

Improving the Sloping Lawns

By J. R. Foote

Terraces are usually dry, partly because there is no seepage from the surrounding areas such as is the case in broad expanses of lawn. There is further difficulty because of the washing and the run-off of artificial watering as well as the rain which runs off so fast it cannot soak in to any degree.

Usually an examination will show that the surface soil has been washed away, almost down to the hard sub-soil. The run-off of water also means the washing away of available plant food. This should be offset with frequent fertilizing.

Because the odds are against these sloping lawns, every favor should be given them. If at all possible, the grass should be allowed to grow longer on these areas and to get stronger. Close mowings weaken the lawns.

In repairing these weak slopes, it is especially necessary to prepare the ground thoroughly, not just merely top-dressing, and then the easiest way in the long run, is to sod the areas rather than to seed them.

At times it is best to sod certain portions such as the top and bottom of terraces and then seed the remaining portions. Often it is best to lay strips of sod along the walks and drives.

Wherever seeding is done on slopes, mulching with straw, hay or peat moss is very necessary, to prevent washing out, damage from tramping, drying and surface crusting. If the problem is real difficult, instead of the mulches named, burlap, muslin or cheap cheese cloths may be used, by pegging them to the lawn firmly and smoothly. The grass will come up through and the cloth will soon rot away of itself. The pegs will later need to be driven flush with the ground so the lawn mower can pass over without difficulty.

In reseeding these bad spots, the seed must include cover or nurse-crop seed. Oats may be used or perennial ryes together with timothy. These coarse grasses protect the finer sorts and help them to get started.

It can never be too much emphasized that in watering, one good soaking each week is better by far than a supposedly good watering each day. When a lawn is supposed to be well soaked, it is a good plan, once, to dig down to see really how far the moisture has penetrated.

Lack of moisture also means lack of food, for the plants cannot readily extract the substances from the dry hard ground. Extra fertilizing needs to be done if the ground is dry continuously.

When mowing terrace slopes it is better for the lawn, to run the machine up and down, or vertically, rather than horizontally, so as to prevent scalping the crown, or gouging at the top angle.

After the new lawn is established,

as weak spots appear, they may be corrected or repaired by plugging with bits of sod. By omitting the watering during these last weeks of June, the germination of the seeds of the fall grasses, the undesirable wild grasses, is greatly retarded.

Frequently bad slopes and shaded areas may be abandoned as lawns and turned into garden plots. The slopes may be covered with hardy vining plants, often much more valued than the grassed plots. Ground covers are varied and have plenty of beauty of their own.

Shaded corners may be occupied either with the ordinary ground covers, or with any plants which thrive in deep shade. There are plenty of such plants available.

A great part of the difficulty with lawns is due to the fact that the soil is hard and unsuited to the starting of grass. A little top-soil is put on each year, seeded and the grass starts fine until its roots get down to the hard-pan below, the old original soil. Just about this time, the hot dry weather comes along and that about finishes the new grass for the present year. The new grass has sprouted, lived and died in the veneer of top-dressing which will also disappear by another Spring.

The cheapest and easiest way often turns out to be the opposite. These lawns may be repaired even yet, this summer, by proper methods and the entire lawns may look and be well kept all the summer through. After all, there is nothing nicer than a nice lawn surrounded with well kept garden borders.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Petersen, 212 Warwick road, Kenilworth, are leaving Friday to motor to their summer home at Mercer, Wis. The Petersens entertained eighteen guests at a cocktail party Saturday preceding the opening dinner dance at Exmoor.

Woodward Andersen, 217 Robsart road, Kenilworth, is leaving today for Owakonze camp where he will spend the summer.

Richard Joslin, 240 Essex road, Kenilworth, is leaving Saturday for Owakonze camp.

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RETURN FROM EAST

Colonel and Mrs. Howard W. Hodgkins and their daughter, Helen, 431 Abbotsford road, Kenilworth, returned Sunday from a four weeks' visit. They motored from Washington, D. C., where Helen attended the George Washington university. They also visited in Yorktown and Jamestown, Va. Mrs. Hodgkins' sister, Mrs. M. W. Godey of Washington, returned with them.

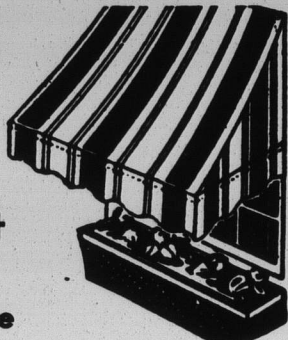
Betty Clements, daughter of the J. A. Clements of Wilmette, is leaving for Camp Idyle Wyld, Three Lakes, Wis., June 27. She is leaving on a special chartered car chaperoned by one of the camp councilors. Groups from various cities will be met en route to Camp.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Melville and their three children of New York arrived Saturday on a visit with Mr. and Mrs. Randall Poindexter, Happ road, who were former residents of New York.

Mrs. Paul C. Clovis, 314 Oxford road, Kenilworth, has as her guest for the summer, her mother, Mrs. Effie Keppard.

Mrs. James Mackall of 1343 Ridge road, left June 8, on a trip to Scotland. Before leaving, friends and relatives in Rogers Park gave her a farewell party. She will be away three months.

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