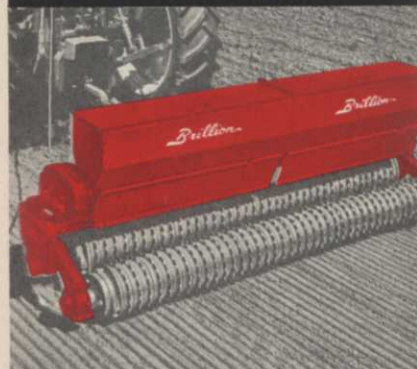




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Three weeks after planting Tifton dwarf bermudagrass, a dense mat of entwined turf begins to form on the course left level by the automatic sprig planter.

ammonium nitrate, or another fast-release form of nitrogen is needed. This additional nitrogen assures fast-growing and healthy turf. About four weeks after planting, we find it worth while to apply an extra 400 pounds of 5-10-15 per acre.

To determine the amounts of lime needed in the soil, it is best to have the soil tested. For bermudagrass, soil pH should range from 5.5 to 7.0. However, if your soil is below pH 6.0 (acidic) then lime applications are advisable. Usually one ton of lime per acre is adequate, and it can be applied before the fertilizer and should be harrowed 3 or 4 inches deep.

Grass should be irrigated within the first hour after it is planted and the soil kept moist continuously for two weeks.

The best planting time for bermudagrass is from March 1 to



Tifton dwarf bermudagrass sprigs were rolled immediately after being planted leaving the soil smooth and uncut.

Natural Gas Harmless to Trees

In the article entitled "How to Diagnose Tree Diseases," WTT May '66, there appeared on page 28, a statement to the effect that heavy concentrations of natural gas is one of the factors which usually results in sudden death of a tree. Also in the same paragraph it was stated that natural gas leaks will make trees become progressively weaker over a period of years.

Dr. Pirone, who is listed as one of the co-authors of this article, advised the publisher that he is not in agreement with these statements and that on the contrary, he has on numerous occasions gone on record in support of the position that natural gas does not affect trees.

November 1 in the Deep South, and April 15 to September 1 in the Middle South. Bermudas planted too late may suffer winter kill, and those planted too early may rot in the cold soil before they take root. Extremely late or early plantings are risks that always should be avoided.

30 Graduate From PSU Turfgrass Course

Representatives from 10 states and 2 Canadian provinces made up the graduating class of 30 students who completed work this spring in the Pennsylvania State University Turfgrass Management Winter Course.

Since the first course started in 1957, over 80% of the graduates have found employment in turf maintenance or a related field. The Turfgrass Management Winter Course consists of two eight-week terms a year in each of two years. Six-month summer periods between the second and third terms are used for on-the-job training.

Individuals with turf maintenance experience are given priority in admission to the course. High school graduates are also

given priority, but non-graduates are considered eligible if they are over 21 years old with at least three-years' experience. Approximate cost of tuition, room and board, and books is \$1700 for state residents and \$2225 for out-of-staters.

Applications for the next course, beginning Oct. 10, are now being received. For a brochure describing the course and an application blank for admission, write Director of Short Courses, Room 206, Armsby Bldg., University Park, Penn. 16802.

Five Tips for Better Turf Management

Effective chemical control of lawn diseases is a must, but the best way to grow healthy grass is to follow a few simple rules that will prevent disease from getting a foothold, Emroy Shannon, plant pathologist with New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service advises.

He outlines five turf management practices that will help avoid lawn disease problems.

1. Select an adapted variety grass when planting turf. As an example, Shannon points out that bermudagrass grows best in southern New Mexico, while bluegrass does well in the northern part of the state but poorly in the southern part.

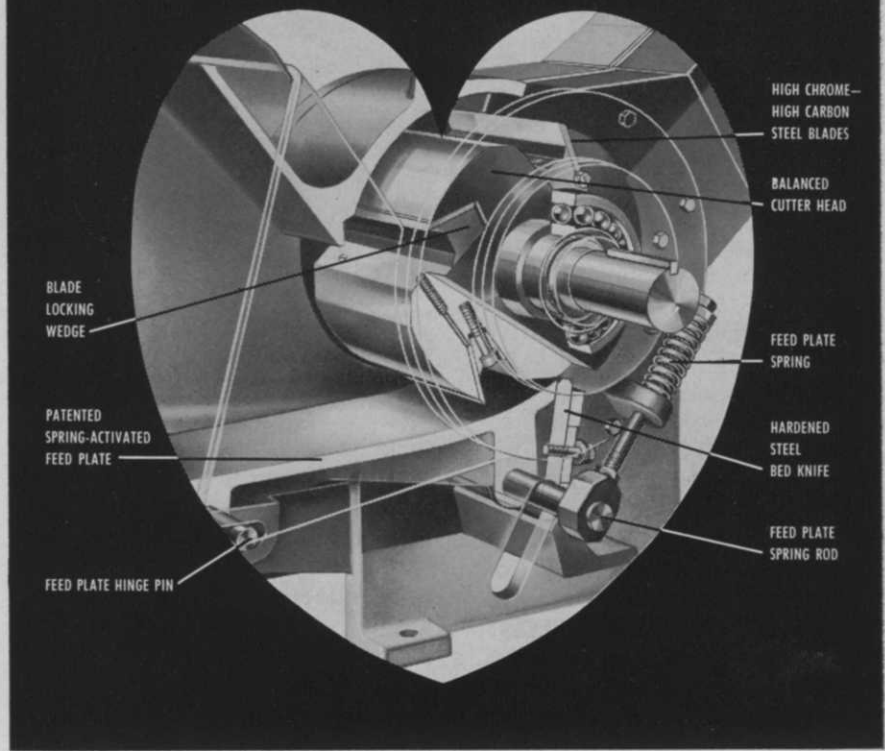
2. Fertilize to keep grass growing vigorously, but avoid too much nitrogen, which causes grass to grow too fast and become weak.

3. Let the grass start to wilt before watering, and then water enough to soak the soil 6 inches or more. Shannon notes that light, daily waterings set up ideal conditions for disease.

4. Do not allow clippings to accumulate. These provide food for fungus diseases and keep the turf humid, a condition that fosters disease.

5. Mow turf before it gets too tall. And then cut off no more than one-half of the leaf surface at one mowing.

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