

# SIMPLIFIED LAWN CARE

## IN THE SPRING

Begin working on your lawn as soon as weather permits (March-April). Rake lawn thoroughly to remove leaves, twigs and debris.

Test your soil pH to determine if lime is needed (see box below). Keep the pH between 6.2 and 6.8. If pH is below 6.2, apply lime at a rate of 50-100 lbs. per 1,000 sq. ft. Use heavier rate for very acidic soil pH (below 5.5). Check the pH at least once a year.

## FEEDING (FERTILIZING)

For best results, most lawns should be fertilized 3 times a year. Use a non-burning organic fertilizer such as Milorganite. Apply **Milorganite** in late May (Memorial Day), late August (Labor Day) and again in late November (Thanksgiving).

### Fertilize Lawns

**Memorial Day**

**Labor Day**

**Thanksgiving**

Avoid early spring applications of high nitrogen fertilizers since they may

encourage soft, tender growth that may be more prone to certain disease problems. Our northern turf grasses such bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fescues prefer heavier feedings in the late summer and fall when it benefits them the most.

## MOWING

Mowing height should be at 2 ½ - 3 inches. The longer the better. Never remove more than one third to one half of the total height of the grass plant. Keep mower blades sharp. During certain periods of rapid growth your lawn may need to be cut more frequently than once a week. Clippings may be left on the lawn as long as they are not too long, no longer than an inch or leave clumps.

## WATERING

Water your lawn only when necessary. 1 to 2 inches of water a week is all that is required for most lawns on Long Island, especially during hot, dry weather. Consider how much natural rainfall has occurred recently and supplement that by using your sprinklers. Water early in the morning. Avoid watering late in the day or at night. Watering every day or every other day for 20 or 30 minutes can encourage

insect and disease problems. It's always better to water deeply (1 inch or more) but less frequently, maybe only once or twice a week if needed.

## SPECIAL PROBLEMS

By following the above maintenance practices, your lawn will be dark green thick, healthy and will be resistant to most common lawn problems. If you are just beginning a good maintenance program you may need to treat those special problems listed below as they appear or show the first signs or symptoms.

## WEEDS

For broadleaf weeds like chickweed, clover, dandelions and others apply a lawn weed killer such as Trimec whenever weeds are present and actively growing. Do not mow 2 days before or after application. Apply granular Trimec to moist grass. Do not water for 1-2 days after application and apply only when no rain is expected within 24 hours. Do not use grass seed for at least 4 weeks after application.

## CRABGRASS

Apply a pre-emergent crabgrass preventer in April before crabgrass

germinates. If you are seeding the lawn in spring, use Siduron (Tupersan). If you not seeding use Dimension, Team, Halts or Corn Gluten Meal (Organica's Lawn Booster) an organic fertilizer that controls crabgrass.

### **GRUBS AND OTHER INSECTS**

For white grubs, check for grubs in April or May and again in Sept. or Oct. by cutting out and lifting up a small 1'x 1' square of grass where you suspect grubs might be. Look in the root zone area and in the soil just below. If you find more than 7-10 grubs per square foot area apply a grub control like Merit or Dylox or a biological grub killer like beneficial nematodes. For other lawn insect problems such as sod webworm and chinch bugs, apply Dursban or Diazinon when these insects are present in the lawn, May-Sept.

### **DISEASE PROBLEMS**

Fungus problems can appear almost any time, however, most common diseases are active during spring and summer. At the first sign of a problem, have it diagnosed by bringing in a small 1'x 1'square sample of turf that exhibits part of the problem (right from the edge of the problem area) and apply the appropriate fungicide according to label directions.

### **SEEDING THE LAWN**

Fall is the best time for seeding and establishing a new lawn from seed. Spring is the second best time. When buying seed consider the conditions the lawn is in like shade and sun and the amount of traffic and select the appropriate seed mixture for the conditions. After sowing seed keep it moist at all times until the seed is up and growing for several weeks.

**Any questions? Just stop in at the lawn and garden information desk and we'll be glad to help.**

# **Simplified Lawn Care**



100 Jericho Tpke. Westbury, NY 11590  
(516) 334-0066 [www.hicksnurseries.com](http://www.hicksnurseries.com)