

3-01-2018

- 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, Dimension Crabgrass Preventer, Weed Preventer with Gallery and Kick Start.**](#)
- Prior to applying the products mentioned above, remove debris that may have collected on the lawn over the winter.
- 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. Areas that were hit with a lot of snow, may encounter snow mold disease in their lawn. An early application of Turf Trust will allow the lawn to outgrow the disease without using any other chemicals.

Northern Lawn: (Tall fescue / Bluegrass / Rye)

- Apply [**Turf Trust Lawn Fertilizer**](#) as soon as the weather permits. Grass roots benefit from earlier applications, as compared to a later application.
- This spring, be sure to include an application of [**Kick Start**](#) to help repair your lawn's root system, which may have been damaged from the winter. See the [**Kick Start video here.**](#)

You can apply Dimension crabgrass preventer on the lawn when soil temps meet the following. Crabgrass begins to germinate, when the average daily soil temperatures reach 57 to 64°F at a one-inch depth. Although large quantities of crabgrass seedlings will not start germinating, until soil temperatures increase to 73 °F.

South of Richmond usually March. Mid- Atlantic States Early to Mid April. Northern states late April. Read directions for local application rates.

Southern Lawns:

Zoysia and Bermuda lawns do not need to be fed with Turf Trust until they turn 80% green.

Follow northern lawn crabgrass directions. Do not use [**Tupersan**](#) crabgrass preventer on Bermuda grass. Read directions for local application rates.

Bulbs:

Feed spring bulbs, Tulips and Daffodils now with [**Garden Trust.**](#)

Trees and Shrubs:

- If your deciduous trees and shrubs were not fed with [**Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer**](#) last fall, then feed them now.
- Spring 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 using a [**Luster Leaf pH tester 1840.**](#) These plants need a higher pH, i.e. 6.2-6.7. Adjust the pH by using [**Bonide Hydrated Lime**](#) as needed.
- Shape and trim shrubs.

- Prune back roses and butterfly bushes.
- Cut forsythia, Yoshino cherry, or crab apple branches and place in a vase indoors. After a few days they will bloom into a beautiful flower bouquet.
- Fig trees - Feed Fig trees with Plant Trust fertilizer.

Fruit Tree Pruning:

- When pruning fruit trees, be careful not to cut into the branch collar – this will allow for faster healing.
- Maintain 4-5 main branches. Keep a leader on the 4-5 main branches.
- Do not allow Y-branches on the main branches to develop.
- Cut off all thin, upright and downward directed water sprouts.
- Remove any branches that are too close to the main branches. Also remove all dead braches.
- Leave 30-70 pencil thin bloom bud spurs per tree, except for cherry trees, which can have more bloom buds.
- Do not allow the tree to become too tall or dense.
- Open up the canopy by removing the tallest branches and the branches that are too close together.
- ***Do not*** prune more than 25% of the tree per season.
- After pruning, light and air will need to be able to reach the interior of the tree to help prevent fungus diseases.
- Peach trees are best pruned when they are blooming. All other fruit trees are best pruned in the months of January and February.