

March 18, 2013

March/April: Visit your local **independent garden center** to pick up the supplies you need for your spring lawn treatment. The products of choice for most homeowners will be [**Turf Trust 24-2-12 with CDU**](#), [**Bonide Brand Dimension Crabgrass Preventer**](#) and [**VPG Weed Preventer with Gallery**](#). The weed preventers and crabgrass preventers are only needed on sunny lawns. Shade is a natural weed preventer.

Prior to applying the products mentioned above, remove any debris that may have collected on the lawn over the winter. This includes leaves. The effectiveness of pre-emergent chemicals will be decreased considerably if leaves are left on the lawn. All lawns can be mowed to a height of 2" this time of the year. Be sure to bag all of the clippings because the soil temperature is too cold to facilitate a rapid decay of the clippings, and this will cause a thatch producing effect. After April 15th, you will no longer need to bag clippings.

After mowing the lawn, apply the correct products for your lawn needs. **Turf Trust** should be applied at the recommended rate as written on the label. This fertilizer will deliver 3/4 lb of nitrogen/1000 sq. ft.. The [**Bonide Brand Dimension Crabgrass Preventer**](#) should be applied as recommended on the product's label. **VPG Weed Preventer with Gallery** should be applied at the rate of 4.6lbs/1000 sq. ft. **Bonide Brand Dimension Crabgrass Preventer** and **VPG Weed Preventer with Gallery** both require 1/2" of irrigation within 10 days of application; additionally, it is best to apply these products before rain. If **VPG Weed Preventer with Gallery** was not properly applied, any returning weeds are not growing from seed, but from existing roots under ground.

If you are overseeding, do NOT apply any pre-emergent controls for now, i.e. **Bonide Brand Dimension Crabgrass Preventer** or **VPG Weed Preventer with Gallery**. You must apply **Lebanon Turpersan 4.6G** when the forsythia flowers are dropping. For overseeding we recommend [**Certified Turf Sense Tall Fescue**](#) or [**Water Saver RTF Tall Fescue Grass Seed**](#).

April/May: This is the time to apply **Bayer Dylox** or **Green Light Arena** insecticide for grubs control. **Bayer Dylox** should be used when grubs are present; whereas, **Green Light Arena** prevents grubs for the remaining season. The application of either of these products should be applied after the April 15th.

It is true that grubs are attracted mainly to sunny lawns, but homeowners that have considerable amounts of shade and have mole problems

should consider an application of [*Bayer Dylox*](#) or [*Green Light Arena*](#). Grubs are one of the primary food sources for moles. Controlling grubs often will help control moles.

Now that the average temperature is higher than 60° F, weeds that are present in the lawn can be controlled by applying [*Gordon's Speed Zone Lawn Weed Killer*](#) or [*Clear Choice Liquid Lawn Killer*](#). [*Clear Choice Liquid Lawn Killer*](#) is the most environmentally friendly liquid lawn weed killer of which we know. This product is based on micro-molecule technology, and it enters and translocates into leaves, stems, and roots faster than most products. It can also be sprayed in much lower concentrations while maintaining its effectiveness. Before applying either of these products be sure that there is no rain in the forecast for 24 hours after the application. The best time to apply lawn weed killers is in the evening.

If you overseeded and applied [*Lebanon Turpersan 4.6G*](#), its effects are beginning to diminish. The label recommends a second application 30 days after the first application, so likely your second application is due. After applying the second application, be sure to follow with an irrigation of 1/2" of water.

Raise mowing height to 3 1/2"

If you overseeded, use [*Kick Start*](#) in early May to help rapidly develop a deep root system. Additionally, [*VPG Weed Preventer with Gallery*](#) can be applied in late May, 60 days after sowing.

June: Raise mowing height to 4 1/2" to reduce summer stress on your lawn. Water only before noon to avoid disease problems. Make a second application of [*Kick Start*](#) to further strengthen the root system.

Keep an eye out for yellow nutsedge. This is quickly becoming a problem weed in many lawns. It can easily be identified by three characteristics: 1) It grows much faster than the rest of the lawn; 2) It is lime-green in color; 3) It has a triangular stem; this can be felt by twirling the stem between your index finger and thumb. Yellow nutsedge should be controlled immediately upon identification with an application of [*Sedgehammer Plus*](#).

June/July: Control surface insects with [*Bonide Eight with Permethrin*](#). If there is damage from the surface insects, the spring has been wet, or you are using a sprinkling system, then make a half-rate application of [*Turf Trust*](#).