

GREEN MATTERS

# For the lush GREEN LAWN

While watering the lawn, one must see to it that extra care is taken to drain excess water as any inundation will damage it, says N. CHANDRAMOHAN REDDY



GETTING IT RIGHT: Light scraping and making small holes or slits on the lawn bed with rake or garden fork will improve the aeration in the lawn root system. — Photo: N. Chandramohan Reddy

Unless carefully watched about, lawn can easily mess up the garden's beauty either through overgrowth or through drying out. One should be careful enough to regularly monitor and give the garden a 'hair-cut' by manicuring its lawn.

### Watering & weeding

Water requirement for lawn depends on the type of grass, season and soil kind. Strong-rooted aggressive grasses require more water than the shallow rooted ones. Sandy soils require more frequent watering than the clay soils. Instead of light sprinkling of water every day, it is always beneficial to have thorough and deep watering during evenings or early in the morning, once in two to five days based on the season and grass species. Watering through sprinkler jets or rose is beneficial to the lawn rather than flooding with hose.

Lawn exposed to direct sun during the entire day requires more water than the lawn area covered partially with shade from buildings or trees. But one has to remember that lawn grass cannot grow profusely under too much of shade. While watering, one must take precaution that the excess water drains away from the lawn as any inundation will damage the lawn grass.

Keeping the lawn weed-free is

the most difficult of all the operations. Emergence of weeds will start simultaneously along with the grass establishment. Prevention of weeds is the best method, which can be achieved by eradicating the weeds at the time of bed preparation, selecting grass with strong growth which suits the site condition and by growing the lawn without gaps by following right cultural practices. By regular mowing some of the broad-leaved lawn weeds can be suppressed. But the hardy and strong rooted grass weeds like Nut grass (*Cyperus rotundus*) are very difficult to eradicate unless their root system is dug out. Care must be taken to remove the weeds before they flower and spread seeds.

### Feeding and top dressing

The constant mowing of grass foliage is a serious drain on the nutrient reserves in the soil, so feeding the soil with balanced fertilizer is an essential operation to be undertaken during the growing season. Feeding can be combined with top dressing with addition of sand, along with some organic manure (preferably neem cake) to make up not only the level of lawn (by filling the pits and undulations) but also the nutrient level of the soil.

### Mowing & edging

Mowing, which is the most time

taking of all the lawn operations, is required periodically to give the lawn good texture and levelled surface. Mow the lawn often but not too closely lest unsightly white patches will appear from overgrown tufts. The length of the grass to be retained and frequency of mowing depend upon many factors such as lawn grass type, soil fertility, intended use and season. During growing season, obviously the mowing frequency should be increased.

It is always better to keep the height of the grass as a guide for deciding the intensity of mowing. Edging, which can be done with long edge shears, means vertical trimming of the lawn sides to have neat appearance and to define the lawn boundary.

### Raking & rolling

Raking is undertaken to remove the dead matted grass known as thatch. This operation, which is otherwise known as dethatching, is needed once or twice during the year based on the requirement. Light scraping and making small holes or slits on the lawn bed with rake or garden fork will improve the aeration in the lawn root system. This operation benefits the penetration of water into the soil bed, especially when the lawn is compacted with heavy traffic. Raking or

scraping shall be followed by top dressing with coarse sand to fill the depressions.

Rolling with hand roller will firm up and level the surface of lawn. Also the frequency of mowing can be reduced by rolling the lawn especially in case of the tough grasses like Zoysias. Roll the lawn when the soil is moist but the grass is dry.

The light and dark bands (Zebra stripes) on lawn (generally seen on the sports fields) can be tried on the large flat lawns for the aesthetic appeal.

These bands can be achieved by mowing and rolling the parallel stripes in such a way that alternate stripes are mowed and rolled in opposite direction.

### Pests & diseases

Like any other plant, lawn grass is also susceptible to pests and diseases of various kinds. In most of the cases these problems can be prevented or eradicated by following the common pest management practices. Usually, spraying of chemical pesticides is avoided on lawns to prevent hazardous environment for the people and pets.

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# Flooring, roofing products launched

Avant, manufacturer of construction and interior products for commercial and domestic sectors, in partnership with NCC Urban has launched its flooring and roofing products.

Speaking to presspersons here on Saturday, Andrew Hughes, Manager-Products and Marketing, Avant, said their flooring and roofing products were ranked as next-generation ones based on innovation and eco-friendliness.

"They have insulating qualities that may reduce electricity costs by 20 to 25 per cent resulting in lower carbon emissions," he said.

Mr. Hughes said the flooring panels were designed to resemble wood but present none of the liabilities. Made from durable composite, these panels does not scuff, scratch, rot or deform, he said.

NCC Urban Executive VP-Finance, Y.D. Murthy said a wide range of Avant products were being made available in the country for the first time.

On NCC Urban works in the city, he said a project on 32-acre site at Narsingi was taken up with Deutsche Bank to develop a total of 4.50 million sqft.

"Of this, 5.50 lakh sqft will be developed in the first phase," he added.



WIDE RANGE: Models posing with Avant products in Hyderabad. - Photo : Nagara Gopal

# Let there be light

Other than chandeliers, Fos Lighting also houses other kinds of lights to suit every occasion, writes RASHI TIWARY



FOR ALL SEASONS: Chandeliers can change the look of your home and illuminate the most staid interiors. — Photo: Ramakrishna

If you're the kind of person who fancies bright lights and colours, chances are that you're not one to be charmed by just lamps.

Most definitely in the cult of those who love luxury, chandeliers can change the look of your home and illuminate the most staid interiors. Uplighters are also known to diffuse light better thereby minimising the glare.

At Fos Lighting in Banjara Hills, these chandeliers are priced between Rs.5,275 and Rs.2,70,00 and besides the regular ornate and fancy ones, there is also a more subtle variety that includes antiques and teakwood.

For instance, a simple wood finished steel chandelier with frosted glass is priced at Rs. 9,975 while a satin steel finished square brass

and crystal chandelier with frosted glass shades is priced at Rs.39,775.

There are chandeliers with Jaipuria work on glass, real gold paint, brass or just plain crystals.

And what is more important is that these are compatible with most bulbs including CFL, LED and energy-saving lamps. The shop imports most of its crystals from Austria.

Reshma, the store executive, says, "Maintaining these chandeliers is also fairly easy. In fact, even polishing is not required. You can clean it with a dry cloth or a feather brush."

Describing these products as 'life-long', she says they go with every occasion. If broken or damaged, the store makes a free replacement, if a

snapshot of the damaged piece is sent to them.

While the cost of the chandelier does not include fitting charges, the store can make the necessary arrangements if needed on additional charges.

Apart from the high-end consumer segment, those who love antiques are also regular visitors to the store. Originally a Delhi-based store, it has just one outlet in Hyderabad that opened one-and-a-half years back and has been doing brisk business since then.

Other than chandeliers, Fos Lighting (Ph.40164229) also houses other kinds of lights to suit every occasion. There are lamps, ceiling lights, table lights, floor-level lights, recessed lights, outdoor lights and bath lights.

## Miyapur most 'searched' on web

Miyapur topped the list of most searched localities in Hyderabad for buying a property during the year 2012, according to an analysis by the real estate portal '99acres.com'.

Among a host of factors that propelled Miyapur to the top include improved infrastructure, new project launches and increased connectivity, the portal report says.

The data derived by analysing the search trends of users on the portal for property purchase last year has Gachibowli in the second place followed by Chandanagar, Kukatpally and KPHB. As far as rental is concerned, the search trend has Madhapur, Gachibowli, Banjara Hills and Kondapur emerging as the popular destinations.

The real estate in Hyderabad seems to be on track for a steady growth and is probably one of the best stable performing markets in Southern India, says the portal. There have been a whole lot of new project launches and infrastructure development adding to the growth of this city.

### Top 20 searched localities in Hyderabad

Buying	Renting
Miyapur	Madhapur
Gachibowli	Gachibowli
Chandanagar	Banjara hills
Kukatpally	Kondapur
KPHB	Begumpet
Manikonda	Miyapur
Kondapur	KPHB
Banjara hills	Ameerpet
Hitec City	Kukatpally
Nizampet	Hitec City
Beeramguda	Chandanagar
Madhapur	Madinaguda
Madinaguda	Jubilee Hills
BHEL	Nizampet
Bachupally	Manikonda
Ameerpet	Mehdipatnam
Begumpet	S.R. Nagar
Jubilee Hills	Himayat Nagar
Alwal	Srinagar Colony
A.S Rao Nagar	Panjugutta

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