

February 16, 2019

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. Because of the damage from the cold, it is very important to make an early application of Kick Start, to repair the lawns root hairs that where damaged.

Kick Start will also help pull the lawns natural phosphate, so that it will be available for the grass to use it. (this is very important for people in areas where phosphate free fertilizers are used). In early spring 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 zoyzia or other warm season grasses, until it is fully green. When it is fully green, feed the grass with Turf Trust, then once again six weeks later. •

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 in northern states because it is too cold.

- On warm season lawns you can kill lawn weeds now (wild onions, henbit, chickweed) even if the lawn is not green yet.

- Do not spot treat wild onions with Round-Up because this will cause damage to the lawn. Instead, use Bonide Weedbeater Ultra, but only use this product when the average temperature is 55°F - 80 F degrees.

- Northern Lawns:

- The best time to start or renovate the lawn is in the fall, but some emergency repairs can be done now. On sunny lawns 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. In the shade use Roozens shady grass seed mixture, use 3 lb per 1,000 sqft and cover the seed with Peat moss.

- Warm season lawns (Bermuda grass or zoysia) are overseeded or plugged when the lawn is fully green in the summer.

- When grass seed was applied late fall, winter, or spring use Tupersan Crabgrass Preventer to prevent crabgrass. Do not use Dimension Crabgrass Preventer. ApplyTupersan Crabgrass Preventer when the forsythias or dogwoods are blooming in your area. Repeat this application 30 days later, as stated on the label. (Don't use Tupersan on Bermuda grass lawns)

- Lawn Generally:

- Turf Trust applications should be made as soon as the spring weather permits. At the same time, make an application of Kick Start to repair damaged root systems, which may have been damaged due to the cold weather. For best results, repeat the Kick Start application two-weeks later. View the Kick Start video.

Do not fertilize warm season lawns yet. Only feed them after they turn fully green. Once green, feed them Turf Trust. Weeds can be killed on warm season lawns and crabgrass can be prevented now, before the lawn turns green. Do not use speedzone on St. Augustine lawns, Use Hi-Yield Atrazine on St. Augustine lawns. Do not use Atrazine weed killer on Bahia lawns , Bermuda lawns, or any types of northern lawns types.

Flower Beds:

- To prevent summer weeds, apply Bonide Dimension in shrub and perennial beds before mulching.
- During the spring, use controlled released fertilizer on annual plants planted in flower beds (petunia, begonias, and inpatients) instead of using liquid fertilizers. Liquid fertilizers have a low efficiency rate, last only a few weeks, and can leach. Use controlled released fertilizer like Garden Trust.
- . Do not place the Garden Trust in the holes with the plant when planting, only side dress one week after planting, and only apply once a season.
- Garden Trust is the most complete flower fertilizer of which I am aware.
- Garden Trust not only gives your flowers, nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium, but also gives them minor and trace elements in the ratio needed by the plants.
- Feed daffodils, lilies, and minor bulbs now if those bulbs had not been fed last fall. Use Garden Trust.

When buying forced perennials, like prime roses or helleboris, keep the plants protected from frost. Plant these tender young perennials in early to mid-April in the ground, depending on weather. These plants will be hardy next winter when planted correctly.

Moss:

- Due to the increased rainfall over the last year, there may be more moss present in your yard. Most home lawns do not have adequate draining soils. Many homeowners are using urea based high salt indexed lawn fertilizers, which require additional waterings to keep the lawn green during the summer. These factors keep the lawn more moist, which is an environment in which moss thrives.
- To kill moss in a lawn, use Bonide Moss Max
- . Use Turf Trust Lawn Fertilizer to feed the lawn. It contains plenty iron sulfate (active ingredient in moss killers) to suppress moss.