

Lawn Maintenance Information

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Fertilizer:

Lawns need nitrogen (N) each year. Apply 1lb. of N per 1,000 sq. ft. (5 lbs. of 20-0-0). It is best if 50% of the nitrogen is slow release. Use a complete fertilizer (16-8-8) when seeding an area. A complete fertilizer contains nitrogen, phosphate, and potassium.

Power Rake:

It is not needed or recommended for most lawns. Save the accumulated debris from garden for soil improvement or mulching vegetables and trees. This does not need to be done annually. Can be helpful prior to overseeding or fertilizing.

Aerate:

Irrigate lawn prior to aeration. Improves compacted soils. Space holes 3-4" apart. Very important to reduce thatch and improve water penetration.

Seeding:

Roto-till soil 6" deep and mix 12-15 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. of 16-8-8 or similar complete fertilizer. Smooth and firm seed bed. Use a good blend of improved Kentucky Bluegrasses or Tall Fescue. Seed 2 ½ - 3 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. for Bluegrass. Use 8 lbs. of seed per 1,000 sq. ft. with Tall Fescue. Keep soil bed moist. Tall Fescue requires less water to maintain.

Sodding:

Same soil preparation as seeding. Buy sod with blend of varieties or Tall Fescue. Irrigate immediately after laying.

Insects:

Merit applied in April and July will control most insect problems. Earthworms may be affected by insecticides.

Diseases:

Be sure a disease is correctly identified. Check with nurserymen or Extension agent. Read label for fungicide use. No fungicide controls all diseases.

Broadleaf Weeds:

Use product containing 2, 4-D. Trimec is effective on a wide range of weeds. (Do not use in weather above 85 F or when conditions are windy. Read and follow label directions.)

Crabgrass:

Dacthal or other pre-emergence herbicide alone or in a fertilizer mix. 2 ½ - 3" mowing height plus adequate fertilizer discourages weeds.

Spurge:

Dacthal alone or in a fertilizer mix.