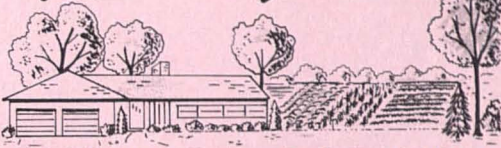


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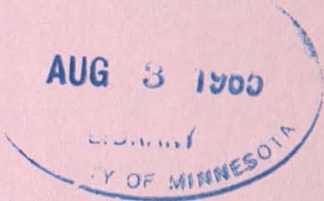
Yard 'n' Garden



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STARTING THE NEW LAWN

Mid-August is one of the better times for starting the new lawn because during this season there is less weed competition and the fall rains often help to get the seed started. The best time to seed a new lawn is between August 15 and September 10.

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Thorough soil preparation is especially important before starting a new lawn. Once the seed has been sown or the sod laid, there's very little that can be done to alter the base soil for the lawn.

Here are some suggestions for soil preparation. First, add organic matter to both sandy soils and the heavy clay soils. Good sources of organic matter include barnyard manure, compost or commercial peat. The organic matter should be worked into the upper 6-inch layer of the soil surface.

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Add 40 to 50 pounds of complete fertilizer such as the 10-10-10 analysis or 12-12-12 per 1,000 square feet. Most Minnesota soils do not need lime. However, if you don't know whether your soil is acid or alkaline, see your county agent about having a soil test.

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Use a good quality grass seed containing a high percentage of permanent grasses. Such grasses as Kentucky bluegrass are recommended for the heavier soils, whereas mixtures with fescue are better for the lighter soils and under shady conditions.

* * * *

Grass seed is usually sown on a firm seed bed. If the soil is very fluffy or loose from roto-tilling, it should be rolled prior to the seeding. The same would be true if sod were to be laid. When the grass is growing well, by the end of September you can make the first application of complete fertilizer.

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Mowing should usually begin when the grass is about three inches tall.

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