

# Use Proper Methods To Build New Lawn

Every year thousands upon thousands of homes are built and lawns established. More often than not lawns are either seeded or sodded without proper planning. Proper planning will return great dividends in terms of personal satisfaction in the years ahead.

When starting to build a home, have the top four or five inches of top soil bulldozed to a nearby, yet out of the way spot. The top soil should be saved regardless of whether the lawn is to be seeded or sodded.

After the subgrade of the new lawn has been established, the top soil should be evenly applied over the area. A complete fertilizer, high in phosphate, should be thoroughly mixed into it. A rate of 40 pounds per 1,000 square feet is usually satisfactory for this purpose.

**IF THE SOIL** is of clayey-nature, then it will pay to modify it by adding a mixture of sand and peat, or sand and well rotted sawdust. Mix the sand and organic materials in about equal volumes.

A mixture of about three cubic yards of each, when applied to 1,000 square feet of lawn surface, will amount to about one and one-half inches of new material.

This should be incorporated into the top soil zone. Hand grading is necessary to eliminate low spots in the lawn where water can collect.

In case the top soil was not saved on your home site, and your lawn is to be sodded, be sure to apply at least 40 pounds per 1,000 square feet of a complete fertilizer, high in phosphate, over the graded soil and work it into the surface three inches or so, before the sod is put in place.

As soon as the new sod begins to make growth, apply a complete lawn plant food, high in nitrogen, at the rate of 20 to 30 pounds per 1,000 square feet, and sprinkle the entire area.

If your home is completed during the late spring and summer months, it is best to have your lawn sodded. Grass seedlings usually are not successful during that time of the year. If you are planning to seed your lawn this fall, be sure to use a good grass seed mixture on a well prepared and fertilized seedbed.

In case your contractor does not know how to advise you on lawn establishment it would be well to consult with a good local landscape architect or garden-type supply house. Be sure you get sound advice on a new lawn.

**ONCE YOUR LAWN** is established, you can maintain it yourself merely by using good quality lawn fertilizers, in the spring and fall, and mowing no closer than one and one-half inches for Kentucky bluegrass.

Merion bluegrass should be mowed at three-quarters of an inch. Use a sharp mower, and use it often. As a rule, do not let bluegrass grow taller than two and one-half inches.

Many fertilizers for lawns and

different types of ornamentals are on the market, most made by reliable firms, and at a reasonable cost.

**BECAUSE** fertilizers vary in their weight and plant food content, be sure to read and follow the directions on the package, or follow the advice of some recognized local authority.

This may call for larger or smaller applications than the general recommendations given in this article. Never spread fertilizer unless the grass is thoroughly dry, and always sprinkle immediately after applying it.

Home Improvement Section  
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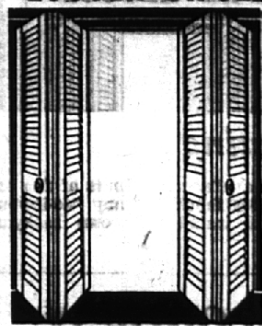
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## Painting

(Continued from Page 1.)

more readily noticed and avoided when painted orange or yellow. As a suggestion, a color code can be followed to designate the contents of each pipe line. If low ceiling attic space is used, it could be helpful to paint rafters or other obstructions in eye-catching color.

Raised thresholds cause many stumbles and falls, but the danger is minimized when they are painted with a contrasting color. This is especially helpful to children and older people.

**PORCH STEPS,** fences, posts and stones along drive or walks are among items that should be kept painted with an eye to safety. Usually white is the preferred color because of better night visibility.

Ordinarily, painting is not recommended for wooden ladders because this may cover up defects. However, stripes painted on rungs in the center part will assist the user in watching his step. Light switches and fuse boxes will be much easier to locate in the dark if marked by luminous paint.

**IN GENERAL,** it pays to keep all wooden portions of the home well painted, as paint protects the wood and checks decay.

But remember that paint is not a substitute for adequate lighting; it helps to make lighting more effective, by increasing visibility.