

July 22, 2017

Lawn:

Monthly “Nico’s Best KickStart “ applications on your lawn, makes lawns extra drought resistant. Kickstart especially helps grass, that is under shallow rooted trees, these areas are hard for grass to grow.

Bulbs:

- If amaryllis bulbs are not yet planted in the garden, do this as soon as possible. Take bulbs out of their pots. If possible, do not keep the bulb in a pot over the summer. After planting in the garden, side dress it with 1 tablespoon of [GardenTrust Flower and Bulb Fertilizer](#) and keep slightly moist.

Flowers:

- Vinca major is a flower that comes in many different colors. It will thrive in extreme heat with minimal watering. Use *Canadian Peat Moss* to prepare the planting bed. Feed your vinca major with Garden Trust when planting in a flower bed. Use Monterey Fish and Poop fertilizer when planting the vinca major in containers.
- Flowering baskets, window boxes, and potted mix flower pots should be fed with Monterey Fish and Poop fertilizer weekly. Keep these flowers well watered. Water daily at the same time of day.

When potted Bacopa or Calibrachoa are turning pale, Check the ph with a [luster leaf PH tester](#). If the PH is above 6.5 use [Bonide micronized sulfur](#) to lower the ph to 5.8-6. Use 1 tbs with water each watering until the ph reaches the desired level.

Ground Covers/Pachysandra:

- Pachysandra grown in the sun or near large trees need to be watered during the summer to prevent leaf scorch.
- Pachysandra that looks pale may have be receiving too much sun or have an iron deficiency. If it is an iron deficiency, treat by applying [Bonide Liquid Iron](#).
- Pachysandra likely has blight if it is dying in spots; has water soaked, brownish leaves; and/or, has black stems. Wet weather, overcrowding, overwatering, and/or spider mites can cause blight. Clean the affected area by removing diseased plants. Treat with three applications of [Mancozeb](#) seven days apart.
- Oyster shell scale can affect pachysandra. The stems will look like they are covered with brown bumps. Use [Bonide Rose Rx Drench](#) to control the scale.
- Spider mites can affect pachysandra. The leaves will be speckled or spotted and palish and dirty looking. In severe cases, webbing will be seen. Treat with three applications of [Pure Spray Green](#) in the evening seven days apart.
- Feed pachysandra with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer](#) in the spring (use 1 lb./150 sq. ft). Water the plant during dry periods of the summer, be careful not to overwater.
- If your pachysandra is not doing well, it may benefit from two applications of **Kick Start** applied two weeks apart along with an application of **Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer**

(however, if the plant was already fed with Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer in the spring, it should not be re-fertilized) and proper watering to restore the pachysandra's vigor.

Ground Covering/Vinca Minor:

- Vinca minor planted in full sun or dry soils may have pale, green leaves, brown blotches, or dead leaves.
- Vinca minor grown in soils with a pH below 6 may have yellow or brown leaves. Apply [Bonide Hydrated Lime](#) to increase the Ph to 6.7-7. You can test your soils pH with a [Luster Leaf pH tester](#).
- Vinca may die back in spots because of fungus (dieback and canker). Wet rainy periods spread fungus. Never water vinca minor in the evening; rather, water in the morning so that the foliage will be dry in the evening. Newly planted vinca and established vinca that is watered often are prone to fungal infections. Treat fungus (dieback and canker) with three applications of [Bonide Copper Fungicide](#) three days apart.
- General solutions to keep your vinca minor healthy are: feed vinca in the spring with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer](#) (1 lb./ 150 sq. ft); keep the vinca well watered in the summer; water the vinca in the morning; and be sure that foliage is dry in the evening.
- If your vinca minor plants are not doing well, it may benefit from two applications of [Kick Start](#) applied two weeks apart along with an application of Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer (however, if already fed with [Plant Trust Tree and Shrub Fertilizer](#) in the spring, it should not be re-fertilized) and proper watering to restore the vinca minor's vigor.