

A compost pile is the converter of leaves to fertilizer. You can build up a pile using materials like leaves, lawn clippings, corn stover, garden refuse or straw.

The pile is allowed to decay over winter and the following summer and then you have valuable humus material to add to your soil. It may be used in the flower and vegetable garden as a surface mulch or worked into the top soil.

HERE ARE the directions for making a compost pile as listed by Porter:

Build the pile in layers, with a few handfuls of fertilizer scattered over each new supply of organic matter that is added. The best

Water is an important need for these new lawns you just seeded. Soils specialists at Michigan State university say the most important step in caring for a newly seeded lawn is to make certain that the surface layer of the soil, in which the seed is embedded, always contains enough moisture to keep the little seedlings alive after the seed germinates.

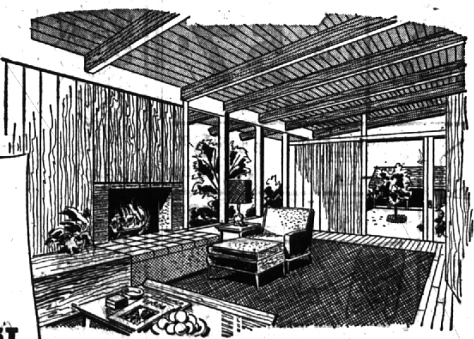
Water the lawn as often as is necessary to keep the surface moist, using a fine spray to avoid washing the soil. You may have to sprinkle the new seeding two or three times daily.

AFTER THE grass is about one inch tall, you can water the lawn by soaking the soil to a depth of four to five inches and then allowing it to dry until the grass shows signs of wilting. Begin mowing the lawn as soon as the grass is three inches tall. A sharp mower is essential for cutting new seedlings. Set the cutter bar to cut a height of two inches and maintain the grass at this height.

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Special Writer for The Birmingham Economist

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