

# HOW TO BUILD AND MAINTAIN THE BEAUTY OF YOUR LAWN<sup>1</sup>

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In maintaining a beautiful lawn, weeds play an important part. In the broad sense of the word "a weed is a plant growing where it is desired that something else shall grow." If a cultivated plant escapes from its natural environment, it may become a weed among other plants. New England Asters, Black-eyed Susans and Oxeyed Daisies are detrimental when growing in the meadow, but all are graceful and beautiful plants in protected gardens. It is a good thing that most pernicious plants have little beauty to make them desirable in the flower garden; otherwise they would rapidly spread to the lawn and field.

Each particular weed has its own habits which make it difficult to eradicate. These habits must be studied in order to know how best to eradicate weeds. Much is already known on this subject but much is yet to be discovered.

One of the most important things to know about a weed is whether it is a perennial, a biennial or an annual. Perennial weeds live through many seasons and thus continue to produce seeds and spread them unless the roots are destroyed. This makes these weeds more obnoxious and harder to control.

The best general rules to follow in eradicating weeds are these: (1) allow no weeds to ripen seeds, and, (2) kill all weeds possible while they are in the seedling stage.

Weed seeds are many times sown on the lawn with the grass seed. For this reason it is very important to buy the higher-priced, better-quality seed. Be sure that the seed are guaranteed by the dealer.

To kill the weed seed already in the soil, it is a good policy to fallow the soil for six weeks before planting; longer is better in the winter season. Then work the soil thoroughly just before planting with a hoe or rake.

In order to keep the lawn green throughout the year, sow a mixture of grass seed. Your local seedsman is in a good position to advise you as to the varieties best suited to your region. It is a good policy to plant a cover crop of rye grasses or red top because these grow fast.

After the lawn is well started, numerous weeds will be noticed. These should be eradicated at once even though it involves much work. In the case of wild onions, every clove must be removed, if the work is to be successful.

<sup>1</sup>Abstract of paper read before the Tennessee Academy of Science, November 30, 1928.