

With the coming of the fall season, we begin to think of lawns and lawn grasses for both temporary winter lawns and for permanent ones. In most of North Carolina the fall months are the best time of the year to build permanent lawns because the young grasses have a chance to become well established before next summer's heat and dry weather. If you are interested in building a new lawn this fall ask your county agent for John Harris' Extension Circular on "Carolina Lawns".

In our mountain areas a good lawn can be established easily and maintained by using Kentucky bluegrass or Merion bluegrass. In Piedmont and eastern North Carolina it is much more difficult to maintain a good lawn because of

the long hot summers. There are a number of good grasses available for these areas including the blue-grasses the strains of Zoysia grass, Centipede, Tall Fescue and Bermuda. The bluegrasses and Tall Fescue will remain during the winter.

Zoysia, Centipede and Bermuda should be planted in late spring, not in the fall. Roots are commonly used to start all three of these grasses; however, seeds are available for Centipede and Bermuda.

I should like to say a few words about winter lawns. Most established lawns in the eastern portion of this state are of Bermuda grass, crabgrass, Dallas grass, bluegrass or a mixture of these and others. All except bluegrass will turn brown at the first hard frost. We

are blessed with cold winters over most of the state, and it is very desirable to keep our lawns green the year around.

This is possible by sowing Italian ryegrass in the established sod during late September or early October. If your permanent sod is heavy it may require five pounds of ryegrass seed per 1,000 square feet of lawn. If the sod is not heavy, two to three pounds per 1,000 square feet should be sufficient. Italian ryegrass is an annual and will die out next June. By that time the permanent grasses should take over again. Since

bluegrass remains fairly green in winter, it is not recommended that ryegrass be planted in a good bluegrass lawn.

Patrol Commander Says 'Drive Slow, Let'em Grow'

"Drive slow, let'em grow!" That was a plea this week from Col. James R. Smith, commander of the State Highway Patrol, as he emphasized the importance of child pedestrian safety, a top priority project always but especially so at this time of year.

"Here in North Carolina 138 youngsters between one and 14 were killed in traffic accidents last year," Col. Smith recalled. "And the tragic part of it is that most of these deaths could have been prevented."

Col. Smith placed most of the blame for our high child pedestrian fatality toll on drivers. He admitted children are often careless in traffic, and that they bring about dangerous situations. But he emphasized that drivers can do much to counteract the effects of this heedlessness.

"Careful driving practices and consistent alertness are the driver's best safeguards," he said. "He must learn to expect the unexpected from children, and to act quickly to save a heedless youngster from harm."

Col. Smith pointed out that the present high traffic accident fatality rate among children will have far-reaching effects on the state's future.

He expressed it this way: "Children are our hope for tomorrow. From their ranks must come the statesmen, clergymen, doctors and scientists of the future. Everytime we cut down a youngster in traffic we weaken the state's future strength."

Col. Smith advised drivers to observe the following rules to protect Tar Heel youngsters in traffic:

1. Keep a sharp lookout for children at all times, but especially in school zones, near playgrounds other places where children gather.
2. When in the areas of school zones, playgrounds, etc., be alert for traffic signs, signals, traffic police, school patrols and children themselves.
3. Don't be a juvenile yourself by trying to compete with bike riders. Give them a brake.



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