

THAT LOOKS EASY

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of fungicide. It's apparent at this point that the living room carpet is looking like a much better option and the conversation usually dwindles to something like, "Really? That much for a mower, huh?"

Another question I am often asked is "What kind of fertilizer should I use? Every time I fertilize, I burn my lawn." I explain that burning a lawn is not the result of the material you choose, but rather the application technique, or lack of it in this case, that results in the call to 911. Most all fertilizers have

the potential to burn because they are salts. To compensate for the salts contained in fertilizer, the lawn should be well watered prior to the fertilizer application, as well as after. It is equally important that the material is applied evenly over the entire area. Too much fertilizer equals a high concentration of salts, and there is no amount of water that will put that fire out. "That's interesting," they say. "Salts, huh?"

Then there's always the classic "How do I get rid of crabgrass in my lawn?" My response, of course, is: "Well, it's likely not crab-

grass, but a warm season grass called kikuyu." I go on to explain that this is a variety that originated in Africa and was first used to stabilize the banks along the ocean. Kikuyu is very well adapted to the central coast and is virtually impossible to control once established. I suggest the most effective temporary control is to spray the entire area with Roundup, reseed or sod the area, and then count the days until it returns. A six-month calendar is usually all that is required. They mumble, "Africa, huh?"

I guess the moral of stories like these, if there is one,

is that nothing is ever as easy as it looks, even simple things like maintaining a putting green, fertilizing a lawn, and controlling crabgrass. Next question please.

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