

Answers from John Deere about lawn care problems

Dear John, Last year my lawn was a battlefield. My grass and I spent the year locked in combat with weeds and pests. This year I'd like to get a jump on the enemy. How should I begin my campaign?
Dear Battle-Scarred, With the right strategy and weapons, you can

fortify your position and prevent the enemy from establishing a beachhead. Your plan of attack should begin with a soil test. Your grass may not be getting the right amount of nutrients and minerals needed to keep it healthy and strong enough to ward off in-

vaders.

Next, check to see if thatch build-up isn't creating a problem. This layer of dead stems and roots may be camouflaging the activity of pests and preventing moisture from reaching grass roots. If thatch is more than half an inch deep, you may want to rent a thatching machine to clear your field of combat and help keep your troops in peak condition.

can't seem to agree. He insists that spring is the best time to fertilize, while I contend that a fall feeding is better. Can you help resolve this controversy?

Dear Family Feud, Timing fertilizer feedings is important, but there's no reason for you Hatfields and McCoys to lock horns over this issue. You're both right.

Your cousin in the south should fertilize at the first sign of spring green, when the ground is still cold. Spring feedings give warm-season grasses a shot in the arm for fast green-up and help the lawn face the hot weather ahead. In the north, on the other hand, you should apply a generous dose of fertilizer in the fall to help grass develop a strong root system during the winter months.

Dear John, Last summer I spilled gasoline on my lawn and let it go, thinking time heals all wounds. But even after the winter, I see the damage is still there. What's the antidote?

Dear Doctor Do Little, Unfortunately, time doesn't heal all wounds when it comes to lawns. It's probably too late to save the damaged grass, but it's not too late to repair the look of your lawn with a little corrective surgery.

You'll need to dig the damaged area along with about two inches of

soil. Bring the ground to the proper grading with a dose of new soil, then seed or sod the area.

Dear John, I'm pretty sure I have both broadleaf and narrowleaf weeds in my lawn. Does it really matter if I know the difference?

Dear Discriminating Weeder, There's no need to separate the men from the boys if you don't mind them both being in the ladies' locker room. If you don't mind weeds in your lawn, don't worry. But, if you want to get rid of those weeds, you'll need to know what kind of weeds you have.

Most herbicides are particular about what weed they kill. Those that work on one type of weed may leave others unscathed.

Usually you can tell at a glance what kind of weed you have. Broadleaf weeds, such as dandelion and clover, tend to have showy, obvious flowers. Narrowleaf weeds, such as crabgrass and

quackgrass, have hollow stems and narrow, grass-like leaves.

Dear John, Spring cleaning time is on us again. Should I treat my lawn mower to an overhaul before the mowing season begins?

Dear Early Bird, Check your operator's manual for spring start-up procedures. The manual should provide instructions for refueling, cleaning the spark plugs, and setting the breaker point gap. If the gap is closed, there won't be the spark that's needed to start

We're glad you asked!



Jim Lynn
Funeral Director

WHAT IS INCLUDED IN A MEMORIAL SERVICE?

A memorial service, which is scheduled some time after the burial or cremation of the deceased, is an opportunity for the friends of the deceased to express their support and sympathy to the family of the deceased. The casket is not present. This service may include inspirational reading, religious selections, hymns, musical selections and tributes to the deceased. Personal, fraternal and religious tributes to the deceased may properly be included, as well as music which may provide comfort to those who attend. The memorial service is of the deceased and for those who live on. It is held at your church, our funeral home or even in your own home. It provides an alternate time for relatives, friends and associates to express their personal thoughts and support. Our services include helping you make all the necessary arrangements for the disposition of the body of the deceased as well as for the memorial service. If you have other questions, feel free to call.

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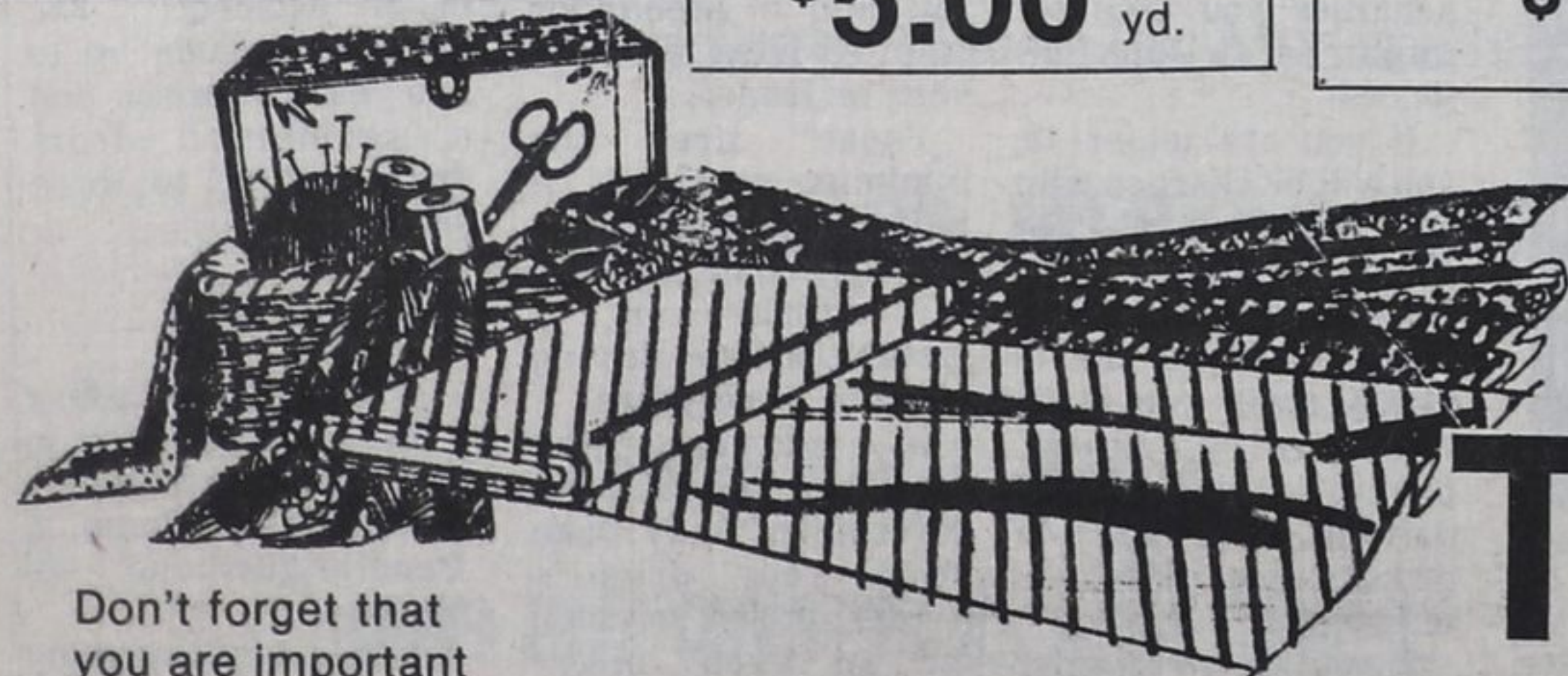
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