

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](#), [Crabgrass Preventer with Dimension](#) and [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 debris that may have collected on the lawn over the winter. 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.

Make an application of [Kick Start](#) to the lawn. This will help restore any hair roots that were lost due to the bitter winter cold and the [Kick Start](#) will better enable the grass plants to pick up all of the essential elements from the feeding of Turf Trust needed for a stronger lawn.

Use a [PH tester](#) to check the PH of your lawn, Do this before the season starts. The Ph should be between 6.2-6.7.

- If salt was used near your lawn, you should apply [granular gypsum](#) in the area, that the salt may have reached the lawn to neutralize the damaging effect of the salt. Make the gypsum application after the snow has melted.
- Apply [Kick Start](#) after the snow has melted and repeat this application two weeks after the first application. This will help the root system regrow new root hairs. When grass plants have no root hairs, the lawn will have difficulty absorbing the nutrients it needs to properly "green up."

Do not make the mistake and hurt the grass root hairs more by applying, a short chained, urea based lawn fertilizer this spring.

Applications of short chained urea fertilizers, will give your lawn a surge of pale green top growth and a reduction of root development. Use the [Turf Trust fertilizer](#), (slow released controlled fertilizer) early spring to help the roots grow strong and to promote denser crowns, stolons , and rhizomes. This strong root system, that the turf trust and Kick Start can help promote, will make your lawn more drought resistant this summer. Also do not use any combination fertilizers on the lawn. They do not work as they are supposed to! The best time to feed the lawn (cool weather grasses) is early spring. All of the energy will go to the roots, crown, stolons , and rhizomes. But remember it may be too early to kill any of the lawn weeds until the temps are above 60 degrees for three or more days. The weed killers work best in temp ranges of 60-85 degrees. Remember now it is also too early to apply the crabgrass preventer .

Conclusion: Only fertilizer will work in early spring, so there is no use in applying a lawn weed killer combination fertilizer (weed and feed) in early spring. And if you use a combination weed and feed or combination fertilizer & preventer later to kill weeds or prevent and kill insects. You will be applying an excess of fertilizer. Which creates an excess of upright surge growth and makes the grass susceptible to diseases and drought stress.

Also for the early spring, choose to not use organic fertilizers. The temperatures are too cold for them to properly work. They do best in the summer when temps are warmer.

You can spot seed as soon as the snow has melted. Cover the seeds with leafgro or peatmoss then drench them with kick start. Early spring seeding will not require extra watering. In early spring grass seed can be easily overwatered during cool spring weather.

Don't walk on frozen lawns.

If you have a lawn service you can also purchase Turf Trust or other products that you want used on your lawn and have them apply it. Do not let them apply anything they want. (they will use a short chained urea) This can cause root damage and surge growth with chance of leaf spot disease.