

ANY BIDDER? was the question asked time and time again by auctioneer Frank Petch Saturday afternoon as the home and contents owned by Mr. and Mrs. G. Vanderbos went up for sale. The family are moving back to Holland and everything was to be sold. Unfortunately no bids were made on the home. Mr. and Mrs. Vanderbos are standing on the auctioneer's immediate right.

### How to Plant

#### Trees Rely on Soil, Water

Trees are living things and must be treated as such from the time you get them from the nursery until they are flourishing in your garden or lawn. They rely primarily upon soil and water for their existence. Even though there may be no leaves on the tree at planting time, moisture is slowly evaporating from its branches and trunk and moisture must be replenished. This is only possible if the plant keeps a lot of small hairs on the roots. As soon as the roots dry out these root hairs are lost and must be replaced by the tree, which by now is having enough trouble as it is.

The period between the receipt of the trees and the actual planting operation is often the most critical one. If a tree lies around in the sun with its roots exposed for longer than ten minutes or so, it suffers almost irreparable damage.

#### Cover Roots

As soon as you get your tree from the nursery either heel it in a vacant area in your garden or put it in the shade and cover the roots with bark or until you are ready for planting.

At planting time dig a hole a foot wider than the root spread or root ball. It should be 18 to 24 inches deep, so that extra soil may be added before the tree is set in place.

When digging the hole place the top ten inches of soil on one side and the rest on the other side of the hole, so that the good top soil may be placed round the roots when planting. Try to get an assistant to hold the tree straight in the hole. Now spread out the roots evenly, making sure none of them cross each other. Cut off those that are broken or burred. Work the soil in between the

roots with your hands. Tamping should be light in heavier soils and heavy in sandy soils.

Puddling as planting proceeds is very good in sandy soils but not in heavy soils, because tamping or treading wet heavy soil causes it to harden like cement and if no tamping or treading is done the small roots may lose contact with the soil. Fill the hole to within two inches of the top and after firming water liberally with the garden hose.

When planting is finished, put a good stout stake beside the tree. Use canvas or similar material for tying rather than rope, twine or wire, which might girdle the tree. The stake should be driven in on the windward side of the tree.

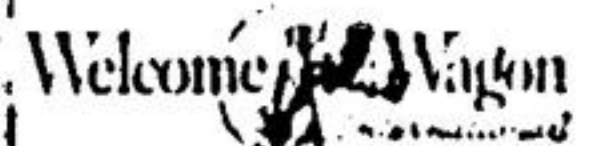
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## Experimenting with Chemical To Halt Dutch Elm Disease

The active spread of the Dutch elm disease will be resuming in the weeks ahead. The disease and bark beetles which help to spread it are inactive during the winter months, but are released from their dormant state by the warm spring weather.

The control of the elm disease spread has been mainly through the control of bark beetle populations. These beetles can infect healthy elm when spores which may stick to their bodies contact scars made by the beetles feeding on twigs in the top of the trees. One control method is to

destroy elm brood material which consists of recently cut or dying elm. The beetles lay their eggs between the bark and wood of this material. Elm in this condition can be sanitized by burning or insecticide sprays, which leave the bark unsuitable for beetle development.

External spraying of insecticides is used to protect healthy elm from adult beetles feeding in the tree tops.

Spraying must be done in the spring before the leaves emerge when the temperature is over 40 deg. F. A single thorough appli-

cation of DDT or similar insecticide must cover all bark surfaces of the trunk, branches and twigs. Special sprayers are required or a mist blower. Usually 25 gallons of spray are required to treat a fifty foot elm tree by a hydraulic sprayer, compared to two gallons by a mist blower.

A new method, being carried out on an experimental basis in 1965 is the injection of a chemical into the sap flow of the tree. This chemical is to kill the larvae of the bark beetle. Persons applying this new chemical must be properly licensed. It is hoped that this method may be available to the public next year.

Surveys in Illinois indicate that over 95% of the elm have been destroyed within 14 years in areas in which no control measures were used.

The publication, "Dutch Elm Disease" is available at the Agricultural Office-Milton.

## Preventing Crabgrass Easier than Curing it

Crabgrass hardly needs describing to the householder whose front lawn or back garden is his pride and joy. When spots in the lawn become purple instead of green sometime about August, it isn't some disease or misbehavior of the Bermuda Blue Grass. Crabgrass leaves are shorter and wider than the desirable lawn grasses. The broad blade ends in a sharp point and, as suggested before, assumes an unpleasant purple shade in mid-summer. The stems are wiry, semi-prostrate and have the unfortunate habit of sending down roots at the nodes, similar to strawberry runners. This faculty enables one plant to cover a considerable area of lawn in the course of a summer.

**Alternate Name**  
The seedheads are long spikes radiating from the tip of the stem. The spikes extend like fingers. Hence the alternate name of "finger grass". As an annual, crabgrass must start each spring as a seedling. However, preventing seed being scattered on the lawn from ripening seed spikes is a practical impossibility. The objective must be to prevent crabgrass from reaching the seedling stage.

Crabgrass thrives in hot weather and bright sunshine. It is not often a problem in shaded areas of the lawn. Neither does it establish well in thick, vigorous, fast growing lawn grass. Good lawn management, then, is essential in keeping free of crabgrass. Being shallow-rooted, it benefits from light, frequent watering. Lawn grass however is deeper rooted and is not particularly stimulated by sprinkling which does not penetrate at least two inches deep. Moral: water thoroughly but not often than once or twice a week, advises the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Soils and Crops Branch.

Prevention is better than cure. Fortunately several products can be applied to the lawn which actually prevent the establishment

of crabgrass. This is accomplished by killing the germinating seedlings. It can only be successful if the application is made before the crabgrass seed germinates. This means in most cases by May 1, and no later than May 15. There is no danger of being too early with the treatment, in fact one product may be successfully applied the previous fall. However, application after germination is completely useless, so time limit is most important.

Preventative medicines for the crabgrass disease come under the chemical names of Dacthal, Zyrcon, Terfluralin, Bandane, and Betesan. In your garden centre these materials will be masquerading under more glamorous and easier spelled trade names, but look for the chemical name in smaller print on the label. Some will come in mixtures with fertilizer, and this is not a bad idea, since this is a good time to put some extra fertilizer on the lawn.

**Follow Directions**  
The amount to use will depend, of course, on the combination with other materials, fertilizer, etc., so read and follow label directions. By way of example only, however, Dacthal with no additives will require about 5 ounces per 1,000 square feet.

Caution: You may remember exactly the crabgrass locations last year, however, the lawnmower, particularly a rotary, will have scattered crabgrass seeds far and wide. So it will likely be advisable to treat the entire lawn.

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## J-G-A Calf Club Meets in Milton

The second monthly meeting of the Halton 4-H Jersey Guernsey Calf Club was held on April 20 at the agricultural office, Milton, with 22 members to attend.

A display committee was chosen to erect a display for the club at Milton Fair. Members chosen for the display are Bill Alexander, Jeff Nurse, Nancy Beatty and Margie King. The club president, Lorne Ella

make out their work sheet by Henry Stanley.

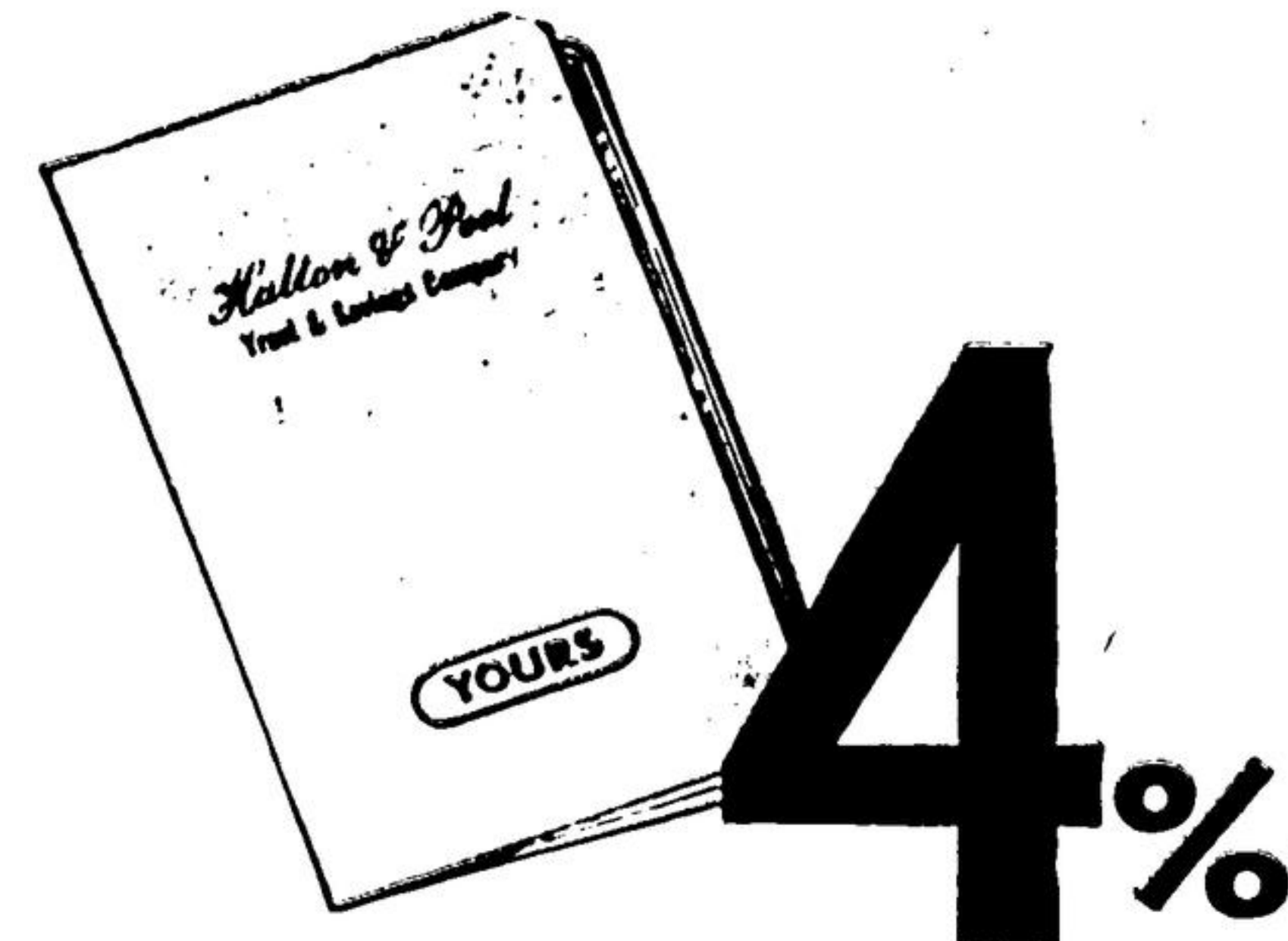
The two groups were brought together and viewed a film titled "The Runen Story", which explained the digestion system of cows. Mr. Stanley gave members a talk on feeds and showed some samples of different kinds of feeds.

#### Feeding Lessons

The members were divided into two groups. The Juniors were given a short lesson on breeds of cattle and feeding by club leaders Ernest Alexander and Maurice Beatty. The Senior members were instructed on how to

#### WISE SAYING

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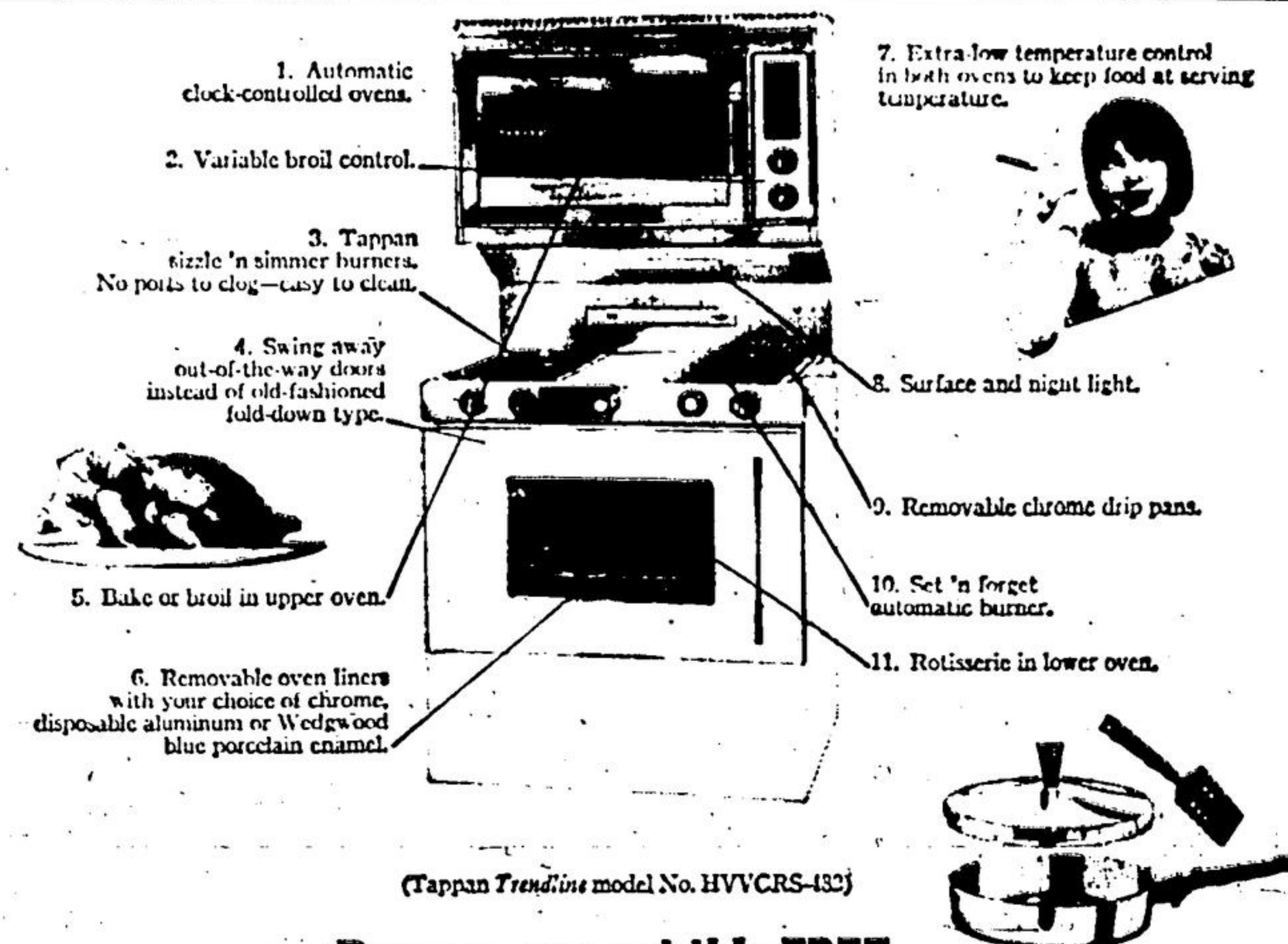
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CRABGRASS