

March 9, 2018

Lawn:

Controlling Bermuda grass in tall fescue and blue grass:

- Make an early application [of Turf Trust](#) over any Bermuda grass infested lawn. Do not use a high salt indexed *Turf Fertilizer* – Bermuda grass likes salt. However, tall fescue and Blue grass do not like salt. Turf Trust is a controlled release lawn fertilizer with a low salt index.
- When a lawn with Bermuda grass is thin or has bald spots, you should over seed with [Water Saver RTF Tall Fescue](#) in the spring, as soon as the weather permits. Over seed with only 2-3 seeds per square inches. Only over seed when it is really needed.
- When forsythias are blooming in your area, make an application of Lebanon [Crabgrass Control w/ Tupersan 4.6% Crab Grass Preventer](#). Use the two-pound setting, which is recommended on the bag for an Earthway Lawn Spreader. Repeat this application thirty-days after the first application. \*Note, for Bermuda grass control, you should only use Turpersan Crab Grass Control, not any other crab grass preventer.
- When the Bermuda grass is almost green (in May) make an application of the following mixture: 2 teaspoons of Monterey TurfLon Ester, ½ of a teaspoon [Tenacity](#), 1 tablespoon of Bonide Turbo Spreader Sticker, and 1 gallon of water. Mix these ingredients and apply over the area infested with Bermuda grass. This one-gallon mixture should cover 1,000 square feet of lawn area. Make repeated applications of this mixture every three weeks until the end of summer. Our trial using this procedure shows good control of Bermuda grass.

Lawn Generally:

Northern areas put yard work on hold until the weather improves again.

- 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. This year because of the damage from the bitter cold it is very important to make an early application of Kick Start to repair the lawns root hairs that were 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 until it is fully green. When it is fully green, feed it with Turf Trust; this only needs to be done once a season.
- 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 because it is too cold.
- Do not spot treat wild onions with Round-Up because this will cause damage to the lawn. Instead, use [Speedzone or Weedbeater Ultra](#), but only use this product when the average temperature is 60 °F for 5-6 days in a row.
- 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 or Myers shady nook grass seed use 3 lb per 1,000 sqft and cover the seed with leafgro or Peat moss.
- When grass seed was applied late fall, winter, or spring use *Tupersan Crabgrass Preventer* to prevent crabgrass. Do not use *Dimension Crabgrass Preventer*. Apply [Tupersan Crabgrass Preventer](#) when the forsythias are blooming in your area. Repeat this application 30 days later, as stated on the label.

#### Moss:

- Moss can be killed using [Bonide Moss Max](#). For larger areas, use the 20lb bag of *Bonide Moss Max*, which covers 5,000 sq. feet. For smaller areas, use the liquid R.T.U. concentrated spray, which covers 500 sq. feet. *Refer to last weeks notes which gives more details.*
- Do not use [Wet and Forget](#) to kill moss in a lawn because this will harm the lawn. Only use *Wet and Forget* for surfaces as directed on the label.

#### Vegetable and flower beds:

- Vegetable and flower beds can be prepared now.
- Do not use too much compost in the vegetable garden because it causes excessive green growth and poor fruit production.
- Root crops cannot be successfully grown in a vegetable garden that is too rich in compost.
- Vegetable gardens must be located in areas of full sun for the best results.

#### House Plants:

- Continue using [Seamate](#) every time you water your indoor house plants.