

# Revitalize a lawn with Fall repairs

NEWARK, Del. - Lawns represent a valuable land investment. One well worth protecting, points out University of Delaware Extension turf specialist Dr. William Mitchell.

With autumn and the final days of crabgrass in sight, this is really the very best time to give a lawn some extra care, says Mitchell. It is time and money well spent.

If action is taken before the middle of October, a person can still seed or reseed lawn areas. Late summer and fall are ideal for liming and fertilizing. This is also a good time to

control several troublesome weeds.

If a lawn consists of 50 per cent or more desirable grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass, all that's needed

may be a partial renovation consisting of weed control, liming, and fertilizing.

If, on the other hand, a lawn was seriously damaged by pests like sod webworm, chinch bugs or disease organisms this summer, a complete reseeding may be called for.

Perhaps lawn grasses failed because of poor drainage, too much shade, unadapted varieties or excessive soil acidity. Examine the causes of failure and then develop a plan of action.

Should a person need to reseed his lawn, be sure to incorporate lime and fertilizer as you prepare the seed bed. Use 50 lbs. of ground limestone and 20 lbs. of 10-10-10 fertilizer per 1000 square feet of lawn. Limestone, fertilizer and seed can all be safely applied at the same time, but avoid mixing hydrated lime and fertilizer since this may cause some fertilizer nitrogen to escape into the air before it can be used.

Smooth and firm-up the seed bed by raking. Most grass seed is very small and needs only a light cover of

soil for germination. Pulling a grass rake over the area following seeding is all that's necessary. Seed-soil contact is essential for germination. Grass seed thrown on top of existing grass is essentially wasted, notes the specialist.

Select seed that meets the needs in terms of existing grass, disease resistance, shade tolerance, use and level of care you expect to give your lawn. Be sure to select your seed from improved varieties of Kentucky bluegrass like Baron, Adelphi, Bonblue, Fyking and Vantage. These have demonstrated good disease resistance and are more suitable than the older favorite, Merion.

If there are trees in the landscape, use shade tolerant red fescue in a mixture with two or three bluegrass varieties. Under heavy shade, though, only red fescue will survive so there's little advantage to adding the bluegrass.

Act soon now to give the lawn a chance to recover from the ravages of summer during the long, cool days and nights of fall when growing conditions are ideal.

## Chinese exchange virus for gypsy moth control

UNIVERSITY PARK - The United States' open door policy with the People's Republic of China has resulted in a trade of not only economic policy, but scientific knowledge as well. And one virus may help Pennsylvania control gypsy moth.

The U.S. team received a number of biological agents, including some insect-attacking viruses, now being evaluated at laboratories across the country. Personnel at Penn State's Pesticide Research Laboratory and Graduate Study Center are taking part in these evaluations.

William G. Yendol, professor of entomology at Penn State and a member of the United States team, said he and his colleagues were

invited to ascertain the state of the art of biological control in the PRC.

"There is hope that the biological agents can be developed and eventually used in insect control on forest land, cotton land, and cabbage crops here in the United States," Yendol said.

One particular biological agent, a virus which infects only insects, may help solve Pennsylvania's gypsy moth problem, and is being tested for that purpose. Researchers hope it will be more virulent against gypsy

moths than the one used now in the United States.

"This is the first time in about two decades we've collected biological agents that could benefit United States crops," Yendol said.

As part of the scientific exchange, a Chinese team recently visiting the U.S. obtained three biological agents from Yendol.

"We need to maintain such exchanges because they encourage a more in-depth understanding between our two countries," Yendol said.

## Health Test Available

GETTYSBURG - Telephones have been installed at the Bethel Mennonite Church on Route 34 between Gettysburg and

Biglerville in preparation for appointments for Health Testing and Screening by the American Health Profile Van to be on location October 15-19. The testing is being made available to the general public. The telephone number to call is (717) 677-6126 for your appointment. Call during the week of October 15-19. Testing will be done in the mornings and evenings.

The results will show more than a hundred readings. It is a very comprehensive screening and the cost for the entire series is \$80.00 for adults and \$55.00 for children. The actual time involved for the screening is approximately 45 minutes.

Test results are confidential and are sent to your named family physician.

The purpose of the program is to make each county resident aware of the need for a medical examination to prevent illness and should be an aid to physicians in preventive health care.

The Van is sponsored by the Adams County Farmers' Association Women's Committee and telephones will be manned by fifteen volunteers of the Association.

## Alcohol as fuel

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fuel exceeds 10 percent, problems with the entire fuel system begins to arise. Those people burning straight, home-brew ethanol, especially, will likely experience poor engine performance. Aluminum carburetors and fuel pumps will, in time, "rot," and carburetor jet cementing will occur. Other carburetor problems will include sticking of the inlet valve needle, inlet lever, and nozzle ball check. In addition, rust will show up in the fuel tank, fuel lines, cylinder walls, and bearings. Neoprene and fluoro-elastomer rubber parts, as in fuel pump diaphragms and inlet needle tips, will begin to show premature failure. Cork composition gaskets are also of concern.

That's not all! Agricultural engineers in Minnesota have run tests on diesel tractors using ethanol-

diesel mixes. Test results showed:



—Diesel fuel cannot tolerate water, meaning that mixing ethanol containing even traces of water is detrimental to engine and performance.

—Ten to 15 percent ethanol in diesel fuel is the maximum recommended. Twenty to 30 percent results in excessively noisy engine knocking.

—Horsepower-hours per gallon, a measure of fuel economy for tractors, decreases with increasing alcohol content. The lighter the engine load, the worse the fuel economy becomes.

Making fuel from crops has its share of problems. In the future, on-farm ethanol production sites may well supply the needs of the farmer.

Continuing public trials and research efforts will, hopefully, cure some of the ills of ethanol production and use.

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