



Featured Article

FALL FERTILIZATION

Fall is right around the corner and most experts agree that it is the most important time of the year to fertilize when lawns often show signs of summer stress. Cooler nights and an occasional light rain signal the end of summer and the beginning of fall.

Applying fertilizer in the fall restores needed nutrients and helps lawns to recover from summer damage. It will also strengthen your lawn's root system and increases nitrogen storage for an early spring green-up.

Timing is critical when fertilizing in the fall - getting down an application before the first frost, which typically comes in late November. Nitrogen is the most important nutrient for fall fertilization. A rapid-release, high-nitrogen fertilizer is recommended.

Rapid-release fertilizers allow nutrients to become affective faster. They carry over through the winter and produce the best results in the spring. It will also keep your lawn looking greener during the winter months. Slow-release fertilizers breakdown more slowly and only a small portion becomes available to the plants over time.

Fall fertilization is also beneficial to shrubs and groundcover. However, when using a drip irrigation system, the traditional hand-held broadcast spreader is not efficient. The granular form of fertilizer must be watered into the soil to get down to the plant's root system to be affective.

There are a couple simple solutions. Using a hose-end auto-mix sprayer will allow you to apply the fertilizer directly to your targeted plant materials, without wasting water and fertilizer. Another more efficient method is to install a fertilizer injector into your drip system, that automatically mixes and applies the fertilizer as needed.

For more information on fertilization and fertilizer applications, contact your local garden or home improvement center.