

March 9, 2013

Lawn:

- The secret to growing a dense, deep rooted, drought resistant, healthy, green lawn is timing. When growing cool weather lawns, such as blue grass and tall fescue, it is important that you make the spring fertilization of [Turf Trust](#) as early as possible when the weather breaks in your area. The grass blades are not growing yet, so all the energy from the fertilizer goes to the root system, crowns, stolens, and rhizomes. This improves the root system by creating a dense crown with many stolons and rhizomes, which can increase potential density by 300-400%. When the application is made after the grass plant has begun growing, most of the energy from the fertilizer will go to the grass blade which will result in surge growth susceptible to disease, but not benefit the root system as much. Additionally, this late application will result in needing extra watering and mowing of the lawn.
- If a lawn is not fertilized, the grass will become green, but at the cost of the root system, and grass plants will be weak in the summer. Also, weeds will take over because of the additional watering needed to keep the lawn alive.
- Do not feed zoysia until it is fully green. When it is fully green, feed it with Turf Trust; this only needs done once a season.
- Do not use combination fertilizers on your lawn.
- Do not use fertilizer containing a high amount of short chained urea.
- Do not attempt to kill lawn weeds at this time because it is too cold.
- Do not spot treat wild onions with Round-Up because this will cause damage to the lawn. Instead, use [Clear Choice Lawn Weed Killer](#), but only use this product when the average temperature is 60° F for 5-6 days in a row. *Clear Choice* will not harm your lawn.
- The best time to start or renovate the lawn is in the fall, but some emergency repairs can be done now. Use [Water Saver RTF Tall Fescue](#) to repair bald spots larger than 6-8 inches. The seeding rate using [Water Saver RTF Tall Fescue](#) is 6 lbs/1,000 sq. feet; DO NOT use more than this. If the bald spots are smaller than 6 inches each, the spots should resolve themselves with an application of *Turf Trust*.
- When seeding late fall, winter, or spring use *Tupersan Crabgrass Preventer* to prevent crabgrass. Do not use *Greenlight Crabgrass Preventer*. Apply [Tupersan Crabgrass Preventer](#) when the forsythias are blooming in your area. Repeat this application 30 days later, as stated on the label.

Trees and Shrubs: (next week after weather breaks)

- If your deciduous trees and shrubs were not fed with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer](#) last fall, then feed them now.
- Now is the time to feed evergreen trees and shrubs, such as spruce, pine, juniper, azalea, and rhododendron. Feed them with *Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer*.
- Check the pH of boxwood and yews. They need a higher pH, i.e. 6.2-6.7. Adjust the pH by using [Bonide Hydrated Lime](#) as needed.
- Shape and trim shrubs, and prune back roses and butterfly bushes.

