

Fix patchy spots in lawn now

BY JENEEN WICHE
IN MY GARDEN

Late summer is the preferred time for complete lawn renovation or seeding a new lawn. We don't need a complete redo, but we do have some persistent bare spots that need some attention. So, we are gathering our supplies to tackle the chore.

The simple version is to loosen the soil to ensure good soil/seed contact; broadcast the seed evenly and heavily. Top it off with some loose straw to prevent the area from washing away or pooling seed during heavy rainfall (this is why our problem has been persistent!) or from completely drying out in

the sun. Once the seed is moist it needs to stay moist until germination occurs.

With the basics behind us, what are our options in grass seed? Today most people have tall fescue lawns. Bluegrass is only a romantic notion ... I would never have it as my turf grass because it is sensitive to soil conditions, drainage, drought, insects, and disease problems.

Bermuda belongs in the desert; it is invasive and browns out after the first frost. Annual rye grass is too competitive with good grasses and should be left to areas that will be turned under for cultivation or as a quick fix before fescue estab-

lishes. Zoysia is what I call a commercial grass, good for heavy traffic areas but not our home landscapes.

And the old school Kentucky 31 fescue, festuca elatior? Well, it made an undesirable list over 25 years ago. Once the only fescue available in Kentuckiana, Ky 31 is now on the "Severe Threat" list of the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council's "Invasive Exotic Plants."

That's not a list you want to be on if you are a plant! I also am not a fan of what is termed "contractor's mix," which is usually rough fescue and weed seed!

That leaves us with other tall fescue varieties as the most reli-

able choice because of their ability to do well in poor soil, tolerate full-sun to light shade and tolerate disease and insect damage.

The University of Kentucky recommends several tall fescue varieties for Kentuckiana. Included are Duster, Falcon II, Gen-91, Lancer, Lexus, Pixie, Montauk, Rebel, Jr., Rebel 3D, Tomahawk and Eldorado (which is considered a dwarf, because it grows a little slower in the spring and the fall).

These varieties have all proven to do well against brown patch and other turf diseases.

Many seed sources will sell mixtures of seed, combining varieties that do well in light

shade with others that do well in full sun so that the homeowner has a mixture that balances out in the varying environments that a single lawn may have.

And remember that grass simply does not grow well in heavily shaded areas and under large shade trees. Here, I let the violets take over!

When doing your seed broadcasting remember that tall fescue must be heavily seeded because it typically forms clumps. If it is too lightly seeded the lawn will look sparse and patchy. When you broadcast the seed on your bare spots cover the soil surface and remember to keep the area moist until germination takes place.

Paul critical of defense spending request

BY SCOTT HAGERMAN
MESSENGER-INQUIRER

United States Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth told lawmakers Tuesday that the United States' war with Iran has cost taxpayers an estimated \$37.5 billion.

But Hegseth was also requesting Congress allocate much more for defense spending, and that is not sitting well with Kentucky Sen. Rand Paul.



Sen. Rand Paul

During an exclusive interview Wednesday with the Messenger-Inquirer, Paul lamented that additional funding would be a losing proposition for the country.

"When Secretary Hegseth testified yesterday, part of his testimony was he wanted \$37.5 billion more, but he was also clear to say that it's in addition to the \$1.5 trillion he wants in the defense budget," Paul said. "Well, that's a \$500 billion increase in the base budget and then another \$37 billion. So I think a lot of people aren't quite seeing the whole picture here. They're basically asking for a \$537 billion increase in military spending, which I think is outrageous, extraordinary and threatens our country.

"I think the biggest threat we face as a country is actually our national debt. And if you were to basically increase military spending well over 50% in one year — and no one has ever done anything like that — I think it's bad

for the country. We're already facing about a \$2 trillion deficit for the current fiscal year, and then you add something like that in and it will be well over \$2 trillion, might be \$2.5 trillion next year."

Paul said he never thought the war was "advisable," and he doesn't see any benefits thus far for the United States.

"I don't think if you look objectively at the war that you can see that it's a success in any way," Paul said. "Before the war, the Strait of Hormuz was never militarized. People have talked about it over the years, but even with a hostile government in Iran, ships still freely moved throughout the gulf. So the fact that it's militarized now and we have no improvement in the situation with regard to removing their enriched uranium, I think it's a sign that the war hasn't been successful.

"The other way I think the war can be seen as less than successful are gas prices are up, fertilizer prices are up, and yet there's still not a lot of progress on the negotiations. I've been a supporter of giving President (Donald) Trump some room to negotiate, but that's pretty much broken down now, and the ceasefire has gone. There still seems to be no progress on the negotiating front. So I think at this point, whatever we can do to end the war would be good."

Paul doesn't believe

anything has changed politically in regard to the leadership of Iran, and he doesn't see a clear path forward to any negotiations being fruitful.

"I think the regime that's left is not more sympathetic or compliant," Paul said. "The Trump administration said, 'Oh, these are much less hardened warriors and aren't radical Islamists.' Well, the main guy now, we killed his dad and we blew his leg off. He is apparently disfigured, and (the administration) has insulted him multiple times in the media. I've never met the fellow, but my guess would be he's not eager for peace with people who killed his dad. So that scenario is not an easy one to find peace.

"And I think (Iran) instinctively knows that Trump's not going to put land troops in. And without land troops in, it's harder to dictate to them exactly what we want them to do. If you put land troops in, it's probably going to require 100,000 to 200,000 troops. Then this looks like the Iraq War, with thousands of our soldiers probably dying. I think they are stuck."

Paul believes a key misstep in the military action with Iran was Trump not initially seeking congressional approval.

"I think it was a mistake to get this started, and I think it was a mistake to ignore the Constitution," Paul said. "Both times when George W. Bush took us to war, he actually came to Congress and asked for permission. He

asked for permission after 9/11 to go to war with the folks that were being harbored in Afghanistan. Then with the Iraq War, which I didn't think was a good idea, he still came to Congress and we had a vote on it."

Paul said he continues to support the Save America Act, which tightens voter registration requirements. He said he's "for the concept that only citizens should vote and we should check on it."

However, Paul said he feels good about Kentucky's voter rolls.

"In Kentucky, we have largely done that work; (Secretary of State) Mike Adams has gone through the voting rolls," Paul said. "I think Kentucky has a fairly good setup for trying to keep honest elections. We do mostly paper ballots — I think we may all be paper ballots now — and if there's a close vote and it's like 780 to 780 for a magistrate race, they can go back and count every paper ballot. They keep them for long enough to do it, and they do random checks of it. So I don't think noncitizens voting is a large problem in Kentucky.

"But I think there are some states that are

maybe worse than others, so make it a minimum bar. I don't understand why Democrats are opposed to it. But I don't think that there are the votes to do it. You normally have to get to 60 votes to pass something in the Senate, so there is sort of a need for a bipartisan compromise to pass anything. I don't think you'd get any Democrats getting on board this, so with only Republicans, it's just not enough."

While Trump has made election interference by other countries a common talking point, Paul doesn't see it as much of anything new or a crisis.

"I think all countries interfere in others' elections," he said. "In fact, if you look historically over the last 50 years, the country that has interfered in more elections than any other country would be the United States. And there are some arguments that we interfered in the election in 2014 when the Russian-leaning president of Ukraine was ousted — that our NGOs, specifically Hillary Clinton and her followers, were involved in that election in Ukraine.

"But really, if you go back 100 years, you have probably two dozen Cen-

tral American or Latin American countries where we have these Marines or other folks down in their country not only just influencing, but maybe even creating the outcome of elections. So I won't say it's a new thing, but it's also wrong for the other side to say it never happens."

Missing for more than a month from the debates on these issues has been Sen. Mitch McConnell, who hasn't been seen — other than in one picture of questionable authenticity — since being hospitalized for what is said to have been a fall at his home. Paul said he has not had direct contact with McConnell since the incident.

"I don't have any insight; I've read what I've read in the newspaper," Paul said. "I did see the reports of three people that have had extensive conversations with him. I hope he gets better soon and he will be back soon. We have our policy disagreements, but as a human being, I wish him well, and I'm wanting him to get better.

"I want him to be able to serve out the rest of his term, and in all likelihood, that will happen."



LEGAL NOTICE

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
HARRISON COUNTY WATER ASSOCIATION
CYNTHIANA, KENTUCKY
KY 353 WATER MAIN EXTENSION
AND US 27 WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT
CONTRACT 1-2025

General Notice
The Harrison County Water Association (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:
KY 353 Water Main Extension and US 27 Water Main Replacement Project
Contract 1-2025

Electronic Bids for the construction of the Project will be received by OWNER until **August 21, 2026, at 10 A.M.**, local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly downloaded and read aloud via teleconference. The login information for the teleconference is as follows: **(309) 205-3325**, Conference ID **986 4199 4627**.

The Project includes the following Work:
KY 353 water main extension includes approximately 14,000 linear feet of 4-inch water main extension and appurtenances. The US 27 water main replacement includes approximately 14,600 linear feet of 6-inch water main replacement and appurtenances.

Obtaining the Bidding Documents
Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found and viewed anytime at the following designated websites:
www.strand.com or at www.quest.cdn.com

Download the digital Bidding Documents by inputting Quest project number 10289320. Please contact QuestCDN.com at (952) 233-1632 or info@questcdn.com for assistance with free membership registration, downloading, and working with this digital project information.

The designated website will be updated periodically with addenda, lists of registered plan holders, reports, and other information relevant to submitting a Bid for the Project. All Official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered **only** through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the designated website.

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is:
Strand Associates, Inc.®
325 West Main Street, Suite 710
Louisville, KY 40202

Plan Holders are requested to provide an e-mail address if they wish to receive addenda and other information electronically. Plan Holders are requested to designate whether they are a prime contractor, subcontractor, or supplier if they want this information posted on the project Plan Holders List.

Pre-bid Conference
A pre-bid conference for the Project will not be conducted.

Instructions to Bidders
The Bid must be accompanied by Bid security made payable to OWNER in an amount of 5% of the Bidder's maximum Bid price.
Bidders shall comply with federal wage rates.
Bidders shall comply with the President's Executive Order No. 11246, Equal Employment Opportunity as amended.
OWNER reserves the right to reject any or all Bids, to waive any technicality, and to accept any Bid which it deems advantageous. All Bids shall remain subject to acceptance for 90 days after the time set for receiving Bids.
Contract award shall be made based on the lowest responsive and responsible Bidder.
For all further requirements regarding Bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and Contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

Domestic Preference
This project is subject to the Build America, Buy America Act (BABAA) requirements under Title IX of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), Pub. L. 117-58, §§ 70901-70953. Absent an approved waiver, all iron, steel, manufactured products, and construction materials used in this project must be produced in the United States.

The following waivers apply to this Contract:
BABAA De Minimis, Small Grants, and Minor Components

This Advertisement is issued by:
Owner: **Harrison County Water Association**
By: **Gary Carter**
Title: **President**
Date: **July 31, 2026**

PATSY NORTHCUTT

AUCTION

SATURDAY AUGUST 8th at 10:00AM
115 Second Street, Cynthiana KY



ATTENTION INVESTORS

Excellent Investment property!!!

- Living Room
- Kitchen
- Dining Room
- Laundry Room
- 2 bedrooms
- 1 full bath
- Partial utility basement
- Covered front and back porches
- Chain link fenced yard
- Gas furnace
- Off street parking

PREVIEW DATES: SUNDAY August 2nd from 2:00 - 4:00PM
and on sale day August 8th from 9:00AM to sale time

Any inspection for lead base paint or wood destroying organisms must be done prior to auction date and at the expense of the purchaser. **TERMS:** 10% down non-refundable auction day, close on or before October 7, 2026. Any financing required must be arranged prior to auction date. No Exceptions. **NO BUYERS PREMIUM!!**
Announcements AUCTION day take precedence over written material.



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Greg Mulberry, Associate Auctioneer
859-234-2911 ~ 859-588-0261
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