

April 21, 2013

#### Tomatoes:

- When buying tomato plants or seeds, be sure to buy varieties that are resistant to nematodes, fusarium wilt, and tobacco virus.
- The majority of heirloom tomatoes are not disease resistant and can bring fusarium and wilt diseases to your vegetable garden quickly when the plants are underfed, grown in soils with bad drainage or low pH, or when tomatoes are planted in the same area year after year.
- Some of the easy to obtain disease resistant tomatoes are *Better Boy*, *Beef Master*, *Big Girl*, *Parks Whopper*, and *Super Sonic*.
- When preparing your tomato garden, be sure to use the [LusterLeaf pH Tester](#) to ensure that the soil's pH is near 7. Add some *Bonide Hydrated Lime* when the pH is on the low side. [Hydrated lime](#) provides the tomato plant with available calcium, which will prevent blossom end rot.
- The black spot that appear on tomato fruits is called blossom end rot.
- Feeding tomato plants with high salt index fertilizer will also cause blossom end rot easily, especially when the tomato plants are occasionally exposed to drought.
- Use Garden Trust Fertilizer to feed the tomato plants one week after planting. This fertilizer contains many major and minor trace elements which allow for the best growth and better tasting tomatoes. Also, tomatoes love phosphate, which is in plenty supply in [Garden Trust Fertilizer](#).

#### Lawn:

- If you sown grass seed in the late-fall, winter, or this spring, then you cannot use *Dimension crabgrass preventer* this spring. You must use *Lebanon Turpersan 4.6G* to prevent summer crabgrass this season. [Lebanon Turpersan 4.6G](#) is the only crabgrass preventer that contains siduron and no fertilizer. Two applications of *Lebanon Turpersan 4.6G* should be applied 30days apart to prevent the germination of summer crabgrass. The first application should be applied when the forsythia flowers are dropping in your area. Use the 2 lb./1,000 sq. feet spreader recommendation as stated on the bag. Remember to follow all label directions.
- Annual bluegrass can be controlled with Ortho Max Nutsedge Killer. It can be prevented from coming up next season by applying *Bonide Crabgrass Preventer with Dimension* in late August.
- Make sure you feed your lawn with [Turf Trust](#) if you have not done so this season, to help grow a deep root system.

#### Flowers:

Standard Impatiens are affected by downy mildew. Last season homeowners lost a lot of Impatiens to this. This year before purchasing your impatiens, inspect for signs of downy mildew. Check the underside of the leaves for a white residue. If you notice any, do not purchase from this batch. When you purchase disease free impatiens, plant them after there is no longer a threat of frost. When planting mix Baccto Sphagnum peat moss with your soil . ( if in containers use Baccto Light soil) After planted feed them with Garden Trust fertilizer. Use 1.5 lb per 100 sqft. Apply this as a top dressing. Do not apply in the hole when planting. Only one feeding is needed for the season. In containers feed them with fish fertilizer bi-weekly. To keep the bedding Impatiens healthy, and protect them from the downy mildew, apply [Agri-fos](#) fungicide once a month.