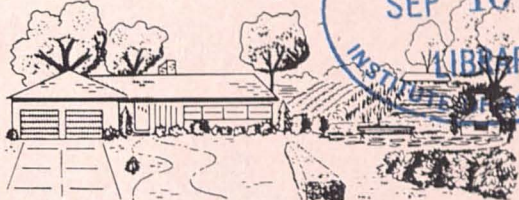


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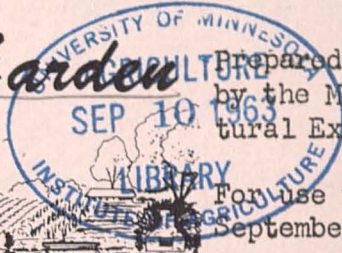
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Yard 'n' Garden



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SODDING A LAWN

Sodding a lawn has become as popular as seeding, partly because of better sod sources and of equipment-cut sod. For many years pasture sod was the primary source, but today most named varieties of grasses can be obtained from commercial sod growers.

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One of the fallacies of using sod to start a lawn is that soil preparation is not necessary. The fact is that unless good soil preparation precedes sodding, many of the problems of growing turf will still persist.

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Success in growing turf depends on a good soil base, adapted varieties or kinds of grasses and moisture. Heavy soils and sandy soils will benefit from a good application of organic matter. Commercial peat and peaty soil, rotted barnyard manure and compost may be used. Where a soil test isn't available, apply 40-50 pounds of a complete fertilizer such as 12-12-12 for each 1,000 square feet of area. Work the organic matter and fertilizer in to a depth of 6 inches.

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The soil should be leveled, then rolled and re-rolled before sodding.

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For heavy soil use Kentucky bluegrass. For shady or sandy soil use a combination of fescue and bluegrass. Where a fescue combination is not available in sod, the fescue seed can be oversown at 1 pound per 1,000 square feet.

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Sod strips should be laid tightly to avoid drying out of the sod. A top-dressing of soil can be made over the seams to help seal out the air.

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Regular watering is necessary until the sod has knit to the base. Mow when necessary.

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