



GARDEN GOSSIP

by PETER HENDERSON

"MUSTS" for Lawn Makers

THE SOIL MUST BE in good condition. Remember that grasses are plants that require feeding just the same as vegetables and flowers. The beauty of your lawn will depend on the health of the grass plants which make it.

SANDY SOILS must be improved by adding humus to the soil. This material will help the soil to retain moisture, and make a more satisfactory rooting medium for the grass. Spread the humus at least one-half inch deep over the surface of the ground, and then mix it well into the top 3 inches of soil. Finally, apply a lawn enricher, using 10 lbs. to 200 sq. ft., and rake it into the top 3 inches of soil.

HEAVY CLAY SOILS must be treated as recommended for sandy soils. On such soils, the humus will help to eliminate "caking" after rain, and will considerably help the grasses to root well in their early stages of growth.

ALL SOILS MUST be dressed with a lawn enricher. Periodic top dressings of this material will also help to keep the grass growing vigorously.

THE SEED MUST contain a good selection of lawn grasses.

Lawn seed mixtures are obtainable at various prices, but you will find it pays to buy a really good mixture. The finer grasses naturally make the finer, velvet-like lawns. A well-balanced seed mixture will produce a lawn that will remain green throughout the season. A poorly balanced mixture, or one containing coarse, inferior grasses cannot possibly make a satisfactory lawn no matter how much attention you give to it.

SEED SOWING MUST be done with the thought in mind that the seed should be very lightly covered with soil (not more than 1/4 inch). Lightly rake the soil before sowing. Broadcast the seed, using 1 lb. to every 200 square feet, and rake it into the soil. Finally firm the seed into the soil with a roller.

MOWING MUST begin when the grass is two inches or more in height. Use an adjustable mower, and set the blades high so that just the tops of the grass will be sheared off. Cutting should be done every week, but never cut the grass shorter than two inches.

WATERING MUST be thorough in hot weather, don't merely sprinkle the surface—soak the soil to a depth of two inches.



This Week In Washington

By Ralph E. Church
Representative, 10th Congressional District

Washington, D.C., March 16—A very important colloquy on the Floor of the House between Congressman Bruce Barton, (R), of New York, and Majority Leader Sam Rayburn, (D), of Texas, is worth repeating verbatim. In that one minute discussion a great deal was said which, by implication at least, describes this session of Congress. What was said by these two gentlemen on the opposite sides of the aisle has perhaps more significance than the words themselves convey.

"Mr. Barton. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 1 minute."

"The Speaker. Is there objection?"

"There was no objection."

"Mr. Barton. Mr. Speaker, I have asked for this time in order to ask a question of the majority leader. I am receiving a great many letters from my constituents asking about the Walter-Logan bill. I wonder whether the majority leader has decided that the bill is to come before us for discussion and action at this session."

"Mr. Rayburn. A rule has been granted on that bill, but no time has been fixed for its consideration."

"Mr. Barton. Is it a part of the program that we will probably come to before adjournment?"

"Mr. Rayburn. There has been no specific program made out as yet. What we want to do is pass the appropriation bills as fast as they come to the House and intersperse with matters more or less controversial. As far as general legislation is concerned, there has been no program made."

"Mr. Barton. Would it be fair to say there is no plan for legislation except appropriation bills at this session of Congress?"

"Mr. Rayburn. Oh, no; not at all. Here the gavel fell."

The foregoing is the colloquy exactly as it appears in the Congressional Record. I have quote it verbatim so that the reader may be free to make whatever interpretation of the discussion he feels it warrants. But, to me, this one minute discussion gives a complete picture of the situation at this session of Congress.

Congress has been meeting since January 3rd. In the third month the Majority Leader admits with commendable candor that to date

"no program has been made." For understandable reasons he does not want to leave the impression that the Administration intends to do little more at this session than enact appropriation bills. But it certainly appears that no more is intended, particularly inasmuch as the political party conventions will shortly open and it is expected that Congress will accordingly adjourn by late May or early June.

What major legislation Congress considered at this session, save for the appropriation bills and the Reciprocal Trade Agreement Extension Bill, has been legislation more or less forced on the Administration by the pressure in Congress itself and by public opinion. That is true of the Hatch Bill which has caused so much controversy in the Senate. It is also true of possible amendments to the National Labor Relations Act. And the same is also true of the so-called Walter-Logan Bill, to which Mr. Barton referred. Not one of these proposals is Administration sponsored. Indeed there is good evidence that the Administration would like to avoid their enactment if politically possible.

This being an election year, perhaps that explains why there has been "no program" for general legislation. Perhaps it also explains why to date no major legislation has become a public law except two appropriation bills. An election year, particularly a presidential one, invariably produces some peculiar results in Congress.

LIBRARY

The display cases at the Highland Park Public library have an interesting display of model ships made by Edward Thorney of this city.

U.S.S. Kearsarge — One of the first gunboats built by our navy. This is known for its part in the decisive combat with the Alabama in June 1864.

U.S.S. Indianapolis — Made the longest and the fastest run in naval history — Charleston, S.C. to San Pedro, California in 1936.

U.S.S. Preston — Destroyer type. U.S.S. Texas—Battleship.

The library has many books connected with the subject: how to build model boats of various designs; usable motor boats; how to sail a boat.

For those who are interested in boats, sailing, as a arm chair reading, the library has well illustrated copies of:

History of American Sailing Ships—H. I. Chapelle.

Whole Ships and Whaling—A. C. Church.

Masts of Gloucester — Raymond McFarland.

Sentinel of the Coasts—G. R. Putnam.

Knots, Useful and Ornamental—G. R. Shaw.

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Care of Lawns

By The Master Gardener

WHY YOU SHOULD MAKE EARLY APPLICATION OF PLANT FOOD TO YOUR LAWN

Item for Every Gardener's memo pad for late February and early March:

"Feed lawn just as frost is coming out of ground, and before the grass begins to grow. Amount to use, 4 lbs. of complete balanced plant food per 100 square feet. Apply evenly by hand, same as sowing grass seed, or use a kitchen colander, or plant food spreader. No watering required when fed at this time. Will help eradicate weeds."

Many gardeners are learning from actual experience that it is advisable and also desirable, from many standpoints, to apply plant food to lawns very early in the spring — long before the grass shows signs of making top growth. This may seem ridiculous to many people not familiar with all the facts, but once they have looked into the matter thoroughly, and once they have tried the early spring application to the lawn, they never go back to former methods of late spring application for the first feeding of the lawn.

Grass is a plant which makes its best growth during cool weather. Root action begins long before top growth is evident. So to make the best possible use of favorable growing conditions, grass roots should have available a supply of complete balanced plant food early in the season—just as the frost is coming out of the ground. At that time the soil is porous and honeycombed, and the spring rains carry the nourishment right down to the root zone where the hungry grass roots utilize the food as soon as the grass starts growing.

This early feeding helps grass produce a thick root growth and a healthy, luxuriant top growth that chokes out weeds and prevents young weeds from getting a start.

And now that we have explained the advantage of early feeding to the lawn, here are the advantages to the gardener: Application of plant food to the lawn before it has made any top growth saves labor, because there is no necessity of watering the plant food in; thus this step, which is necessary in later feedings, can be eliminated in the initial feeding of the lawn.

Another advantage to the gardener is the opportunity of getting lawn work done at a time when there are not so many other pressing gardening tasks, as is the case in late March and in April.

But most important of all is that early feeding makes a better lawn—sturdy enough to really use when balmy breezes begin to call you to your outdoor living room.

Evans Watkins Post To Hold Bingo Party At Labor Temple

A bingo party, with prizes for every game, refreshments and a door prize will be held at the Highland Park Labor temple, Tuesday, April 2, under the auspices of the Evans-Watkins post No. 753 (North Shore line employes post) of the American Legion, it was announced by W. H. Dowden, commander, today. Admission to the party, which will begin at 8:30 in the evening, will be nominal. Tickets may be purchased in advance from any Evans-Watkins post legionnaire or at the door.

The party will be the first post-lent opportunity for the members of the post, their families and friends to get together for an evening's entertainment and is just one of numerous events planned by the post for the coming months. All bingo fans are invited to be on hand.

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The modernization plan viz: your house may need a new roof, a new heating plant, a front porch or an additional bath. That calls for FHA Plan No. I, and we are prepared to do your financing under it on easy terms.

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