

GARDEN GUIDE

Prepare Now For A New Lawn

JOHN BRADSHAW

The frequent rains of this summer have provided ideal soil conditions for sowing or sodding a new lawn in the next few weeks. Best period for sowing grass is the thirty day period between the middle of August and the 15th of September. Sodding can be done from now until the middle of October.

Grass seed sown in late summer copies the way grasses grow in nature. The wild grass seed of Southern Ontario usually ripens and falls to the ground during the month of July. There they lie dormant until about the middle of August when they germinate readily as the days gradually become cooler and the rains become more frequent.

Seed sown in late summer has another important advantage. It doesn't have to compete with crab grass and the various broadleaf weeds.

For many years the wild Kentucky blue grass has been used to produce a good lawn that requires only moderate care. It originally came from Europe but no one knows for sure how it got its start in North America. It's certain that familiar European grasses were brought by the early settlers to plant the pastures of their newly cleared land. Others immigrated as seed in hay and bedding. As far as anyone knows, that's how Kentucky blue grass got its start on this side of the Atlantic.

One of the beauties of various types of Kentucky blue grass is their greenness in the fall. In mild autumns this greenness will persist until early in December.

Plant breeders have recently developed new strains of the blue and other grasses that look very promising but at the moment the best lawn seed mixture is one containing at least 40 to 50 percent Marion Kentucky bluegrass combined with a modern fine-leaved fescue such as Pennlawn.

Let's suppose that you have an old lawn that's in poor shape. Does it pay to try and save it? The latest research shows that if your lawn contains at least a 50 percent covering of old grass plants there's a better than average chance of renovating it.

Now the first class nursery grown sod is available all season long serious consideration should be given to sodding and having an instant lawn. The extra cost of the sod must be weighed against having to wait for at least two months before you have a useable lawn.

Regardless of whether you seed or sod a new lawn, the preparation isn't the same. You'll need to thoroughly mix with the top eight inches of soil a fair quantity of humus and fertilizer. For humus you can use composted cattle manures, peat moss, discarded mushroom manure or material from the home compost heap. Unless otherwise recommended by the distributor, the humus should be applied at the rate of six bushels per 100 square feet, on very poor soils you'll need to step up the amount to as much as ten bushels for the same area.

As far as fertilizer is concerned, the element we're most concerned with in preparing the seed bed for a new lawn is phosphorus. It's usually sold as superphosphate. This is the plant food element that promotes a strong root growth for grass plants. Once they've developed a good root system they'll automatically produce a good turf above ground. I'd recommend that you apply the superphosphate at the rate of 50 pounds per thousand square feet of prospective lawn area. In addition, apply a complete lawn fertilizer high in nitrogen and low in potash and phosphorus at the rate suggested by the manufacturer.

Work the top 5 inches of the soil, the fertilizer and the humus thoroughly together using rotary tillage equipment. A seed bed worked more deeply than this will usually settle very unevenly. Rotary tillers can be rented from rental agencies or garden centres.

It's almost impossible to apply the fertilizer evenly at the suggested rate without using a top-notch spreader. When you buy one of these, don't count your pennies but buy the best machine on the market. You'll be using the spreader for years and it will need to stand frequent use and hard work. Furthermore, it must be an accurate one to apply the new light-weight lawn foods which require a small amount of fertilizer to be spread over a fairly wide area. Another reason for buying a first class spreader is that you'll be able to use it for sowing the grass seed as well.

After the soil, fertilizer and humus have been thoroughly worked together it will need raking several times and levelling with a drag. Raking settles the soil down and removes any debris such as stones, bones or sticks. A drag is used to take the bumps and hollows out of the surface of the lawn. You can use a piece of two by four or one of the sections of an extension ladder for this purpose. It takes two people for this necessary operation. You work the drag across the surface of the lawn in exactly the same way as you would a piece of wet concrete. This is the only satisfactory time to get rid of the bumps and hollows in the lawn.

No economy is achieved in buying a cheap lawn grass mixture. It needs to be sown at the rate of 5 pounds of seed per thousand square feet. On the other hand, a first class mixture needs only to be sown at the rate of two to three pounds for the same area. In a nutshell, this means that the expensive seed mixtures are actually the cheapest.

An even seeding can only be done by using either a fertilizer spreader or a cyclone-type spreader. Evenness is best brought about by dividing the seed in half and sowing one part in one direction and the other at right angles to it.

After the seed is sown rake the soil lightly using only the tips of the rake teeth. Make sure you cover the seed about one eighth of an inch deep. Grass seed needs a fair amount of light in order to germinate well.

Right after seeding gently soak the newly sown area using the finest possible spray from the hose. Be prepared to water every day unless rainfall is plentiful. Grass seed that is allowed to become dry will almost certainly fail to germinate enough to provide adequate turf.



A Centennial Farm In Whitchurch

STOUFFVILLE — The Hastings family farm needs little introduction to long-time residents of Whitchurch Township. The property, located at lot 3, concession 7, has been retained through four generations, dating as far back as 1854. A Junior Farmer's centennial sign is prominently displayed at the laneway entrance.

It was 113 years ago that John Hastings purchased 100 acres on what is correctly described as the east half of lot 3, concession 6. He was married to Maria Orr and they had ten children. Two sons became famous Toronto physicians. Dr. Charles Hastings held the position of Minister of Health for nineteen years from 1910 to 1929. He had the distinction of introducing pasteurization of milk and the purification of water to Toronto. As Public Health Administrator, he was without peer on this continent. Roland, an older brother, took over the farm.

Captain Roland B. Hastings was a community-minded man. He was a Justice of the Peace and for some time, the President of the Conservative Association of North York. He had three sons and one daughter. One son, Elgin R. Hastings, became a noted Toronto physician and inspired his only son, Dr. John F. Hastings to follow in his footsteps. At present, he is a professor at the University of Toronto and travels to the capitals of the world in the interest of public health and hygiene.

Stanley W. Hastings, a younger son, carried on the family farm and like his father, Roland, has shown a keen interest in politics and the Conservative Party. As well as farming, he has entered the field of real estate in recent years. There are two daughters and one son in the family. Helen Hastings Morningstar is a graduate of Household Economics at Toronto University and is now the National Food Chairman of the Canadian Association of Consumers; Journal Director of the Canadian Dietetic Association and a member of the Ontario Economic Council on Tourism.

Elgin Hastings, an only son, is the fourth generation to farm the home acres. His main interest is in his fine herd of Holsteins and the work of the Department of Agriculture.

It is interesting to note that among the families of four generations, were nine graduates to the Toronto medical profession.

South Ontario Match, Batty Farm, Brooklin

BROOKLIN — The directors of the South Ontario Plowmen's Association met in Brooklin, on Friday, August 4, to make plans for their annual plowing match. Mr. John Batty, President, was in charge of the meeting.

The South Ontario Plowing Match will be held at the farm of Mr. W. F. Batty & Son, Brooklin, on Wednesday, October 4.

The following committees were appointed: Lands Committee: Chairman — John Batty, Lorne McCoy, Robert Baird, Heber Down, Gordon Hanna, Joe Tran.

Banquet and Program Committee: Chairman — John Batty, Joe Tran, Lorne McCoy.

Canvassing Committee: Murray Dunkeld, Pickering Township; Bert Guthrie, Whitby Township; Heber Down, Whitby Township; Gordon Corner, East Whitby Township; and Jim Lee, Reach Township.

The Junior Plowing Match will be held on Saturday, September 23 at 10:00 a.m. at the farm of W. F. Batty & Son Brooklin. The committee in charge of the Junior Match is: Chairman — John Batty, Jim Lee, Vernon Powell, Joe Tran, Donald Dunkeld and Bob Malcolm.

At the Junior Match this year, mounted plows will be used, and the Juniors are asked to bring their own equipment. However, if contestants wish to have equipment supplied, they should get in touch with any member of the Junior Plowing Match Committee.

A feature of the Junior Plowing Match this year will be a Queen of the Fur-

row class. This competition is open to farm girls, living on the farm, between the ages of 16 and 24, married or single. A number of plowmen from Ontario County are already planning to take part in the various classes at the International Plowing Match in Simcoe County, October 10 to 14.

You'll notice a big difference this year at the

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Seagrams Calcade of Canadian Art. Here are 300 works by 62 Canadian artists... sculptures, graphics, watercolours, oil paintings, and charcoal.

Canada 2000. Take a peek at what's in store for you in the year 2000! You'll see talking pens, 3-D movies, teaching computers, electric cars and talking typewriters!

Century of Progress Building. A lesson in Canada's history. See the past, move into the present, then right out into the future!

North America's only International Air Show—Sept. 1 and 2. Watch the RCAF's famed Golden Centennaires slice the sky with daring aerobatics... see thrilling solo flight of RCAF's "Red Knight!"

CNE Historical Pageant. Watch a daily re-enactment of Gov. Simcoe's establishing of the city of York. See how our forefathers lived in pioneer days.

Farming 1867-1967. Review a century of Canadian Farming Progress... see the amazing Antique and Modern Farm Equipment Show plus "Old MacDonald's Farm."

Special Sunday Events.

International Centennial Track Meet—Sunday, Aug. 20. Many of the world's great track stars—direct from European meets and the Pan-American Games. Russian Gymnastic Team will perform on the infield. At the Grandstand. Time: 1:00 p.m. Admission: \$1.00, \$2.00, \$3.00. FREE admission to grounds.

Billy Graham Free Centennial Crusade—Sunday, Sept. 3. See and hear Billy Graham at the Centennial Crusade in the CNE Grandstand. 2000 voice choir. Time: 3:00 p.m. FREE admission to grounds.

Two Spectacular Evening Grandstand Shows

FIRST WEEK: August 19-26. JACK ARTHUR presents "THIS CANADA" starring LORNE GREENE, ART LINKLETTER, and PERCY FAITH. Other Features: RCMP MUSICAL RIDE, MARY LOU COLLINS, THE FIVE BELLES, MIDGE ARTHUR's world-famous CANADIAN, HOWARD CABLE and the 60-piece CNE ORCHESTRA. SHOWTIME: 8:30 p.m. Rain or Shine (over 10,000 covered seats). PRICES: \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50.

SECOND WEEK: August 28-September 4. THE CANADIAN ARMED FORCES TATTOO. See 300 years of Canadian military history pass right before your eyes... a cast of 1700... massed bands... colourful period uniforms... precision drills. It's the experience of a lifetime! SHOWTIME: 8:30 p.m. PRICES: \$2.50, \$3.50, \$4.50.

HELL DRIVERS—AFTERNOON GRANDSTAND SHOW Aug. 21-Sept. 2. Daredevil driving stunts, crashes, auto clowns, 70-ft. leaps, plus many variety acts. It's a show for the entire family. Prices: Children: 50¢; Students: \$1.00; Adults: \$1.50. SHOWTIME: 2:00 p.m.

Every Day is Camera Day at the CNE!

Farm Tribune

Farm Compensation Costs High

Making Ontario farms safer places to work is a continuing project of the Workmen's Compensation Board now that full coverage of the estimated two million farm workers is well established and functioning smoothly.

The benefits of farm safety received added stress during the period from July 23 to July 29, which was marked as Farm Safety Week across Canada. The Workmen's Compensation Board works closely with the Farm Safety Council of Ontario in its farm safety promotions.

The importance of compensation protection is evident in the Board's expenditures on injured farm workers during the year-and-a-half that compulsory coverage of the industry has been in effect. During 1966, the Board paid compensation claims for wages lost, due to injury as well as medical treatment and rehabilitation to a total cost of \$996,260. The payments involved coverage for 3,586 accidents, 14 of which were fatal. In the first six months of the current year, compensation costs have already reached \$813,000—close to the full year cost for 1966.

The increase in expenditures reflects both the broader coverage of the farm industry and the carry-over of continuing commitments (death benefits to survivors and total or partial disability payments) incurred during 1966.

Almost 30,000 farm employers in Ontario are now registered with the Workmen's Compensation Board. Under the regulations amended on July 1, 1966, all farm operators employing labor are required to register with the Compensation Board and to participate in the program.

The Workmen's Compensation Board has always emphasized the support and sponsorship of safety programs in the industries it covers. It is now placing similar stress on farm safety, as indicated in close co-operation with the Farm Safety Council of Ontario.

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