

**LAWN SOILS. U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF SOILS -
BULLETIN NO. 75, PP. 1-53**

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Oswald Schreiner & J. J. Skinner

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OSWALD SCHREINER & J. J. SKINNER

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MILTON WHITNEY, Chief.

LAWN SOILS.

BY

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AND

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
BUREAU OF SOILS,

Washington, D. C., November 16, 1910.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the manuscript of a paper entitled "Lawn Soils," by Dr. Oswald Schreiner and Mr. J. J. Skinner, of this bureau. The article embodies an exposition of the soil factors involved in lawn building and maintenance.

The material is especially valuable in guiding park authorities in the selection of soil materials for the improving and making of lawns, parks, embankments, and terraces, a subject on which the advice of this bureau is continually being sought, and I have therefore the honor to recommend that the article be published as Bulletin No. 75 of the Bureau of Soils.

Respectfully,

MILTON WHITNEY,
Chief of Bureau.

HON. JAMES WILSON,
Secretary of Agriculture.

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LAWN SOILS.

INTRODUCTION.

Lawns are the groundwork of the pictures, as it were, formed by flowers, shrubs, trees, and buildings, public and private, in city streets, city parks, public grounds, country estates, and similar places. The widespread movement of civic art to improve and beautify cities and towns by park and art commissions, civic associations, and individuals naturally creates a demand for information concerning lawns, their improvement, soil requirements, fertilization, maintenance, soil suited for filling-in or top dressing, and similar questions. It is to supply this general demand for soil information regarding lawns that the present bulletin is designed.

The selection of grasses and their description as to appearance and manner of growth, color, and other details; the seeding, weeding, mowing, and rolling the lawn, and the implements required in making and taking care of it, as well as its general handling by the gardener after or during its establishment; the location of drives and flower beds; the planting of shrubbery, both as to kinds and arrangement; in short, the establishment of a rural or park picture of which the lawn forms the groundwork, has been admirably presented in a number of articles, bulletins, and books, to which the reader is referred for specific information on these and allied details,⁶ the present bulletin dealing mainly with the distinctly soil problems, the selection of the proper soil and its manipulation.

In this bulletin is presented the character of soils in respect to the minerals and organic materials composing them, as well as the kind and amounts of different-sized soil particles which determine the suitability of soils for lawn making. The texture of soils as related to lawns is especially emphasized and the relation of surface soil to subsoil receives consideration in regard to its effect on lawns. The

⁶ In this connection see *The Lawn*, by L. C. Corbett, Farmers' Bulletin 248, U. S. Dept. Agr. (1906); *Lawns and Lawn Making*, by F. Lamson-Scribner, Yearbook, p. 355, U. S. Dept. Agr. (1897); *Lawns and How to Make Them*, by L. Barron, New York (1906); *Canada Bluegrass*, by R. A. Oakley, Farmers' Bulletin 402, U. S. Dept. Agr. (1910).