

March 15, 2018

Lawn:

- Short, pale, grass with seed-heads is annual bluegrass (*Poa annua*). It can be prevented by applying [Crabgrass Preventer with Dimension](#) in August.
- If sowing grass seed this spring, do not use Dimension crabgrass preventer, instead use Lebanon [Tupersan 4.6g crabgrass preventer](#). Do not use the tupersan on Bermuda grass lawns.
- The faster growing, pale looking, coarser grass is rye grass. This crop grass will not survive the summer, so you can ignore it.
- Do not feed zoysia grass with [Turf Trust](#) until it is completely green.
- You can kill weeds, including wild onions, in a zoysia lawn, by applying *Bonide weedbeater ultra*. Make your application in the evening and do not mow for 3 days before **or** after the application.
- Moss in the lawn can be eradicated by using [Granular Bonide Moss Maxx](#).
- To kill grubs in the lawn use Bayer Dylox and if you want to prevent white grubs in the lawn for the season you can apply [Natural Guard grub control](#).
- When the weather permits, you can do some patch up grass seed sowing, for the bare spots that are larger than 8-10 inches.
- In New England and other Northern areas, apply Turf Trust as soon as the snow has melted and the soil is firm, to minimize snow mold damage.

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.
- Now 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 - If you are located in zones 6, 7. Your hardy fig may be frozen. Remove the dead branches and feed them with Plant Trust fertilizer and they will regrow from the root again.
- 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.

Young Japanese maples need to be sprayed with Monterey Liqui-cop at bud break, and two times afterwards, 7-10 days apart. If your Japanese maples were not fed last fall with Plant Trust, then feed them now.

Winter Damage:

Peach, Apricot, Pear, and Cherry trees in the Mid-Atlantic states, most likely will not bear much fruit, because of the weather in March.

Some June bearing strawberry plants, may also have been damaged in the Carolinas and Georgia. Feed strawberry plants with Hi-Yield cotton seed meal.

- Hollies, Nandina, and Azaleas with burnt leaves, Boxwoods showing orange, brown leaves, and Arborvitae that are out of shape or have been eaten by deer should be fed with Plant Trust.
- Roses that have winter damage should be cut to 12 inches tall, and then sprayed with Monterey Liqui-cop. At the same time, feed the roses with Garden Trust, 4 oz per plant.
- Hydrangeas need more time. We are seeing some winter damage on these plants. You should wait about a month before you remove last year's dead branches. For now, feed them with [Garden Trust](#).