

# Ground Lime Application Is Secret of Good Lawns

The secret of obtaining a good lawn, especially in the mountainous section of Western North Carolina where the soil is inclined to be acid, generally lies in the application of plenty of ground agricultural lime, according to Floyd V. Miller, of Asheville, who has made a study of the lawn problem for a number of years.

Mr. Miller, manager of the seed department of the Farmers Federation's central warehouse in Asheville, believes that even the most stubborn lawn can be turned into a beautiful green sward if the owner is willing to take the trouble and assume the expense of giving it the proper treatment.

After answering thousands of questions such as: "What can I do to improve my lawn?" Mr. Miller has worked out two recipes—one for old lawns and the other for new lawns—which have proved successful.

"Kentucky blue grass and white Dutch clover," he points out, "make the most satisfactory and economical lawns. Both require sweet or alkaline soils and, as most Western North Carolina soil is acid, the addition of agricultural lime is nearly always necessary."

Mr. Miller advises the application of agricultural lime at the rate of about two tons to the acre, or

100 to 200 pounds to each 1,000 square feet.

"It should be worked into the ground before the seed is planted," he said, "or applied as a top dressing to old lawns. There will be no danger of burning if it is applied heavily."

If moss is present on a lawn, Mr. Miller suggests extra heavy applications of lime.

"Many soils," he continues, "are lacking in humus and will dry out, causing lawns to suffer."

"Some soils are heavy clay and are too sticky and heavy to work up well. They bake during hot weather and lawn failure results. Peat moss worked into such soils until a tightly pressed handful of dirt will crumble easily under pressure of the thumb will remedy these conditions. Old lawns top dressed yearly with fine pulverized peat moss will usually do well. One bale is usually about right for the average lawn."

"As previously mentioned, acid in soils destroys the natural growth of bacteria so necessary for many grasses. Lime sweetens the soil but does not replace the bacteria. Nature will attend to this in time but it has been found that sheep and goat manure are rich in this bacteria. In addition, the sheep manure furnishes humus and plant food and should be used at the rate of 100 pounds for each 100x100 feet—either mixed with soil before planting or as a top dressing early in the spring.

"Lawns should be fed continuously. Bone meal, because of its slow action is best as the main source of plant food. Some of it is available at once and the remainder feeds the lawn for as long as six months. Therefore, it is best to apply about three pounds to every 10x10 feet of lawn early in the spring and again in the fall. Supplement this with light sprinklings of a quick-acting fertilizer or regular 5-7-5 during rainy seasons in the summer, or apply lightly every six weeks during growing season and wet down well to prevent burning.

"Most people bothered with crab grass think that the seed is in the lawn mixture. This is rarely true, but it is in the ground or stable manure sometimes used. The best way to get rid of crab grass is by sowing blue grass heavy enough to choke it out and keeping the lawn cut.

"For a new lawn, break the ground, apply lime, peat moss, sheep manure and fertilizer. Mix and pulverize the ground thoroughly. Level the top surface and sow one pound of lawn grass to every 300 square feet. Roll or tramp tightly.

"Due to the tree roots continuously feeding from the surface of the ground, the grass in shady places is robbed of plant food. Use quick-acting fertilizers or 5-7-5 often, at least once each month during the growing season, and wet down thoroughly. Leaves and all trash should be removed as they tend to make the ground more acid if allowed to rot and become part of the soil."

## State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Q. How much space is needed for each beef animal in the feed lot?

A. From 90 to 100 square feet of yard and shelter should be provided for each mature animal and of this space about one-fourth should be shelter. About two and one-half to three feet of trough space should also be provided. Yearlings take about two-thirds as much yard and trough space as mature animals and calves can be grown out to 900 to 1,000 pounds weight in about half the space required for two year old animals. Horned cattle, especially the two-year old animals, require at least a half more rack and trough space as the polled or dehorned cattle.

Q. When purchasing baby chicks, what per cent of them should live?

A. There are many contributing factors to this, but when disease-free chicks are started and careful management practices are followed, about 90 per cent of the chicks are raised to 10 weeks of age. At this time the chicks enter into the growing stock age and other factors will have to be considered. Errors in management such as overcrowding,

chilling, over heating, poor ventilation and improper feeding will bring about heavy chick mortality. Germ borne infections also take a heavy toll of the young stock and precautions should be taken against this infection as well as improper management for best results.

Q. Is it necessary to use a hot-bed or coldframe in breeding sweet potatoes?

A. Where climatic conditions allow, the plants may be propagated in an open plant bed. Coldframes should be used when conditions will not allow open beds and hot-beds should be used when forcing early plants. The potatoes should be bedded in sand or light sandy soil obtained from areas where sweet potatoes have never been grown. Space the seed about three-fourths of an inch apart and cover three inches deep to insure ample root development. The plant bed should be kept moist but not water-logged.

## Chicks Need Fresh Air And Sunshine

The chicken is primarily an out-of-door bird, not a "hot house plant."

Yet in bad weather, birds need some protection against cold, rain, and drafts, said Roy S. Dearstyne, head of the poultry department at State college.

As a result, many poultrymen have a tendency to confine their birds more than necessary.

On warm, sunny days give the birds, especially the young chicks, a chance to range outside. Exercise in the sunshine will help develop vigorous birds.

But the ranges should be clean. It is better to keep chicks inside a house than to turn them out on a dirty range, Dearstyne cautioned.

Poultrymen who buy their chicks will find it pays in the long run to buy only good quality chicks from reliable sources. State blood-tested chicks from the near vicinity are usually best.

Don't overcrowd chicks or growing birds. Give them plenty of fresh air without exposing them to drafts. But don't overheat them, either, for this will lower their vitality.

Dearstyne also suggested that it is a good idea to watch laying birds carefully. In the season of heavy laying, they are sensitive to changes in feed and management.

To prolong production in the spring, start feeding a wet mash at the first sign of a slump. Give the mash early in the afternoon, placing it in troughs in such quantities as the birds will readily clean up in 20 to 30 minutes.

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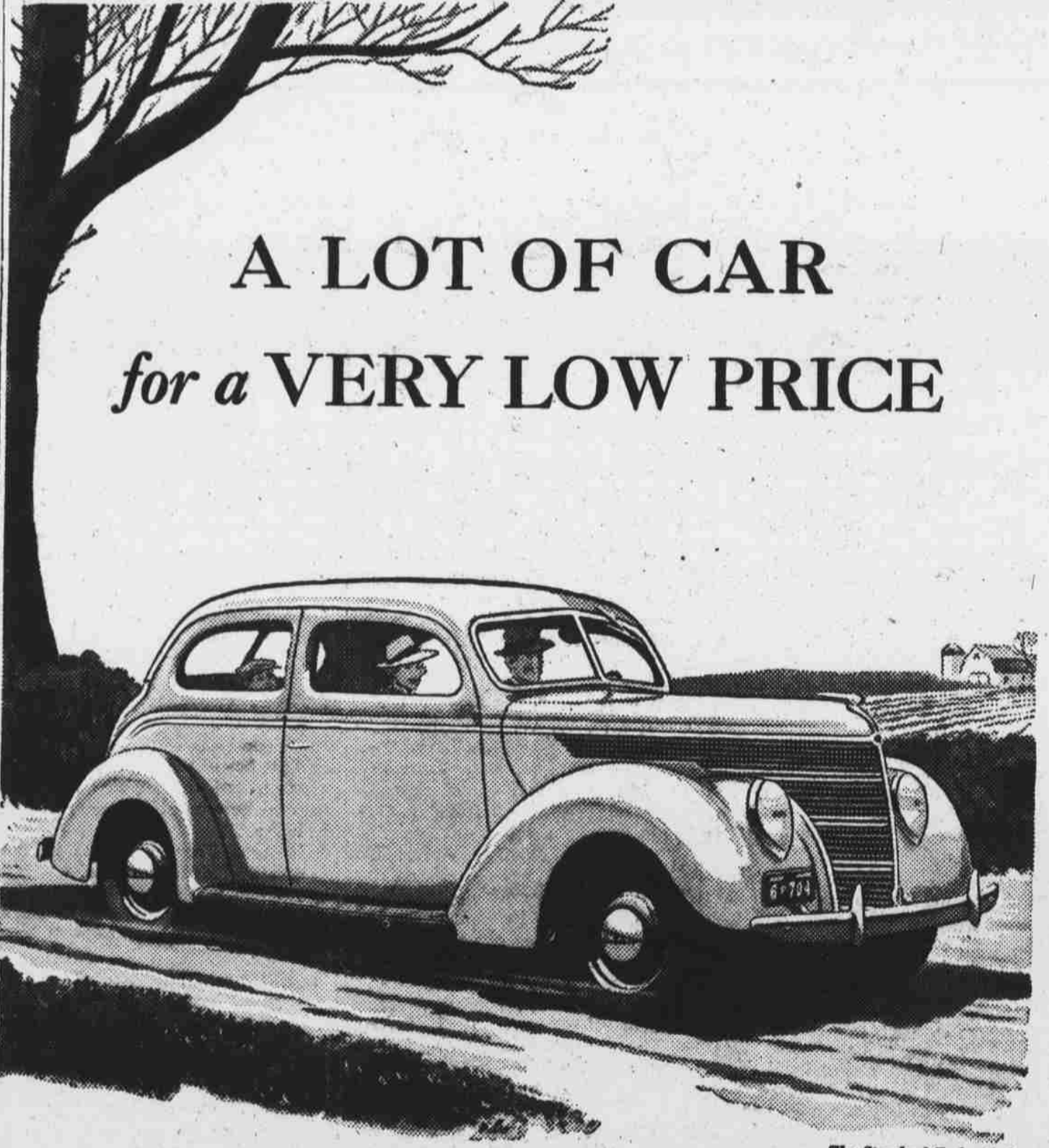
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