

## PATCHING AND REPAIRING BARE SPOTS

Bare spots in lawns may be repaired by reseeding or with the sprigs, plugs or sod. Reseeding is perhaps the least expensive, but the homeowner should make certain the same species and variety of grass is used for repairing as that which was originally sown. If a mixture was used, the same mixture should be used for reseeding; otherwise, the lawn will always have the appearance of being "patched". Sparse or bare spots should be spaded to a depth of 6 to 8 inches. Add organic matter and fertilizer (lime if needed) to the soil before reseeding. The patched area should be kept moist at all times until the grass becomes established.

The use of sprigs (individual plants) or plugs of grass is perhaps the second most economical method. It may not be necessary to purchase additional grass as sprigs or plugs may be taken from other areas of the lawn. The desired results are obtained faster in this manner.

Sod is the most expensive method of repairing lawn damage but the results are immediate. Prepare the soil as if the seed were to be sown but lay the sod instead. Keep the new grass moist and it will soon attach itself to the soil. The sod may be rolled lightly to firm the roots to the soil to give it a better start.

If over 50 percent of the lawn area needs renovating, it would be advisable to rebuild the lawn as described in WVU Publication 405 "New Lawns".

## LAWN CARE UNDER TREES

Grass is difficult to grow under shallow-rooted trees or under trees which cast heavy shade. This may be remedied by removing the lower branches and thinning the crown to improve light conditions and air circulation. Also, double the amount of fertilizer and water applied to these areas.

It is advisable to feed the trees by punching holes in the soil to varying depths of 12 to 24 inches and placing the fertilizer in the holes. Foliar feedings also may help lessen the competition between the trees and grass for nutrients and moisture.

Another solution is to use shade-loving plants under the trees. A very attractive design can be made by combining shrubs, bulbs and ground covers.

## PEST CONTROL

Lawns often fall prey to many diseases, insects and weeds which may result in serious lawn problems. Many commercial lawn fertilizers contain herbicides and insecticides which will control certain weeds, diseases and insects, but there are some lawn problems which cannot be controlled by general maintenance practices. Persistent lawn pests should be properly identified and treatment determined according to the extent of infestation. The latest recommendations on insect, disease and weed control may be obtained from your local County Extension Agent or nurseryman.

Some pesticides are highly toxic and should not be used by the amateur. Professionals or persons experienced in using these materials should be contracted to do the work. All pesticides should be handled with care and directions followed. Children and pets should be kept off newly-treated areas.

This flyer has been adapted from WVU Publication 406 (same title).