

Don't Fight Nature Turf Experts Advise

Lush green lawns, the dream of homeowners, can become "biological nightmares" to achieve and maintain, according to Herbert Cole, Jr., and Joseph M Duich, plant pathologist and turfgrass breeder, respectively, at The Pennsylvania State University.

While not pessimists, they observe that diseases of turfgrass are constant threats, especially during the growing season. In the heat and humidity of summer, foliar blight fungi can turn a "living green carpet" into a spotted ragtag remnant of its former self. In spring and fall, leaf spot organisms, smuts, and rust fungi may be active.

Most home lawns show that human objectives and natural systems are not always compatible, the two scientists point out in the Spring issue of "Science in Agriculture," the quarterly magazine of the Agricultural Experiment Station at Penn State. They suggest

living with nature rather than fighting it.

Drs. Cole and Duich suggest procedures to help maintain a healthy lawn. Keep the cutting height of the mower at 2 inches or higher to maintain strong root systems. The shorter the cutting height, the greater the stress on the total plant system. Root systems become smaller and weaker, drought injury will likely be more severe, and children's play becomes more damaging.

Remove clippings at times of rapid growth. Don't grow organic matter you can't remove. All too often clippings and plant debris accumulate and the lawn is said to be "thatched," often so thick that soil beneath a slope is seldom wetted even in hard rains. Thatch and clippings provide a home for a multitude of disease-producing organisms on lawns.

To solve these and other turf problems, plant breeders are now searching for new genetic lines of turfgrasses that will be compatible with other strains of grasses for many years. There was a time when plant breeders hoped for the one perfect grass variety resistant to all diseases, all insects, and suitable for cutting to carpet height. Such a goal, they found, is biologically impossible.

Home Freezing Meeting

A meeting "Freezing Fruits and Vegetables" has been scheduled from 10 a.m. to 12 Noon Thursday, July 27 at the Central Presbyterian Church, Downingtown, by the Chester Extension home economists.

For those interested in attending the meeting on proper freezing of foods, please pre-register by contacting Miss June Wilke, 402 North Wing, Courthouse, West Chester, Pa. 19380, or telephone 215-696-3500.



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Pennfield Expands Plant

Ground was broken in Fredericksburg, Pa., this week for an expansion of the Pennfield Poultry Processing Plant to accommodate further processing of prepared foods under the "Pennfield Farms" and "Dutch Treat" labels.

Buckwalter Construction of Lancaster is the contractor for the two story, 8,000 sq. ft. block masonry and steel building and loading dock which will be completed in early fall.

"This will give us the room we need to expand our prepared frozen chicken division and to develop other consumer products

for supermarkets and institutions," noted A. Eugene Bailey, general manager of the firm's poultry meat division.

Pennfield's processing plant, which employs three hundred workers and covers an area of nearly 60,000 sq. ft., processes over twelve million broilers a year for the wholesale market

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Thanks for your Patience and Cooperation

The unbelievable destruction, the magnitude of personal losses, the terrifying power of tropical storm Agnes will be etched in people's memories for all time.

Equally memorable has been the understanding of PP&L's problems exhibited by our customers. People desperately in need of electric service patiently made do while our crews worked around the clock to restore service. We are indebted to all who helped speed the job of restoring service under the worst possible conditions.

Thanks go to other groups which have lent a hand battling the storm, local police and firemen, the telephone companies, civilian defense authorities, the National Guard, municipal cleanup crews, the Red Cross, the press and others. Everybody has been just great in seeing that our people got every possible assistance in getting electricity back on the job.

Restoration efforts are still under way and will be for a while in some areas. Many of the electrical repairs made have had to be of a temporary nature requiring follow-up work for months to come.

Despite an unfinished job, we want to say, "Thanks a million for your patience, your help and your understanding."



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