HOME

LAWN VOCABULARY

Ever stumbled over the meaning of a word in a lawn or garden article? Here are definitions for some of the more frequently used terms.

Annual. Any plant that germinates, matures, produces seed and dies within one year.

Chlorosis. A condition evidenced by yellow leaves.

Clay soil. A "heavy" soil that packs readily.

Complete fertilizer. Contains all of the major ingredients—nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Cool-season grass. Any grass that grows best in a moderate or cool zone. Example: bluegrass.

Dicot. A plant emerging from its seed with *two* leaves, such as dandelion. Includes "broadleaf" and "vining" weeds.

Fertilizer "burn." Injury to grass and plants by a harsh fertilizer, or from excessive amounts of fertilizer.

Germination (also sprouting). The baby plant emerging from its seed.

Inorganic fertilizer. Produced from minerals.

Loam. A desirable soil mixture of sand, silt (fine-textured sediment) and clay.

Monocot. A plant emerging from its seed with *one* leaf such as grass.

Mulch. Usually a covering of organic material such as peat moss or straw, used to protect seedlings, preserve moisture and prevent erosion.

N-P-K. Chemical symbols for nitrogen(N), phosphorus(P) and potassium(K)—the major ingredients of fertilizer.

Non-selective herbicide. A product capable of damaging all plants.

Organic fertilizer. Fertilizer produced from animal or vegetable matter.

Overseeding. Sowing seed into a thin, existing lawn.

Perennial. A plant living on from year to year.

Pesticide. Any product used to destroy pests. Included are:

- *Fungicides.* Products that control fungus (disease).
- *Herbicides.* Products used to control weeds.
- *Insecticides.* Products that control insects and, often, mites.

Postemergent herbicide. Destroys an existing growing plant.

Preemergent herbicide. Prevents germination or seedling growth of a plant.

Rennvate. Rebuilding a lawn using the existing lawn as the seedbed (soil is not turned over).

Rhizome. An underground stem that can produce a new plant.

Selective herbicide. A product capable of destroying certain plants without damaging other plants.

Stolon (also runner). A ground hugging stem that takes root and produces a new plant.

Thatch. Accumulation of plant parts, debris, etc located between the leaf blades and the soil surface.

Tiller. A side-shoot that forms from the base of a plant to produce new leaf blades.

Urea — A water soluble nitrogen compound.

Ureaform. A water insoluble nitrogen compound.

Warm-season grass. Any grass that grows best in a warm or semi-tropical zone. Example: bermudagrass.

Weed. Any plant growing where it is not wanted.

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From Lawn Care - Courtesy of Home Hardware

George Bergsma of Georgetown Decorating Centre opens the door on his eleventh year of business with a special sale and roses for paint purchasers this weekend. Mr. Bergsma has been in the Main Street store since 1972 and originally began his business on Mill Street.

Decorating store begins second decade

George Bergsma of Georgetown Interior Decorating will be marking ten years in business this weekend as well as 10 years of serving up helpful hints on the best method and the best product to achieve the customer's specific decorating plans. Although the store actually opened April 4, 1968, the grand opening was held the first week of May and Mr. Bergsma is marking the anniversary by cutting the price on gallons of paint to their 1968 level and giving away a rose with every gallon of the special paint which he sells.

He started his business in a store on Mill Street but as it expanded he moved into his present location in November, 1972, and bought the building when Caruso's Fruit Market closed.

Mr. Bergsma came to Canada from Holland 25 years ago and settled in Georgetown in 1955. He worked at painting and papering with an interior decorator until he opened the store and says that he learned from practical experience about the products he sells.

The biggest change he sees in products over the years is the great number of vinyl wallpapers which have largely replaced the conventional ones. Wallpaper is part of the decor now, he says, instead of just being what homeowners use to cover the devects in the plaster. He finds customers often want papers in colonial or early American designs because they are trying to recreate a period in their decorating.

Paints too, have changed he notes. Latex paints were on the market but they were considered an indoor paint. Now they are much more widely used on the exterior of homes.

Mr. Bergsma and his wife Shirley live on Maple Avenue with their five children. He is a member of the Georgetown Chamber of Commerce.

EarlyStart **CHECKLIST** *for 1978 lawns*

☐ **Remove smothering debris.** Pick up or gently rake out tree leaves, twigs, etc.

☐ **Mow off old grass.** Removing the upper inch or so of old growth lets more vitalizing sunshine reach the plant's crown, thus promoting earlier green-up.

☐ **Spread fertilizer.** Grass coming out of dormancy will develop thicker and greener with a rich nutrient supply.

☐ **Prevent crabgrass this year.** It can be done only before it starts growing again, so the earlier you use a preventer, the surer the results.

☐ **Seed or re-seed if needed.** Early sowing gives seedlings maximum time to develop before weeds and hot weather come on.

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Old seeds still good?

Assuming they are kept in a cool, dry place, these seeds remain viable (able to sprout) for at least 3 years: bean, beet, cabbage, carrot, cauliflower, cucumber, kale, kohlrabi, lettuce, mustard, muskmelon, okra, peas, pepper, radish, spinach, tomato, turnip and watermelon. But onions, parsley, parsnip, and sweet corn seed generally hold up for only 1 or 2 years.

Quick seed test. *To tell whether old seeds are usable or not: 1. Put six to ten seeds on paper towel. 2. Fold towel and moisten until dripping wet. Enclose in plastic bag, leave open end and keep about 18° to 21° C. 3. Good seeds will sprout in about a week.*

Early planting tips

Chilly weather vegetables. If soil is ready for planting, don't let lingering winter temperatures hold you back. Spinach seed will sprout in soil at a cool 4 degrees - 13 degrees C; and peas, radishes and turnips at 10 degrees - 16 degrees C. Beet and carrot seed can be sown in cool soil, but they will wait for warmer soil (18 degrees - 21 degrees C.) to germinate.

Head start schedule. Planting seeds indoors too early can cause a pile up of baby plants if it stays too cold or wet to place them outdoors. Start your indoor planting no sooner than about 6 to 10 weeks ahead of normal outdoor planting time. For instance, sow cool season crop seeds like broccoli and cabbage in late February for garden planting in April or early May. Start seeds of warm weather crops like tomato and pepper in late March or early April and set plants outdoors after the last spring frost. Adjust schedule according to your local spring climate.

Warm send off. Tomato and other warm season plant seeds may have trouble starting indoors in rooms kept at energy-saving temperatures below 21 degrees C. A solution: use an electric heat tray to warm containers holdig seed and soil. Seed companies specializing in mail orders sell it. Or if you're handy, make one.

For experts only. Seeds harvested in home gardens from improved vegetables varieties (called hybrids or cultivators) and saved for future plantings are likely to be disappointing. The reason: uncontrolled pollination results in poor quality crops. Good seeds depend on planned plant parenthood and expert care. So for reliability buy seed rather than growing your own.

Bigger crop. Crop size is determined by many things - the kinds of plant, soil, weather, and the care you give your garden. Perhaps the easiest of "care" is applying fertilizer. It doesn't take too much time or effort, and with Scotts Vegetable Garden Fertilizer it needs to be done only once more for most crops. The reward: bigger and better vegetables.

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