

Late Summer Is The Time To Revitalize Lawns

UNIVERSITY PARK (Centre Co.) - After the hot weather and heavy use during the summer, your lawn may be showing some wear and tear. Now is the time to get it in shape for next spring.

"September is an excellent time to revitalize your lawn," says Dr. Peter Landschoot, assistant professor of turfgrass science in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences. "It takes only a few steps to help grass regain the lush green growth it had in the spring.

"If you fertilize now, you'll give turf the nutrients it needs to recover from the stresses of summer as well as from disease and insect problems," he says. "Fertilizer also helps grass revive

harsh winters."

Fertilizer should be applied with a spreader. Never apply more than the amount recommended on the label - too much can burn grass or cause excessive growth.

September also is a good time to dethatch and to do away with broadleaf weeds, such as dandelions. A broadleaf weed herbicide kills the entire plant - roots included - so weeds cannot regenerate.

"Annual grasses, such as crabgrass, will be killed by the first frost, so there's no point in trying to control these weeds in late summer," says Landschoot. "Use a preemergence herbicide on them in the spring, and keep the

turf dense so they do not receive light or space to grow."

Late summer also is the time to think about reseeding bare spots or troublesome areas on your lawn. Perennial ryegrass is a good turf species to use for patchwork."

"First, remove all vegetation from the area," says Landschoot. "Then work up the soil with a rake or rototiller so that it's loose and free of large clumps."

Lightly disperse seed over the bare spot. "Don't make the planting too dense," he advises. "There should be about a quarter

of an inch between each perennial ryegrass seed. Rake the area to cover the seeds with soil, being careful not to bury them too deep. The seeds should be no more than a quarter of an inch below the surface, with some remaining on top of the soil. A lightweight lawn roller passed over the spot will insure good seed-to-soil contact."

Cover the area with clean straw to protect the seeds, but do not smother them. "You should be able to see soil through the straw layer," says Landschoot. "As a final precaution, put up a small fence to keep people and animals from walking on the seedbed."

Perennial ryegrass will germinate in five to seven days, provided the surface of the soil is kept moist. Once the grass is about an inch tall, carefully remove the mulch.

"Trial and error is the best way to determine when to cut new grass," says Landschoot. "Mow a small area. If this pulls up the grass, wait. If it stays rooted, you can keep cutting."

If your lawn is composed mostly of weeds, undesirable grass or dead areas, you might want to renovate it entirely. For more information, request the free fact sheet, "Turfgrass Establishment," from the Penn State Cooperative Extension office in your county.

ABA Announces Princess Contest

BRATTLEBORO, Vt. — A new opportunity for young Ayrshire breeders will open at the North American International Livestock Exposition (NAILE) on Nov. 5 — an Ayrshire princess contest.

"We have many qualified junior members who would like to take an active role in the promotion of the Ayrshire breeders," said program coordinator Jill Stahl. "The contest offers them a way to promote and encourage other members — both junior and senior."

The princess will reign for one year, representing the Ayrshire Association at various national events, including the national Ayrshire convention, which will be held in Wisconsin in 1995. Her goal will be to be an effective, positive voice for Ayrshires, promoting the breed across the nation.

On Saturday, Nov. 5, during the

North American International Livestock Exposition, the Kentucky Ayrshire Club will arrange and host a national contest to name the national Ayrshire princess.

Beginning at 10 a.m., at the fairgrounds, contestants will answer questions about their involvement with Ayrshires.

The evening gown portion of the contest will be held at 7 p.m. on the Expo grounds. The new Ayrshire princess will be crowned at the conclusion of this portion. People are encouraged to come and watch at no charge.

Interested participants should contact Larry Yeager of the Kentucky Ayrshire Club at (606) 734-0671. There is a \$25 entry fee, which should be made payable to the Kentucky Ayrshire Club. The contest is open to all female junior members of the Association who have never married and never had a child.

Good Children's Book

(Continued from Page B10)

characters. Be sure to select a story that leaves the child with a sense of satisfaction.

• Select books with illustrations that add to the story: Look for a variety of illustrative styles. The best are those that work with the text, carry the story line and reflect the book's tone and interest.

• Pick books with wonderful language: Children like words that are silly, rhyme or roll off their tongues. Books with familiar

refrains ("fee, fi, fo, fum!") and repeating events ("Jack went up the beanstalk") are also excellent choices.

For more great ideas to guide children into the joys of reading and writing, turn to the other five articles contained in *The ABC's of Raising a Reader*. The full-color, 12-page magazine comes complete with a pull-out Muppet poster and is available free-of-charge from July 1 through the early fall only on specially marked packages of Post Alpha-Bits cereal.



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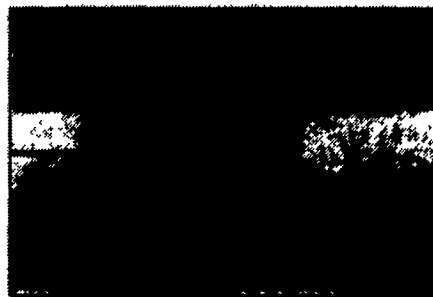
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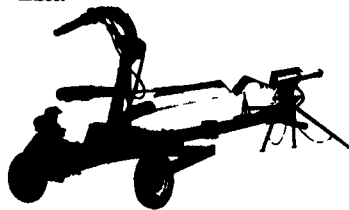


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