

Farm

Tribune

Conditions right for spraying weeds

A. A. Wall, Agricultural Representative for York County, Newmarket.

Next week ought to be weed spraying week by somebody. Conditions right now are just right for chemicals to do their best job. The weeds are small, growing quickly and very susceptible to the action of the weed killers. Best of all, weed damage to the crop hasn't been really serious, up to this stage.

Give these weeds another week or two, and they will be giving the crop a good battle for plant food and moisture. They will be harder to kill, and mechanical damage to the crop is more serious too, if spraying is delayed until the crop is a foot or two high.

So, there is no argument as one-sided, as the one for spraying grain when it's in the two to three leaf stage. By the time ragweed looks like ragweed, or mustard is in flower, the best time for spraying is long since gone.

The same, earlier the better, principle goes for spraying corn. Atrazine has a better chance now than it will a week from now. If spraying is delayed until the weeds are up nicely, the risk of the "last chance for a kill" passing by, in the middle of a week that's too wet, too windy or too busy for doing the job is too great.

2, 4-D is still the best bargain in crop production business. It's cost is repaid many times over in better yields. M.C.P. has a place in dirty fields of oats, and embutox is for fields seeded down if the owner has any respect for legumes.

Kill-Mor with dicamba can be the answer for serious bind-weed, Canada Thistle or sow thistle problems, and Tropotox is for red clover seedlings.

Sutan is a new chemical that we hope will fix fox-tail and crabgrass problems in corn. It is a chemical that has to be worked into the soil within ten minutes of being applied. Atrazine is still the best general purpose material for corn, and if the weeds get up before spraying, adding oil is a real help.

Somewhere in the spray

Petunias are hardy types

By John Bradshaw  
Nearly everyone likes petunias. This free-flowering annual is Canada's most popular garden flower.

The reasons for this are not too hard to find. They will provide any part of the garden with a big and lasting splash of color.

Varieties in a wide color range are available for beds, borders, foundation plantings, rock gardens, window boxes, hanging baskets or containers around patios and outdoor living areas.

I don't know of a garden flower that's more easily grown or more persistent in providing continuous bloom from June until late in the autumn. Few other flowers will stand drought, long rainy spells insect pests and diseases as well as petunias.

Petunias like the sun, but they'll perform quite well in partially shaded locations. They prefer ordinary soil conditions rather than fairly rich ones. With plenty of moisture they'll even give a good show of bloom when grown in poor soil. One light feeding with a complete garden fertilizer just after the plants have been set in the ground is sufficient.

About the only thing detrimental you could say about petunias is that the seed is very fine, and because of this, the beginner to gardening, or the average home gardener, will find it hard to start his own plants. Best plan for most people is to buy started plants ready for setting out in the garden around the 24th of May. It's true petunias will stand the effects of a light frost without harm, and could be planted around the middle of May or earlier.

Nevertheless, the plants season, a tank full for the fence rows and around the buildings probably pays off as well as any spray that puts on.

won't start growing vigorously until the soil and air temperatures warm up in late May, so nothing is gained, rushing the season.

Anyone wishing a mass of color in the garden all summer long should choose members of the multiflora group of petunias.

Multiflora means many blooms, and all the varieties belonging to this class provide quantities of flowers from early June until frost.

The best petunia I've ever grown is still Coral Satin, the 1961 All-America winner. The blooms open to a deep cherry or coral red in color, which gradually changes to a coral rose. They don't fade like many other petunias. The 12-inch, evenly mounded plants cover themselves with continuous bloom from the middle of June until late in the autumn. You'll like the way Coral Satin hugs and spreads out along the ground.

Sugar blues and Purple Plum or both new colors in this same multiflora group to which the well known variety Sugar Plum also belongs. If you've ever grown Sugar Plum, you know how compact is its form, how weather-proof its blooms and how wonderfully it succeeds anywhere, anytime.

Sugar Blues is a lavender blue version of Sugar Plum. The centres of the flowers are a deep lavender blue with the coloring becoming lighter as it reaches the edges of the petals. Deep, violet-blue, pencil-fine veining lends a two-tone effect and great distinction to this petunia.

Plants grow 12 to 15 inches high and need spacing 12 to 18 inches apart.

Purple Plum has a rich, warm, reddish plum shade which not only adds a great deal of charm anywhere in the garden, but is excellent for flower arrangements.



Stately mansion in Whitchurch

This stately mansion is situated high on a hill overlooking Don Mills Road south of Vandorf. The owner, Mr. John Sikura, Jr., has a 51-acre estate on which he breeds race horses, some of them valued at \$50,000. Mr. Sikura is presently leading a group of ratepayers opposing the proposed establishment of a drive-in theatre nearby.

Sod for instant lawn fast & successful

Sodding is the fastest and often the most successful method of establishing a lawn, say horticulturists with the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food. In addition to using sod to establish an "instant lawn", it is advisable to use sod when establishing grass on steep slopes. The sod will maintain soil on slopes which might otherwise erode away. Sod is best used when a lawn is to be established during the hot summer months. During this time it would be difficult to establish a lawn by any other method.

The area to be sodded should be carefully prepared in the same manner as a seed bed. The soil should be thoroughly cultivated, and all stones and debris raked off the bed. It is important that there be no depressions on the soil surface to act as air pockets after the sod is laid. Leveling by raking or dragging with straight-edge planks are two methods used to eliminate these depressions. Further recommendations on soil preparation may be found in the Ontario Department of Agriculture and Food Publication 448, Lawns.

As the cost of sod is high, buy only high-quality, weed-free sod

from reputable growers. Mixtures containing merion bluegrass or Kentucky bluegrass, and creeping red fescue are best for home lawns. The cheaper, poorer grasses, and the more expensive bent grasses should be avoided, as they do not provide satisfactory home lawns.

An application of 30 pounds per 1,000 square feet of 5-20-20 analysis fertilizer prior to sodding prepares the bed for the sod, and will promote fast root formation. It should be worked into the top six inches of the soil. Watering the soil at least once a day before sodding provides moisture for the roots of the sod, and will promote faster establishment of the new lawn.

Sod is laid so that the sods fit together perfectly, without being packed too tightly against one another. The sod can be rolled using a garden roller, half full of water. This will push the sods firmly into place, and level the surface of the lawn. Any spaces between the sods may be filled by raking in a small amount of topsoil. The turf will soon spread into this new topsoil, and provide an even grass cover in a few weeks. The sod is watered thoroughly after it has been rolled.

Do not walk over the sod once it has been watered, as a person's weight will be enough to move the sods out of position.

The sodded lawn will establish faster in spring and fall than in midsummer. Sod can be established in midsummer, if watered properly. One and one-quarter inches of water,

once every ten days, is sufficient under dry conditions. Water should be applied only as the soil requires it under less dry conditions.

The people who could really be said to be living off the fat of the land are those who operate reducing salons.

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