

M HOME AND GARDEN

Garden Hints

By Dr. J. F. Fonder

Editor's Note: Dr. J. F. Fonder, of Evanston, recognized expert on gardening subjects, brings to these columns for the second successive year his highly instructive and practical suggestions to north shore amateur gardeners. These articles, appearing each week, include information on the general subject of garden planning and care, soil and plant physiology and related subjects. Dr. Fonder is associated with the Caldwell Seed company at 1502 Sherman avenue, Evanston, where he makes his headquarters.

WHY CONTROL CRAB GRASS?

That crab grass is Public Enemy No. 1 among lawn weeds no one will deny. When it starts its growth during the latter part of July it is not unsightly nor does it give warning of the damage it will produce during the ensuing few weeks. Then the coarse seed stems begin to extend out from the center of the plant until they produce a circular mat

six, eight, or more inches in diameter and so heavy that the desirable grasses are completely crowded and smothered out. As the crab grass matures it turns reddish brown and then dies, leaving bare the areas it occupied.

Vicious Growth

It requires only one season for a heavy infestation of crab grass to completely kill the turf grasses in the areas infested. But worst of all, each plant produces seeds a hundred, or perhaps a thousand fold, and these remain in the soil until next July when they germinate and again kill out the grass which may have been seeded in. It is a losing fight to attempt to seed a permanent lawn unless a program is instituted which will definitely control the crab grass. In contrast, a permanent lawn can be established just as soon as steps are taken to bring the crab grass under control. It is because of this fact that we have devoted so much space to this one lawn pest.

How to Proceed

Since crab grass is an annual and must grow from seed each year, a very large measure of control is secured just as soon as this year's plants are prevented from producing seeds. Then the lawn can be seeded with high quality seeds capable of producing a permanent lawn with full assurance that the new lawn will not be killed out another year.

The plan of raking and clipping, which has been described at length already, is practical, effective, and not difficult. It is offered as a life line to those who perhaps have become discouraged and as a result now make no effort to have a beautiful lawn.

Superstition Blasted

We have been told that the sprinkling of the lawn is responsible for crab grass, and some people have it that the seed comes in the lake water used in sprinkling. But then, a lot of stock was once placed in the idea that potatoes had to be planted in the light of the moon. Or was it the dark of the moon? And a farmer had also to shock his corn in the dark of the moon or else the shocks would twist and fall down.

Crab grass seeds get into a lawn principally through the use of some of the various forms of manure or in top-dressing soil which is infested. Birds, especially the English sparrow, disseminate crab grass seeds widely. One crab grass seed dropped by a bird can infest a lawn if the plant is not noticed and pulled the first year. Severe wind or dust storms doubtless contribute in no small degree to the introduction of crab grass.

Use Water Sparingly

The watering of the lawn very rarely has any influence on the appearance of crab grass in the lawn but it does affect the development of the plants during the period of their growth. If the amount of water applied is held to a minimum the growth and maturity of the crab grass will be checked, just as is the growth of the other grass. Therefore, it is well to apply no more water to an infested area than is necessary to keep the turf grasses from turning brown. In conjunction with the program of raking and clipping or of digging the crab grass this will be of assistance.

Last week we mentioned the Mower-erake, an attachment for the mower designed to rake up the crab grass runners so that they can be clipped by the mowers. This attachment simplifies and makes much easier the control of crab grass by the raking method. However, a thorough job of raking with the garden rake and clipping immediately thereafter will prove effective. In conjunction with either method it will be necessary to use a grass catcher on the lawn mower if any of the crab grass has developed to the stage that seeds have already set.

It's A Long Battle

This fight against crab grass will probably have to continue during the entire month of August and in some locations it may be necessary even in September. During this time three or four rakings will probably be given. Just one objective should be kept in mind—not to permit a single crab grass seed to mature this year. If this is done, there will be much fewer plants next year and the same procedure will bring the grass definitely under control the following year. Any further information or possible assistance will be given gladly and we wish you luck in your fight against this pest.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Ricks of 1236 Forest avenue left recently by motor for northern Minnesota. Pam Ricks has as her house guest Jane Babcock of LaGrange, formerly of Wilmette.

Miss Lois Cote, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Cote, 323 Oak circle, spent several days this week at St. Joseph and Michigan City, making the trip by boat across the lake.

The F. Raymond Cooks of 602 Fifteenth street, have as their house guest this week and next, Frederick Schaefer of Philadelphia.

Chicago Will Stage Huge Garden Show From Sept. 12 to 20

Growers of flowers, fruits, and vegetables will have the opportunity to compete in the first continent-wide exposition devoted exclusively to horticulture that has ever been held in America.

The occasion will be the International Horticultural exposition which will take place in the International Amphitheater at the Chicago Stock Yards September 12 to 20. It has been incorporated as a non-profit educational institution and will be held under the auspices of the Union Stock Yard and Transit company and staged by an advisory committee of prominent horticulturists.

To Advance Horticulture

Sponsors of the exposition propose to make it perform the same service for horticulture that the International Live Stock exposition has for many years accomplished for stock and grain raisers. Thus far, no great exposition with international scope has ever been attempted in this field.

O. T. Henkle, president of the International Horticultural exposition, announces that to date word has been received from 30 state agricultural colleges, the Ontario Agricultural college, and the United States Department of Agriculture that they would lend active support to the project, and 31 state and national horticultural societies have indicated that their members would participate as exhibitors.

Chairman of the advisory committee is Dr. J. C. Blair, head of the horticultural department at the University of Illinois.

Anyone May Exhibit

"Since the exposition will be held just before frost when gardens are in fall bloom, it should have the widest possible popular appeal," says Dr. Blair. There will be a place in the exposition, he points out, for everyone interested in any phase of horticulture, amateur, professional, and commercial growers, nurserymen, florists, garden clubs, associations, institutions, and educational agencies.

According to Dr. Blair, prize lists containing full details of the competitive classes will soon be ready for distribution to those addressing requests to the exposition headquarters at the Chicago Stock Yards. Competitive displays will include flowers, potted plants, arrangements, gardens, fruits, vegetables, and nuts. Amateur growers will be particularly encouraged to take part, the management states.

HAS VACATION IN EAST

Miss Dorothea Main, 1040 Forest avenue, has recently returned from a six weeks' vacation in the east. Miss Main visited in Toledo and Columbus, Ohio, and while in Toledo was a bridesmaid in the Wienk-Knapp wedding which took place on June 27. Two of the six weeks she spent on a lake cruise, with Capt. C. J. Beardsley of Columbus, Ohio, a distant relative, at the helm.

Mr. and Mrs. James J. Johnson of 1100 Michigan avenue plan to leave Saturday for Pinehurst lodge on Deer Lake, Minn., where they will vacation for about three weeks with Mr. Johnson's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. I. H. Johnson of Evanston.

Mrs. Arthur J. Dixon of 706 Laurel avenue entertained the members of her Chicago bridge club for luncheon and bridge at her home on Wednesday.

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