...ously this soil is for present small districts, and the chances are greatest for a clay, or adobe soil existing in our gardens. Such soils can be brought to a mechanical condition more desirable for lawns but it is a tedious process and the ideal situation is to import the desirable top soil on which to establish a turf.

HEAVY TOPSOIL

Don't try to grow a good lawn on two or three inches of imported topsoil. Use at least four, and if the pocket book allows, aim for 6 to eight inches of good loam on top of the existing soil.

Having the area in square feet it is easy to compute the number of cubic yards of topsoil required. Take, for example, an area of 1500 square feet. Multiply this figure by the depth in inches; for example, 4 in., which gives a result of 6000. Divide this product by 10, resulting in the number of cubic feet of soil required, or 600. Divided by 27 gives the number of cubic yards, approximately 22. Old hands at arithmetic will say that we should have divided by 12, instead of 10, but it is always safer to allow for soil shrinkage of 20 per cent. After the work our newly purchased topsoil into a seed bed, there will be about that much shrinkage.

Unless you know that your topsoil source is thoroughly reliable, it is to have a look at it first. Small clods should shatter readily and as you work the soil between the thumb and palm of your hand it should have the gritty texture denoting the presence of sand. The soil should have some obvious evidence of the presence of humus, such as the decayed or dried portions of stems or roots indicating that it is soil that has been taken near the surface. The ideal specification requires that about six inches of the surface soil be skimmed off before taking topsoil. This eliminates a large proportion of weed seeds.

GENTLE SLOPE

When establishing the grade of your lawn aim for a gentle slope barely perceptible, toward the lower portion of the site, keep away from humps and hog-wallows. The latter will get most of the water in Summer and too much during the critical germination period. A very good instrument for raking will seem awfully awkward until you saw off part of its extremely long handle. Finish the job with a garden rake to clear away the smallest clods, roll with a 200-pound roller both ways, and you are ready to seed.

Seeding is an operation that is done best in the early morning when the air is quiet. Measure into a bucket the amount of seed recommended for 100 square feet and seed half of it in one direction and the other half at right angles, both operations over the same area. After you have done a measured 100 square feet you will have the feel required to sow at the proper density for the balance of your lawn. Rake in very lightly with a garden rake and apply a quarter inch of a good fine grade of peat moss. The quantity required can be computed in the same method as used for soil, multiplying the square feet by .25 and computing a cubic yard of peat moss as equivalent to about one and one-half standard bales.

PEAT RECOMMENDED

Experienced lawn-builders will tell you that this top dressing of peat is all-important to proper seed germination. If the surface of the soil over the seed is allowed to dry out for only a brief period the result will be the formation of a crust through which the sprouted seed will not be able to push. Even with the use of peat moss it is necessary to sprinkle the lawn with a find spray in the early morning and again in the evening until all of the seed has germinated. Use plenty of water but stop at the first sign of a puddle forming in any given area.

Children Raising Bumper Food Crops

Boys and girls of the Fred Finch Children's Home at 3800 Coolidge Avenue are reported by Supt. O. S. Burkholder as gardening 1½ acres of ground to help produce food during the present emergency.

Through August, the children had produced 2000 pounds of squash, 500 pounds of tomatoes, 3000 pounds of potatoes and several tons of celery, onions, carrots, radishes, lettuce, beans, eggplant, cucumbers, beets and peppers. Three plantings have been made in the gardens this year.

Gilkey to Speak

The Alameda County Floral Society will meet Tuesday evening, Sept. 21, at the studio of Miss Cora Jenkins, at 46 Randwick Avenue, Oakland, at 8 o'clock. Howard Gilkey will talk on "Fall Bearded Iris." Gilkey was the designer of the Spring Garden Show and is now with Carl Salbach, working on the iris for new varieties.

FERTILIZER and BULB SALE Specials for Sun.—Mon.

PEAT MOSS—Best Canadian grade; large compressed bale 4.25
½ bale 2.25; large sack 1.25

BLUE MANURE—Pulverized, weed free, 80-lb. sack 1.50

SOIL TONE renews old lawn; wonderful for new ones; 2 cubic foot sack 1.50

GANITE—Natural fertilizer and Peat Moss; feeds and conditions 500 square feet, 50-pound sack 1.95

OREGON MANURE — Well-balanced plant food, 100-pound sack 1.95

GAVIOTA—25 pounds 1.40
100 pounds 3.50

Mrs. Raymond Kester of 3019 Brookdale Avenue harvests her tomatoes from a stepladder from this sky-climbing vine that has produced 132 tomatoes to date.—Tribune photo.

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*Lots of 25 to 50. Small quantity slightly higher.

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For Lawns, Permanent Turf Grass, Shady Places or Bare Spots, 50 lb. for $1.00

September is the very best month of the year to put in a new lawn or patch an old one.

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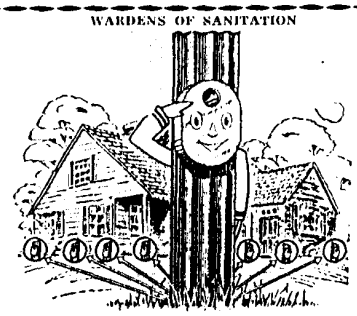

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Visits will be made to areas within transportation facilities of Oakland and San Francisco, during which bird and plant life and other natural phenomena will be observed.

Mower Set High

Set the mover blade high enough so it will not expose the grass roots to drying sun during hot weather each time the mowing is done. Leave the short grass clippings to dry and fall down between the blades as a mulch and fertilizer for the lawn.

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☐ Orange King, deep orange, 12 for $1
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