

## Grau's Questions/Answers

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strains or types, some of which are weak and highly susceptible to diseases. Some turn purple when cold weather comes; some stay green most of the winter. Some strains get so fluffy and matted that they turn brown when a vertical mower is passed over the green. Clover easily invades weak grasses but rarely is a problem in a strong grass that is well fed and well managed. Once clover becomes established, it absorbs more than its share of nutrients.

One step to take is to prepare the green and overseed (or hydroseed) with Penncross — then manage for Penncross.

Another step is to check your soil and your feeding program to learn if you are fertilizing to encourage clover. High phosphorus and insufficient nitrogen can encourage clover at the expense of the grass.

If clover is encroaching in isolated patches you can treat these with a sharp edging tool and some sulfate of ammonia. First chop the clover in different directions to make "hash" out of it. Then sprinkle sulfate of ammonia crystals on the clover patch and let it "cook" until the clover is visibly affected. Now water the sulfate in to stop further burning. Topdress the patch with sandy topdressing in which one-half lb. of Penncross bent seed has been mixed into one bushel of soil.

Be sure that the greens receive sufficient nitrogen to keep them vigorous. Phosphorus levels

should be low to medium. It would help if you would forward a copy of your most recent soil tests. My address is PO Box 177, College Park, Md.

### Starting from Scratch

**Q.** I am teaching a beginner course on lawns in an evening school. What are the most important items to stress in 1) building a lawn, 2) maintaining a lawn? (Ohio)

**A.** In building a new lawn these are the important steps, in order:

1. Drainage
2. Deep tillage
3. Generous supplies of lime and plant food incorporated deeply
4. Selection of the best adapted grass for the location and purpose
5. Protect new planting from drying and erosion by mulching.
6. Start to mow at correct height as soon as there is anything to mow.

Maintenance of the lawn is concerned with:

1. Regular mowing at correct height for the grass that is established, using a sharp mower
  2. Removal of clippings
  3. Water deeply as needed at long intervals.
  4. Regular fertilization to maintain quality
- This is a rough outline that can be expanded considerably.

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