**The History of Turf-Grass and Old-World Practices**

The American lawn was inspired by the sweeping panoramic lush green, well-manicured lawns on the estates of British aristocracy. These grass varieties were not well suited to the harsh summer climates in most of the United States so the dream of having a beautiful lawn like a British Lord was elusive and costly. One needed to be wealthy enough to afford grounds keepers with the skill to use a scythe to maintain that manicured look.

It wasn't until the nineteenth century with the invention of the mechanical lawn mower that manicured lawns began to become a reality in America. This would end up putting the early day lawn care workers (Sheep) out of business. The invention of the water hose and the growing popularity of golfing, paved the way for the expansion of the lawn care industry. New varieties of grass were introduced that could survive the hot humid conditions in America. Bermudagrass from Africa and heat and drought tolerant varieties of tall fescue replaced the native grasses that were so challenging to tame.

Garden clubs with their awards and recognition programs spurred on the desire of everyday, hard-working Americans to aspire to growing and maintaining a well-manicured, weed-free lawn. But it would be many years before chemical lawn care would take hold in America.

WWI and WWII would be instrumental in advancing the technology that would transform agriculture and turn the American dream of a beautiful, lush green, weed-free lawn into reality.

The old-world farming practices were simple, yet labor intensive. The farmers would manure their fields every 4 to 5 years. They would take raw livestock manure that was unprocessed and full of E. coli and salmonella and apply high volumes of the raw material to the growing fields. They did this after the fall harvest to allow enough time for the raw manure to compost and convert from burning forms of free nitrogen into gentle, non-burning, slow release, fixed nitrogen, just in time for the spring planting season.

The organic matter was nutrient rich and the nutrients released slowly over time based on soil temperatures. The organic matter contained ample

amounts of carbon and nitrogen which not only fed the crops but it fed the beneficial soil life (The biomass) which colonized to the organic matter and worked to breakdown and convert the nutrients into a plant available form for optimal plant uptake.

These old-world practices are still applied today on the few small family farms and organic produce farms that still exist, but are not economically feasible in modern, big agriculture and professional lawn care.