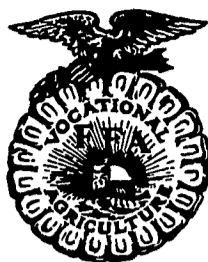


From Local Ag Teachers:



Thoughts in Passing



Editor's Note: The article this week was prepared by James Kerr, horticulture teacher at the Brownstown Vo-Tech School.

"Mow the Lawn - Don't Cut the Grass"

The lawn is one of the main factors that adds to the beauty of a home, and the way it is mowed has a great deal to do with its appearance. No matter how much care or expense you give to preparation, a lawn soon looks

untidy unless properly mowed when needed.

Frequent mowing results in good growth and a better stand of grass. Mowing should be done at least once a week, more often if needed; less if the weather is very hot and dry and the grass does not need it. Avoid mowing the grass if it is wet or damp, as the grass will not cut evenly. The mower will tear and rip the blades of grass, leaving you with an unsightly lawn.

Most lawn keepers understand about proper height adjustments. Statistics show that rotary mowers are the most popular type, whether a push type, self-propelled or riding kind. Nearly all rotary mowers come with wheel adjustments to set the height of cut. The best height for mowing a lawn is from two to two-and-one-half inches throughout the whole season.

Photosynthesis is the main process by which a grass plant grows. This process takes place within the blade or leaf of the grass plant. If the blade is cut shorter than two inches, this process is impaired because the surface of the blade of grass is decreased. Thus during a dry summer the lawn usually will turn brown because its life processes have been impaired. You must remember as the roots supply the plant with nutrients, water and food elements, the leaf through photosynthesis makes these elements available to the plant.

A well kept lawn depends on a well maintained mower, especially the blade. A dull blade frays leaf tips and leaves the

"Done Up Brown"

When a loaf of bread or a batch of biscuits is "done up brown," it is complete, finished, ready to serve. So, when a mower is "done up brown," nothing more can be added to it.



James Kerr
Horticulture Teacher
Brownstown Vo-Tech School

lawn with a brownish tinge within a short period of time. A rotary mower should be sharpened at least every eight working hours. A reel type mower, although not easily maintained, does give the best job as it does MOW the grass, not chop such as a sythe or a sickle might do.

Remember, **MOW THE LAWN, DON'T CUT THE GRASS.**

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