

3-03-2017

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.

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.