A·C·E·R GARDENS
447 Winthrop Road, Deep River, Ct. 06417
(860) 526-9056 www.acergardens.com
email – acer@acergardens.com

Lawn Fertilization

If you have a lawn, spring is the time to start thinking of fertilization. The following is a guideline on fertilization for Connecticut. This takes in to account a good, well drained organic soil with a pH of 6.0-6.5. Please note: the more you fertilize and water, the more insect and disease problems you will have.

Here are 6 different approaches to lawn fertilization:

1. **Natural**:No fertilization

2. **Low**:Fertilized once in late November

3. **Low-Medium**:Fertilized once in late Nov and again in late March/early April

4. **Medium**:Fertilized 3 times with applied weed control: March, mid-May, Nov.

5. **High**:Fertilized 4 times with applied weed control: March, mid-May, late August, Nov.

6. **Ultra-High**:Fertilized 5 times with applied weed control (requires additional watering): March, mid-May, early July, late August, Nov.

I recommend the medium approach #4. The type of fertilizer you use, organic vs. inorganic, is your choice. Nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium remain the same despite the source. You should try to apply approximately 1 lb. of nitrogen per 1000 sq. ft. of area (**example 1**).

Example 1: Fertilizer Analysis 28-0-3

1. The First number 28 is the percentage of nitrogen in the bag.
2. In a 50 lb bag of fertilizer you will have 14 lb. of nitrogen (28% of 50 lb). This bag would cover approx. 14,000+ sq. ft. of area (140ft.x100ft.)

When selecting a spring fertilizer, look at the analysis and try to select one showing 25%-50% of the nitrogen source as slow release. If you are using a 100% organic form the nitrogen is normally all slow release. The nitrogen will cause the grass plants to have lush top growth and a green color. Some fertilizers provide chelated iron which

will promote a deep green color. When controlling weeds, the most important practice is mowing height. Mow at 2.5"-3.5"; this length will shade out weeds and promote aggressive, healthy turf. Remember, these recommendations (**Example 2**) are for Connecticut and will not match general instructions. **Example 2** is for a 14,000 sq. ft. lawn with an average healthy soil, average pH and rainfall with shade to sun. Changing the fertilizer analysis would change the amount of fertilizer used.

Example 2: *Late March – Early April*: (ground not frozen) 50 lb - 28-0-3 50% SCU*, 1.5% iron Frequent springs rains require a higher percentage of slow release nitrogen.

Mid May: (Soil temp +/- 65 degrees) 75 lb – 19-0-6 25% SCU*, .103 Dimension Dimension controls crabgrass germination. Applying crabgrass control now prevents germination in August and September (when the problem is worse).

Late November: (ground not frozen) 100 lb – 28-0-3 25% SCU*. These nutrients promote root growth.

* SCU = Sulfur Coated Urea (slow release form of nitrogen)

Working with example #2 will yield acceptable turf with few weeds and require moderate maintenance with few problems.

Broadleaf weed control can be applied in mid-May and again in late August. Insect control can also be applied in mid-April and again in late August. Disease control timing will vary with the pathogen. Many times, diseases can be contained by cultural methods (i.e. proper fertilization, mowing height, light, and irrigation). We sell these items as separate products to lessen the use of unnecessary controls. If you have questions on their use, please ask for assistance.