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Yard 'n' Garden



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RENOVATING THE LAWN

Late August or early September is a good time to renovate a poor lawn.

Before beginning this particular garden chore, find out, if possible, exactly what has caused the poor lawn. Has it been lack of fertilization? Is the soil poor? Is it infested with weeds, or does the lawn suffer from poor management practices?

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If the lawn is very thin, compacted and full of weeds, it may be better to work up the entire area and at the same time incorporate additional organic matter.

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Fertilizer should be worked in as the soil is being renovated. Use about 40 to 50 pounds of complete fertilizer such as a 10-10-10 analysis for each 1,000 square feet of lawn area.

After preparing the soil, firm the seed bed by rolling if it is very loose. Be sure the soil is level before seeding or sodding.

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If the lawn is just thin and the soil is in good condition, perhaps the trouble may be unadapted species of grasses. If the soil is very light, it may be advisable to do some over-seeding with fescue grass or to over-seed with a combination of Park variety bluegrass and Creeping Red Fescue grass. Fertilize at the same time. Use one of the non-burning type fertilizers at this season of the year. Good watering practices during the fall will help to develop the existing stolons and fill in the turf.

If broad-leaved weeds are troublesome, apply one of the lawn-type 2,4-D weed chemicals.

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Poor grass management is often the cause of poor lawns. Now is the time to alter the program and make any necessary corrections.

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