

Ask Us What To Do

A page for the discussion of intimate problems on turf culture and plant growth. We are an international authority on these subjects. Send in your questions—your name will not be used.

FLOWER AND VEGETABLE GARDENS

My neighbors' flower and vegetable gardens are always prime, and mine invariably poor. I realize his soil is much better than mine. Is there any simple method of making the good garden be his?

It is more than likely you both have the same soils with which to work but his probably is in much better physical shape than yours. Sufficiently well rotted manure, worked deep and thoroughly into the soil, will make physical conditions good.

Your garden should then be divided into two parts. In one, grow plants from which you wish foliage such as lettuce or foliage for decorative purposes. This section must have feedings heavy in nitrogen and with comparatively small amounts of phosphorus and potash.

The balance of your garden you will wish to mature rapidly, producing bloom and fruits such as peas, beans or berries. Feedings for this section must be reversed, the nitrogen light and the phosphorus and potash comparatively heavy. With your soil in good physical condition from well-rotted manure (never fresh) or other good organic matter, thoroughly decayed, balanced fertilization will more than likely develop a better garden than your neighbor has. (Ohio)

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GETTING RID OF MOSS

My turf on shaded parts of the lawn, has been poor and has been replaced largely by moss. Will applications of lime in the spring help to get rid of the sour soil? In the past, lime seems to have helped but little.

Lime will be of but little benefit in this case. It is doubtful if this particular soil is acid. If not under trees, it is more than likely that this portion of your lawn has been overwatered. Unless these shaded portions are supplied with tile drainage to carry away surplus water, sprinkle only when the soil, to a depth of three inches is known to require water.

Cut a plug to find if the soil is dry. If moisture is needed, water deep, once a week. If lime is necessary, put twenty-five pounds of hydrated lime in a barrel, direct a stream from the hose upon it and let it run until you have a barrel of lime water. Let it settle and apply this lime water to the lawn lavishly. If lime is needed, good results will be immediate. Use the same lime repeatedly. (New York)

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PLANTS ARE UNDERNOURISHED

The bloom in my flower garden which ordinarily lasts for quite a while, fell off early this year. Can this condition be helped in any way?

Your plants were probably in an exposed place and may have had more than their share of heat from the sun. It is possible that they were undernourished not having a sufficiently heavy feeding and balance of phosphorus and potash to harden the plant for hot weather. Extreme heat is probably the real cause for their short life. (Ohio)

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REMAKING A LAWN

The soil from which our lawn was made, came from the cellar excavation. It is hard and we find it impossible to grow any sort of turf upon it. Can it ever produce a lawn?

This is the source of soil for most of our lawns. If it is the average of such soils, the lawn should be torn up and entirely remade. Halfway measures will not be sufficient. If it is small enough to dig by hand, have it spaded to a depth of at least five inches, breaking up all clods as it is spaded. Cover this with at least two pounds of thoroughly rotted manure or fine commercial humus to each square foot, mixing carefully with the top five inches of the soil.

At the same time, one pound of superphosphate should be applied to each one hundred square feet. Rake carefully to original grade and seed with a mixture of blue grass, white clover and very little

CREEPING BENT TURF WITHSTANDS HEAT WAVE

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rye grass, early in September. Put one-half of the seed on at that time and the other half, apply later in the winter while the soil is more or less open from freezing, rolling lightly after each seeding when the soil is dry enough not to pack. This procedure should give you the start for a permanent lawn. Deep watering, after rootage is established, not more than twice a week, should assure your turf.

(Tennessee)

BONE MEAL AS A FERTILIZER

Should bone meal be used for fertilization of fairways and greens at time of construction and annually after construction is completed?

Bone meal is a calcium phosphate, practically the same, chemically and containing approximately the same percentage of phosphorus as phosphate rock. Phosphate rock, treated with an equal amount of sulphuric acid, produces superphosphate. It is of value for the phosphorus it contains. Before the phosphorus in bone meal can become available, carbonic acid in the soil air or the gases and acids from organic decay, must break bone meal down, much as sulphuric acid reduces the phosphate rock in making superphosphate. This will take years. Superphosphate in which the phosphoric acid is at once available is far superior to bone meal.

(Ohio)

Trade News About Turf Culture

SPENCER, IOWA

A state park for Clay county in the beautiful wooded lands along the Little Sioux River immediately south of the town of Peterson appeared assured this week as it was learned that the board of conservation, members of which inspected the site recently, had agreed to accept approximately 235 acres of land and convert it into a park for the use of the public.

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NEW YORK CITY, N. Y.

Richard M. Lederer, president of the Standard National Corporation, building construction and mortgage bankers, has purchased a large estate in Westchester County. He has bought, through William J. Yates and the Dodds Associates, as brokers, the place at Pleasantville known as "Hardscrabble Farm."

The estate contains 140 acres of land and a seven-acre lake fronting 1,800 feet on Hardscrabble Road. It was sold by Fritz J. Frank, president of United Publishers, Inc.

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ATHENS, GEORGIA

Construction of a modern airport in Athens and Clarke County will likely begin within the next few weeks, with the city council and county commissioners appearing favorable to the proposition.

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ESCANABA, MICH.

Representatives of the parks division of the state department of conservation and the national parks service stopped off in Escanaba while on tour of the various state parks in the upper peninsula, where improvements are being made by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

They were: S. W. Olcott, Chicago, who is inspecting the various park improvement programs to determine whether these are eligible for federal aid; R. M. Schenck, Lansing, assistant superintendent of state parks; and R. B. Herrick, Lansing, member of the Emergency Conservation Work staff, who are laying out the programs of work.

ASTORIA, WASH.

The port of Astoria requested the county court for a deed to a large tract of land on Youngs bay, with provision that the port develop it as an airport.

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SAINT LOUIS, MO.

The East St. Louis Park District has applied for Federal aid to assist in financing its \$1,030,000 improvement project at Lake Park, near East St. Louis.

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COLUMBIA CITY, IND.

Word was received recently from sponsors of the Whitley-Noble County State Park, who are now in Indianapolis, that the proposed bond issue of \$70,000 should be advertised to finance the park.

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DEARBORN, MICH.

At the regular meeting of the council the Dearborn Kiwanis club was authorized to proceed with the acquiring of as much land as possible, either through grants or exchange for other land for the proposed new Ford park, which is to extend from Brady street to Military avenue along the banks of the Rouge River.

In charge of the Kiwanis project is Harry Vicary and Jamie L. Johnson, both of whom have been working with city officials on the plan ever since its inception nearly a year ago.

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AKRON, OHIO

First step toward getting city support and federal finances for a projected park in the Airport area west of the port service road and near Washington boulevard, has been taken by club women and members of city council.

A meeting was held late Wednesday in Mayor C. Nelson Sparks' office, where Mrs. W. W. Milar and Mrs. H. B. Diefenbach presented the idea.