

January 26, 2018

#### Lawn:

- Phosphate is an essential element. If the grass plants do not have enough phosphate, the grass will look unhealthy in the late spring. The grass will be reddish / yellow looking, when it does not have enough phosphate. Phosphate deficient grass will not grow properly, will be susceptible to diseases, and will leave a lawn with mis-colored (reddish / green) areas. A lawn needs phosphate. [Turf Trust 24-2-12](#) will supply enough phosphate to maintain a healthy lawn. If your lawn is phosphate deficient, you can correct this by applying phosphate and then maintaining the lawn with a low phosphate Turf Trust formula. Importantly, in some states, it is illegal to apply a fertilizer that contains phosphate unless you meet an exception. If you are in such a state, you can use [Turf Trust 24-0-12](#), which is phosphate free. (Check in the spring with your local law to determine if this applies to you). Applying Kick Start to the lawn will also help the lawn utilize trapped phosphate that is already in your soil.
- Phosphate is essential for winter root growth for the lawn. A lawns strong root growth will help prevent runoff into waterways and storm drains.
- [Lawn test kits](#) can be used to test the phosphate level of your lawn.
- If salt is 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.”
- For the Southern states and Mid-Atlantic the soil is very dry. The long range forecast calls for some rain in February. Apply Kick Start in late February/ March to help the lawns root systems.

Spring note: Milky spore disease only kills Japanese beetle grubs and not June or May bug grubs. If you are feeding the lawn with Turf Trust and watering when dry, your lawn can have 6-8 grubs per sqft, with out damage.

If the weather permits, now is the time to adjust your lawns [PH](#). Check the PH with a Luster Leaf Ph Tester . If the PH is too low then add lime, or if the PH is to high use iron sulfate to lower it.

#### House Plants:

- Jade plants dropping leaves are overwatered. Keep Jade plants in a location that will expose them to as much sun light as possible and keep the soil on the dry side. To help the Jade plant grow better, mix 1/2 Tbsp [SeaMate](#) with 1 Tbsp of Hydrogen peroxide per quart of water. Use this mixture every time you water the Jade plant.
- Keep mites under control by applying [Summit Year Round Spray Oil for House Plants](#).
- All house plants should be fed with [Seamate](#) every time that you water. Use 1/2 tablespoon of [Seamate](#) per quart of water.
- Keep African Violets away from cold windowsills. They do not tolerate the cold. The cold can lead to root rot.
- Do not over water house plants. Use a [Luster Leaf Moisture Meter](#) to determine the hydration level of your house plant soil.

Weeping fig houseplants need to be kept in a well lit place and keep the soil on the dry side. When summered over outside, they will be dropping lots of leaves indoor now. They will regrow new shade tolerant leaves. Feed them with [sea mate](#) when watering.

Planning:

- Somethings that you may need are:
- Shop for supplies now, consult the [GardenSense lawn calendar](#) to anticipate your needs for this spring.
  - [Spray Oil](#), which can be used for insect control
  - [Garden Trust Vegetable Fertilizer](#), which can be used to fertilize vegetables and flowers. Begin fertilizing one week after planting, Using one pound of this fertilizer per 100 sq. feet of bed area. Never place any fertilizer in the planting hole when planting. This type of planting should occur in the spring. One application per season is usually sufficient when planting summer flowers.
  - [Bonide Hydrated Lime](#), which can prevent blossom end rot in tomatoes.
  - [Garden Trust Fertilizer](#), which can be used to fertilize Roses and hydrangeas.
  - [Plant Trust Fertilizer](#) - This is normally used to feed evergreens in the spring.
    - Also, geraniums, petunias, or hibiscus will grow better if they are fed with [Plant Trust](#) (not [Garden Trust](#) for these plants).
    - [Garden Trust Fertilizer](#) - For all other summer flowers (other than geraniums, petunias, or hibiscus), fertilize with [Garden Trust Fertilizer](#).

Bulbs/Seeds

Crocus and Hyacinths not planted, can be discarded in to the trash. Tulips and Daffodils can still be planted as soon as possible outside or in containers.

Shop now for flower and vegetable seeds, but do not start the seeds too early indoors.

Perennials

In the mid atlantic states you can dig up and divide hardy Hibiscus. After adding Sphagnum peat moss to the soil (1 cuft per 10 sqft) replant the divided plants in the same beds. Any extra plants, plant them in another sunny location A.S.A.P after dividing. Do not feed the Hibiscus until early spring. Feed them with Plant Trust and water them down with Kick Start, two times ten days apart after transplanting.

Winter Damage:

Remove damaged foliage and branches in early spring. Treat the damaged plants as soon as possible with Kick Start to help damaged roots regrow root hairs. If you notice the soil is dry try to give these damaged plants extra water. Use a 1/2 application of Garden Trust to feed these plants in late March/ Mid- April. ( do this instead of the normal plant trust )