

YOUR

A big green lawn—three whole acres

Jack Eggens has the biggest putting green in Canada - all three acres of it. While it will never see a frustrated golfer, the answers it provides Professor Eggens and his colleagues at the University of Guelph will point the way to neater and trimmer lawns, healthier greens for golfers, and more attractive parks.

Actually, the three-acre green is only part of about ten acres of turf plots maintained by the department of horticultural science of the University of Guelph. Turf research projects, thought, are an interdisciplinary affair with faculty members from the departments of environmental biology and land resource science participating.

"Grass is just about the most abused plant that I know of," says Prof. Eggens.

"We kick it, stomp on it, cut it, tear it apart, pull it, roll on it, turn animals out to eat it, and still it survives."

Prof. Eggens and his colleagues are using their ten acres at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Cambridge Research Station to test improved strains, to find out how best to pamper it and help it survive, and sometimes how to limit its growth.

The extent of the University of Guelph's turf research program, and the wide range of disciplines represented by those taking part make this unique undertaking a strong area of turf research in Canada. Most aspects of turf management, from the evaluation of improved cultivars to the development of sound fertility, pest and disease programs, have a place in University of Guelph

research.

Professor Clayton Switzer, who is also Dean of the Ontario Agricultural College, is continuing his research into the interrelationship of herbicides and management practices on weed control in turf. He is also evaluating the response of turfgrasses to growth retardants and the reduction in mowing through their use.

As most golfers know, snow mold can be a serious problem on creeping bentgrass putting greens and golf course fairways. Researchers are evaluating chemicals for control of snow mold and other turf diseases without harming the beneficial microorganism life in the soil.

One fungicide that is known to be effective against Sclerotinia dollar spot problems also proves harmful to earth worms. Prof.

Steve Fushtey, of the University of Guelph's department of environmental biology, is researching fungicides which will provide good control but will permit the earth worms to carry on their vital work in keeping the soil well drained and in consuming the "hatch" of organic matter from fallen clippings.

Tatch control is always of concern in good turf management, and especially so where the turf is managed intensively, such as on golf courses and sports fields. When watering and fertilizing are heavy to promote optimum growth, large amounts of clippings fall onto the turf. If a layer of crop refuse is allowed to build up, it produces a mat or thatch that interferes with watering, fertilizing, and growth. The turf manager

must expedite the decomposition of the clippings, or else remove them physically.

A balanced fertilizer program is important in maintaining a healthy turf. Professor Bob Sheard, of the department of land resource science is evaluating the nutritional aspects of turf management and production. One of his important research projects deals with various sources of nitrogen for turf fertilizers. Some nitrogen carriers release the nutrient quickly and some much more slowly. Prof. Sheard is seeking the optimum timing, rate and rates of application for Canadian climatic conditions.

When grasses are injured from foot traffic or play, particularly in sports fields and parks, the alert manager wants to ensure that regrowth occurs as fully and

quickly as possible. This demands good management and the best possible varieties. He needs varieties that, first of all, will best withstand heavy foot traffic and tearing injury, and secondly, that will regrow as quickly as possible to ensure a light playing surface.

Mr. Albert Ittger, department of horticultural science, University of Guelph who is evaluating improved turfgrass varieties, wants to be sure that he has strains that will compete strongly against "weed" grasses. For example, at present several strains of Kentucky bluegrass are being evaluated to check their ability to compete against such grasses as quack grass, annual bluegrass and creeping bentgrass.

The chinch bug has shown itself to be a very serious

pest in the last several years on home lawns. Professor Mark Seary, environmental biology, is studying the life cycle of the pest and the optimum timing and amount of pesticide application for control.

Prof. Eggens notes that, at present scientists are working to develop a whole range of specially grasses for specific uses. Football fields, parks, home lawns, highway shoulders, and the grounds of industrial plants or public institutions all have different needs.

A quality sod grower who prepares his land well before seeding will take up as little as a centimeter or just over a quarter inch of top soil with the roll of sod. With poor soil preparation, the loss can be as high as two centimeters.

The Energy Savers

Walls within walls

If your home was really your castle, it would have walls several feet thick and you wouldn't need insulation. But, to save on building materials, space and cost (and because you aren't expecting a besieging army to open fire on you at any moment), you have thin walls that need another wall of insulation inside them.

How do you know if there's enough insulation inside the wall? One obvious way to tell is if you feel the cold striking into the house (which means that heat is leaking out) whenever you go from the middle of a room toward an outside wall in winter. However, if you wait until winter to find that out, you may not be able to retrofit (re-insulate) your walls before the warm weather returns.

Two things you can check before winter are the kind of insulation you have in the walls and the way in which the walls have been constructed. With this information, you (or a contractor) can work out the effectiveness of the insulation and, if it is not good enough, what method of retrofitting would work best in your case.

Here's a rough guide: wall insulation should have an R value (resistance to heat passing through it) of at least 12, which equals 4 inches of loose fill insulation or 3 1/2 to 4 inches of batt or blanket insulation containing glass fibre or rock wool. There are, of course, many other types of materials available.

The five basic ways to retrofit walls are with loose polystyrene, blown-in insulation, foamed-in-place insulation, wall renovation, and outside insulation. But before you take your pick, read on.

Loose polystyrene insulation can be a do-it-yourself job and does not cost much, but you can use this method only if your wall space opens into the attic and goes right down to the foundation. You can test this with a weight on a string that's long enough to go all the way down.

Blown-in insulation means that you get a contractor with special equipment to blow loose fill into a wood-frame wall that is hollow or almost, but has obstructions that stop you from pouring insulation into it (as above). For this, an access hole must be drilled into the wall space from the outside or inside or from the attic or basement.

Foamed-in-place insulation is also a job for a contractor who has the proper equipment and an option for filling the space inside a wood-frame wall, and also some masonry walls. However, this approach should only be taken if the wall has no insulation whatsoever. The foam is urea-formaldehyde and it is injected into the wall space in semi-liquid form. Make sure any U.F. foam you buy meets Canadian Government Specifications Board quality standards.

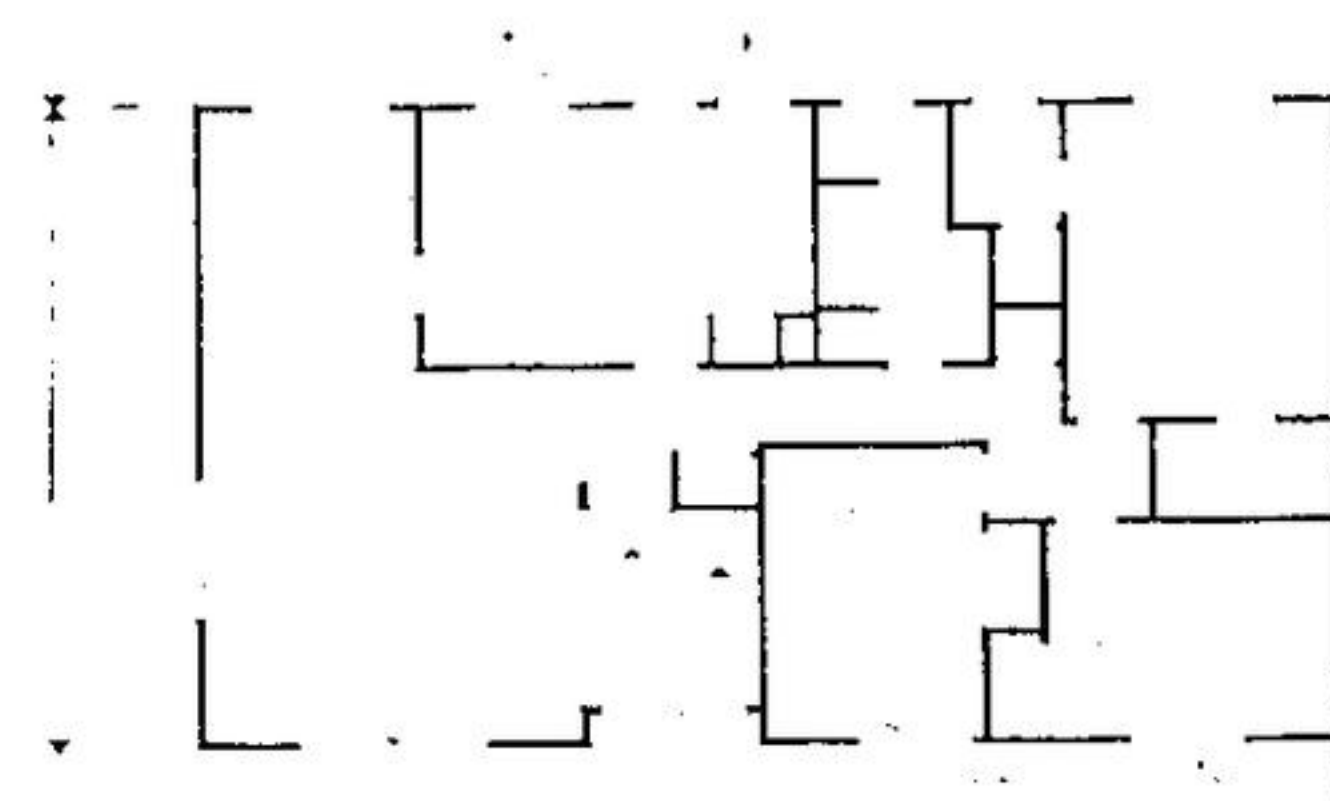
Wall renovation is a good way to provide it if you are undertaking major renovations anyway. With a wood-frame house, you can remove the wall board or plaster from the inside and fit the insulation (such as batt or blanket) into the wall space. Another way with other wood-frame or masonry walls is to build a new wall inside the old one and insulate it.

Outside insulation is a good method if you happen to be putting new siding on your house. Polystyrene insulation can be inserted between the old and the new siding.

This is just a quick round-up of ways to retrofit walls and, as you can see, the details have oversimplified the job. However, it is not very difficult and it repays you in comfort and fuel savings. If you want the full story, see Keeping the Heat in Office of Energy Conservation, Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, which you can get by writing to Box 1986 Station C, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 2S1.

For information on government grants for re-insulation write to: Canadian Home Insulation Program, P.O. Box 700, St. Laurent, Quebec, H4L 1A7 or phone collect (514) 341-1511.

NEW HOME OF THE WEEK



TUDOR STYLE WITH CATHEDRAL ENTRY

This contemporary adaption of one of the more attractive traditional styles, Tudor, has all the quaint charm on the exterior and is designed for luxury living in the interior.

Leaded windows, decorative bricks, exposed wall beams, topped by a shake roof create the "Old Country" feeling. The double carport can be enclosed for complete weather protection at a small cost, if done at the time of the original construction and will not spoil the over-all effect.

Through double-panelled front doors one is in the Cathedral Entry, with a short flight of stairs to the right leading down to the unfinished basement. Here, roughed in plumbing and a fireplace await future development. There is room also for a workshop, bedroom, and storage as well as the utility.

Spaciousness is created in the living room by using a half wall over the stair well and combining the dining room into one large living area. A wood burning fireplace and picture window are main features in the living room. In the dining room, sliding glass doors open to the rear sundeck and further extends the entertaining space during the warmer weather.

Designed for convenience, the "U" shape kitchen has room for all the latest appliances and multiple cupboard units for that much needed storage space. A few steps to the dining room, one on side, and opening directly to the nook on the other side, there is a rear-view window over the sink and another on the nook area for a maximum of day light. The back door opens from the nook area to the sundeck and stairs to the ground level.

Off the inner hall the large three piece vanity bathroom serves as a guest powder-room as well as the two smaller bedrooms. Within the inner hall radius there is a guest coat-closet, broom, towel and linen closets.

The master bedroom with a rear view window can accommodate the average bedroom suite and has the extra's that say "luxury." A large, double walk-in closet with ample space for "his" and "hers". A complete three-piece shower ensuite with the door opening out to allow greater turning space and maximum use of the utilities.

A family home with charm, utility, convenience, as well as luxury.

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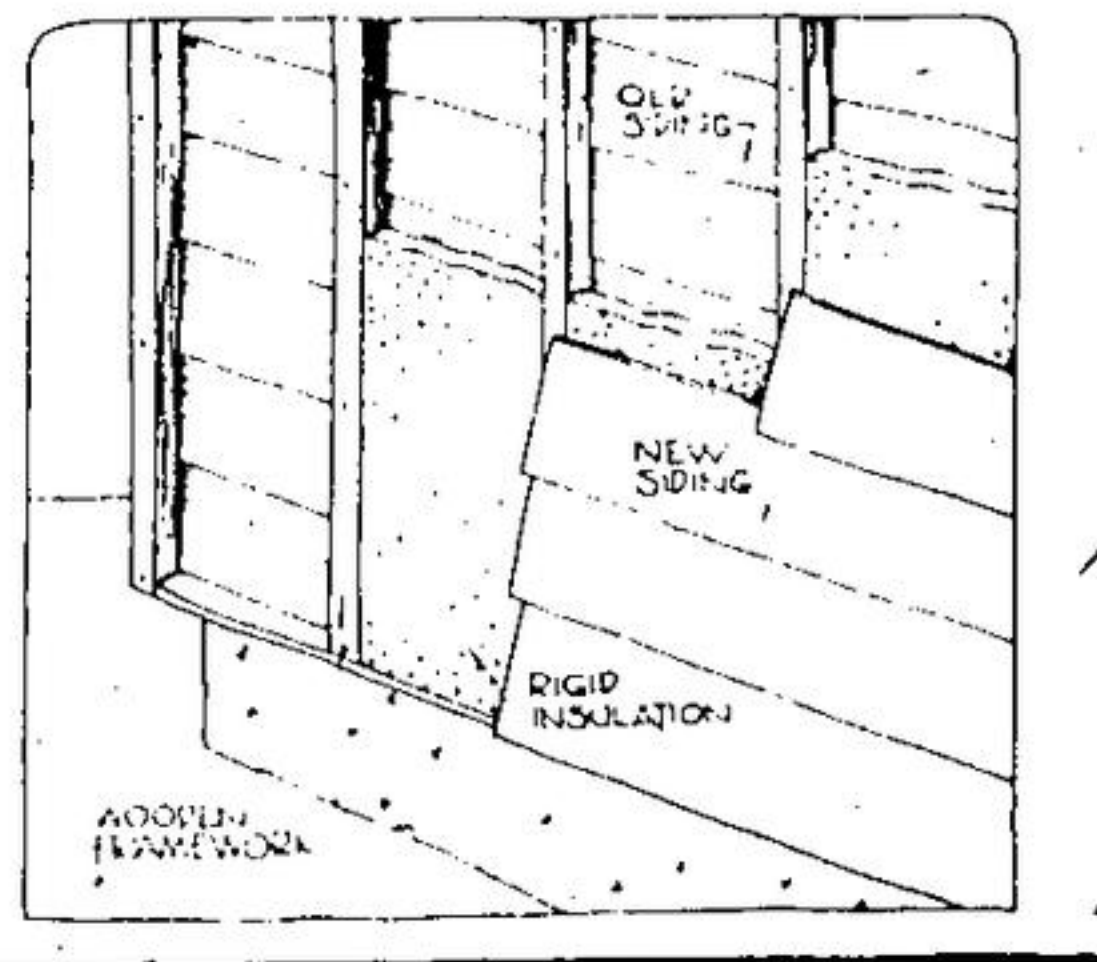
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