

July 7, 2013

Lawn

- Keep mowing your [RTF Tall Fescue](#) at 3.5 - 4 inches and keep the mower blades sharpened . This is the same height that it should have been mowed during the spring. Be sure to keep the mower blade sharp. There have been calls regarding brown patches in lawns. The most common cause for this is fungus. Fungus will occur because lawns were not mowed for 10-14 days and the grass had remained wet from evening rain and the high humidity from the warm temperatures . Be sure to mow at least once a week. Do not rely on lawn fungicides to treat your lawn for the brown spots because the fungicide will kill both good and bad fungi. The good fungi is needed because they prey on brown patch and dollar spot fungus. To treat, make a half application of [Turf Trust](#) now, then two applications of KickStart ten day apart and within a few weeks the brown spots will go away. The C.D.U. and ammonium sulfate will naturally help eradicate the dollar spot and brown patch fungus. However, if your lawn was over seeded last fall and too much seed was used per square foot, then the brown patches cannot repair themselves, and these areas will need to be reseeded with less seed in the fall.
- Never water your lawn in the evening during the summer.
- Do not forget to make the monthly [Kick Start](#) application if you made a phosphate free lawn fertilizer application or if your grass was sown last fall.
- *Kick Start* naturally helps phosphate become available and makes fertilizer more efficient. Go to [Kickstart video](#) to see how kick start has improved grass root systems.
- Reminder, [Green Light Grub Control with Arena](#) should be applied now for a bug free lawn this summer; it will even control most white grubs.
- If you use a sprinkler system, you have a higher chance of grub infestation.
- Nutsedge can be controlled with [Sedghammer](#) without harming the lawn.

Flowers:

- Grande flora petunias should be pruned after the 4th of July. Begin by removing 1/3 of the foliage. Then, feed with [Jack's Classic Petunia Feed](#).
- Wave petunias do not need to be pruned; they only need to be fed.
- Dianthus should be deadheaded and fed with [plant trust](#). This will help keep them blooming throughout the summer.
- Hollyhocks should be sprayed with [Bonide Mancozeb](#) to prevent rust from overtaking foliage later this month.
- Hanging baskets and potted plants that are outside will need to be watered daily during these hot summer days. If you are leaving town for the up coming holiday weekend, have someone water these plants daily or move them to a shaded area before leaving. If you are going out of town for a week and have no one to water the plants, then water with [Natural Industries Vacation](#). This product will decrease the plants need for water for up to two weeks.
- If your flowers and perennials are properly fed, there is little chance they will develop disease.

- To ensure your hardy mum bloom properly in the fall, do not prune your mums after approximately July 10th.
- When flowers have finished blooming on Trumpet, Tiger, Oriental, and Asian Lilies, cut the only the flower and leave the stem intact with growing leaves. Feed lily plants with Garden Trust. Only cut the stem after the entire lily has turned brown in the fall.