

REPAIR/FIX-UP

# Keep Your Lawn Growing

**A blade of grass...**  
What other inhabitant of Mother Nature's realm can spring back to life after being decapitated, starved, stomped, attacked by chemicals, insects, diseases and invaders?

**MOWING -- are there rules?**

Try not to let the lawn grow so high that more than 1/2 of the grass blade is lost at one mowing. New lawns may be mowed to 1 1/2 inches to keep the blades from shading each other and to prevent seed formation of annual weeds.

Set mowers higher in hot weather to help retain soil moisture. "Brown grass tips" are most likely bruises so do use a sharpened mower ... don't gnaw off the grass!

**CRABGRASS -- is there hope of fighting it?**

Crabgrass is tricky in more ways than one.

By the time you see it in your lawn in hot weather, you might as well admit that it is a little late for a proper war. Crabgrass seed, according to botanists, is capable of lying in wait for 20 years before sprouting. One plant can produce 185,000 seeds. Seeds germinate when minimum night temperatures are 55° or above.

So vow to plan a program of chemical treatment to inhibit the seeds from sprouting in the first place in late winter or early spring.

A lot of "crabgrass" fought by lawnskeepers is one of four look-alikes. Two seen before hot weather are yellow foxtail and barnyard (Panic) grass, and both succumb to the same pre-emergence treatment that controls crabgrass. Coarse fescue, a third imitator, is best dug out, as is so-called "silver crabgrass," the goosegrass pest that survives in hard-packed soils.

Once the enemy is identified, the fight is half won.

**WEEDKILLERS -- how can they be selective?**

Plants may be separated into two groups -- those sprouting with two leaves ... dandelions, beans, peas and plantain; and the monocotyledons or one-leaf sprouters ... grains, lawngrass, crabgrass, goosegrass.

Many weedkillers are capable of destroying one group while encouraging the other. Other chemical controls have the ability to destroy selectively within the group. The latter causes a problem when the villain, like coarse fescue, might be a relative of the good fellow you hope will remain, like lawngrass fescue, and certain treatment might do away with both.

A herbicide is an agent used to destroy or inhibit plant growth, and can do so by preventing the seed from sprouting or by preventing the plant from growing once it has sprouted. The insecticide chlordane, for

example, may have a herbicide action in a lawn. So follow directions on all garden chemicals.

**TOPSOIL -- Does it pay to buy it to spread over a weary lawn?**

Experts say it is wiser in the long run to follow a stepped-up feeding program to revitalize your own soil than to import another group of problems. Grass is most adaptable to different soils, but puts on its best show when a well thought-out maintenance program is followed through the season.

**MOSS in the lawn -- should we lime it?**

The presence of moss indicates a poor drainage area in terms of both moisture and air circulation, but it is true that the soil may show a slightly acid condition. Proper feeding of the lawn should correct the situation and ought to be tried before resorting to liming.

The green "moss" growing under trees is often algae, the fresh-water plant we fight in aquariums.

**LAWN BUGS AND PESTS -- how do we cope?**

Don't be too angry with the pests and bugs feasting on your lawn. There isn't a doubt in their little minds that you planted it for them.

When you follow a proper maintenance program and do away with an infestation of beetles and their grubs, you are also losing other pests.

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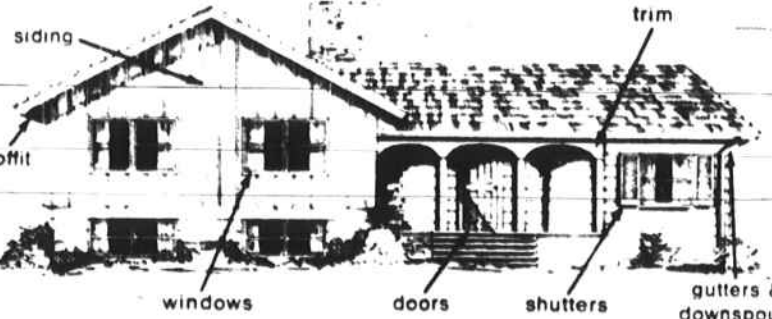
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Contemporary to crystal to rustic -- or perhaps your tastes run from the melting pot traditional to oriental, antique or the very popular ultra-new track lighting fixtures...

Any way you go, proper lighting makes a room appear more spacious, and runs the gamut from bold and adventuresome to cozy and secure. Paint the room mood with light.

There is really only one rule in choosing lighting fixtures, and that is to understand that all fixtures can be separated into two groups -- formal and informal. Variations within each group may be mixed at your discretion.

Is the lighting in your home a refugee from the horse 'n buggy days?

Most people generally plopp a lamp near every reading chair, put any two that match on end tables, turn on the overhead light and call that "decorating with light."

Home lighting experts agree that the use of five portable lamps in the living room -- two on end tables flanking a sofa or davenport, one each near two comfortable chairs plus one to serve a desk, piano, organ or TV and stereo grouping -- is the minimum for flexibility, better "seeing" conditions, and the accenting of focal points of interest.

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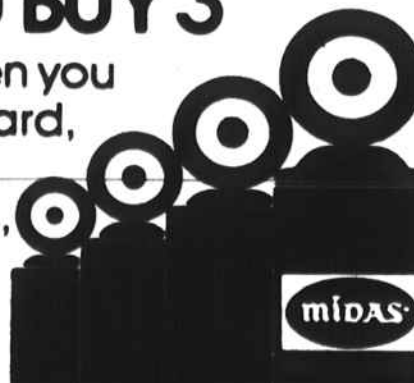
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