

M HOME AND GARDEN

GARDEN HINTS

By Dr. J. F. Fonder

Editor's Note: We are happy to provide for our readers, a series of articles by a recognized expert on gardening subjects, Dr. J. F. Fonder of Evanston, who received his Ph. D. degree at Michigan State college, after attending colleges in his native state of Colorado and in Utah. He has lectured extensively on gardening in many states and has written much on topics of soil and plant physiology. His experience extends into the practical business end of plant culture, thus enabling him to write with

authority on all matters pertaining to the subject. Dr. Fonder's articles appear in this section each week.

The time has come when you must again begin "pushing" the lawn mower. The manner in which the lawn is clipped ranks in importance with the other essentials of lawn culture which have been emphasized before—that high grade seed of the permanent lawn grasses be sowed and that an abundance of properly balanced plant food be provided.

The quality of a lawn is measured largely by its density. Nature contributes to the production of a dense lawn in that the desirable lawn grasses, namely Kentucky Blue grass, Chewings Fescue, Poa trivialis, and the various bents, are capable of vegetative reproduction by means of root stocks and creeping stems and will produce two (or more) plants where only one grew before—provided the lawn is clipped properly.

Leaf Area Important

To make possible the development of root stocks and creeping stems the grass must have sufficient leaf area to manufacture a large amount of sugar. Part of this sugar is transferred to the underground portions of the plant and is combined with nitrogen and essential mineral elements to produce the new tissue of these growing parts. The extent to which new vegetative parts will be produced will vary directly as the length of the leaf blades. Therefore the leaves should be allowed to grow as long as is commensurate with lawn beauty which is about two inches for the grasses other than bents. The bent grasses should not be allowed to grow longer than three-fourths of an inch.

It is not only necessary that the leaves of the grass be maintained

sufficiently long that an abundance of sugar can be produced but the production of sugar must be uniform day after day. If the supply of sugar received by the new roots and rootstocks is greatly reduced after they have started growth they will starve and die, thus preventing the production of new plants and thickening of the turf. Excellent experiments conducted at the University of Chicago have demonstrated that the clipping of Kentucky Blue grass leaves sev-

What to Do in the Garden This Week

Make up porch and window boxes. Prune formal evergreens. Plant gladiolus and dahlias, annual flowers, and vegetables. Seed the new lawn and reseed the old lawn. Feed evergreens and shrubs with the same soluble fertilizer used for the lawn. Give the lawn its second feeding. Clip the lawn seeded in early April. Observe the rules discussed in this week's article.

erely after they had become several inches long resulted in the death of all rootstocks and of all new roots as well. This is of practical importance in that the conditions of this experiment can be duplicated on your lawn many times during the spring and fall if your lawn is not clipped properly. To prevent injury to the growing underground parts never clip the grass severely. Set the mower to cut no shorter than one and one-half inches in length and never remove more than one-half inch of the blades at each clipping. This will mean that the lawn must be clipped often and at regular intervals but the extra effort will be well worth while.

Concerning the New Lawn

This careful attention to clipping is especially necessary for the new lawn. Each plant that arises from a seed will produce several other plants vegetatively if given the opportunity. The new lawn should be clipped first when the grass is about two inches tall provided the soil is settled enough to prevent the mower sinking into the surface. At least twice each week thereafter the lawn should be mowed again, removing no more than one-half inch of leaf length at each clipping.

Since the production of these new plants require that a large amount of sugar be combined with nitrogen and mineral elements which are absorbed from the soil, it will be apparent that there must also be an

'STAR' GARDENER



Janet Gaynor's flower garden is a proud feature of her Hollywood home. Here she is with a basket full of summer flowers.

Let the Children Have Their Own Home Garden

The dangers to which children are exposed when playing on the street are known to every anxious parent. If a portion of the home grounds is set aside for a children's playground and garden, and developed and planted with their needs and childish fancies in mind, the youngsters will need little encouragement to stay at home. Let them grow their own garden. It need not take up much space, and it will prove an excellent incentive to eat the proper foods, having grown them themselves. The growing and study of flowers, as you know, is a delightful and enlightening avocation.

abundance of plant food available to the grass if any real improvement of the turf is to occur. The new growth started this spring will continue until about the last of June and it is important that the grass be fed again before the last of the present month. Otherwise the growth rate of the grass may slow down so much that much of the benefit of the spring feeding will be lost. In fact, the next six weeks are especially critical in the life of the lawn and proper clipping, watering, and feeding should go hand in hand.



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