

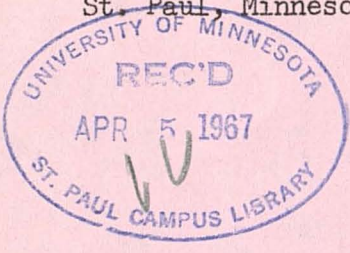
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# Yard 'n' Garden

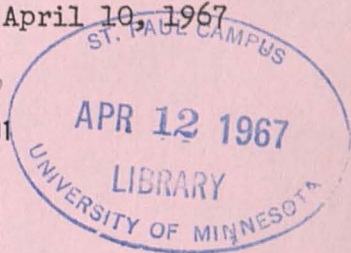
Prepared and distributed  
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For use week of  
April 10, 1967



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## STARTING A NEW LAWN

Many new home owners will be starting their new lawns this spring. A lawn can be started in spring either by seeding or sodding. If you choose to seed your lawn, it should be seeded between April 15 and May 10. Late seeding will often result in excessive weed competition.

\* \* \* \*

Whether you choose to seed the lawn or sod it, the same soil preparation is necessary. This includes leveling the subsoil and placing a good quality topsoil over the surface to a depth of approximately 6 inches. If you have not taken a soil test, incorporate 20 to 30 pounds of a 0-20-20 fertilizer into this upper 6-inch topsoil layer. After cultivating it, level the lawn area again and prepare it for seeding.

\* \* \* \*

The Kentucky bluegrasses are best for sunny lawns and heavier soils. If the lawn is to be used for a play area, addition of creeping red fescue grasses will help to improve the wearability. Seed mixtures for sunny lawns should contain from 60 to 80 percent of Kentucky bluegrasses. Other percentages are often made up of fescue grasses. The Park variety of Kentucky bluegrass will germinate quickly and give a quick turf cover. Where sod has been laid, it is often advisable to do some cover-seeding with creeping red fescue in order to improve the wearability.

\* \* \* \*

The shady lawn or one with a sandy soil should be seeded with 60 to 70 percent of the creeping red fescue and only 30 to 40 percent of the Kentucky bluegrasses.

\* \* \* \*

After you have seeded the lawn, water it regularly each day. Do not allow the surface to dry out at any time. Drying out will slow down the germination process and many of the seedlings will be lost.

\* \* \* \*

After sodding the lawn, be sure the seams are covered and firmly pressed together to prevent air from getting under the sod layer and causing it to dry out.

\* \* \* \*

Keep in mind that the newly seeded lawn is very tender. Careful use and careful management will be necessary throughout the season.

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