

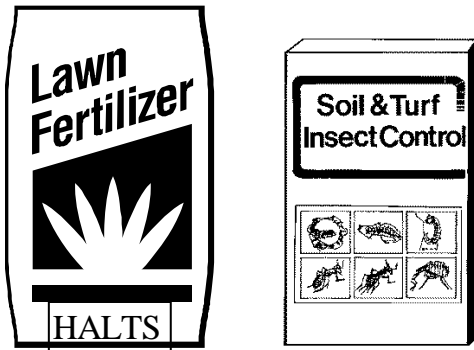
YEARLY LAWNCARE SCHEDULE (*a la BUZBY*)



MARCH/APRIL: Begin lawn maintenance for year as soon as ground thaws; rake thoroughly to remove leaves and dead winter-killed grass, lime yard every year (ave.: 75-100 lbs. lime/1000 sq. ft.), fertilize (if you planned ahead and purchased extra bag of Winterizer fertilizer this also a good time to use, or a lawn specific type, 20+-6-4, to stimulate new root growth and greening of grass). Best time other than the Fall to re-seed bare spots.

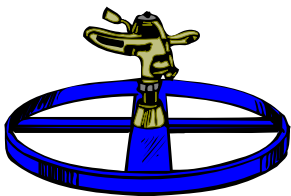


APRIL: Begin mowing as soon as grass starts to green. Start with mower at an intermediate height and catch grass clippings for bagging (best not to allow clippings to remain on lawn as this will stimulate fungus/mold growth during this time of year). After two mowing, adjust height of mower to highest possible mowing height. Mow as often as necessary to keep lawn height manageable. Lawn weed control can also begin at this time by use of liquid sprays, such as Ortho's WEED-BE-GONE. Follow manufacturer's directions and either spray generously over entire lawn if weeds out-of-control or spot spray directly on weeds (dandelions, chickweed, clover, etc.). (NOTE: I do not recommend buying combination fertilizer plus weed killer or insecticide as it is less expensive and more efficient to buy separate products).



MAY: BEFORE the end of the second week, apply fertilizer with crabgrass preventer (I use Scott's Turf Builder with HALTS). This is a very important application as once crabgrass sprouts (ground temperature reaches 65°F) it is almost impossible to control. The active ingredient remains active on the lawn for 90 days, if applied too early late season crabgrass may be a problem. Once applied to the lawn, **DO NOT** mechanically disturb the lawn, e.g., rake, as this will interrupt the chemical barrier that prevents sprouting of crabgrass seeds (Do not apply these types, pre-emergent, of crabgrass controls to newly seeded areas unless new seed has **ALREADY** sprouted). This application of fertilizer also keeps grass green since it has been about 6 weeks since last application.

Apply Merit, Dursban or GRUBEX (Ortho or Spectrum) insecticide to control grubs as these insects have destroyed almost every lawn in the area. **ITS BETTER TO BE SAFE THAN SORRY.** This is a preventative application. If you had areas the previous late Summer/early Fall that showed lots of brown, dead grass, few green shoots the time is now to act to prevent even more grub damage. If pulled the grass lifts easily as the grubs have eaten the roots.



JUNE: Remove grass catcher bag from mower and allow clippings to go directly back into grass (self fertilization and begin to build up a mulch to help lawn survive dry periods). Removal of the bag may also be done in May depending on the amount of rain fall (early dry spell) and growth slowed such that clippings do not smother lawn. Do not allow large clumps to remain on the lawn, either disperse by "light" raking or preferably by a second mowing (after several hours to allow clippings to dry) at a different direction from the first mowing (perpendicular cuts). If season already shows signs of being a dry summer do not apply any fertilizer, however if a wet summer seems imminent apply a general lawn fertilizer about late-June/early July (optional). I do not water the lawn. If you have a well give 1 inch per week, if you don't have a well let grass go brown and take the summer off. Only light mowing will be needed if little rain



JULY: Continue light mowing as necessary. If lawn watered regularly, continue to mow at highest height and allow clippings to remain on lawn. Apply second coating of insecticide (Triazinon or Dursban) in late July to early August, this controls the newly hatched larvae from the Japanese Beetle (much damage can occur from this hatching). If no access to water, time application immediately before a good rain.



AUGUST: Continue mowing as necessary. Late August or early September apply a general lawn fertilizer or first application of Winterizer to stimulate root growth in anticipation of Fall rains.



SEPTEMBER: Continue mowing as necessary. Keep control of weeds by use of WEED-BE-GONE, applying directly to broad leaf weeds. Late September, reattach mower bag to begin collecting lawn clippings and early falling leaves. FALL is BEST time to re-seed thin spots.



OCTOBER: Begin raking of leaves as necessary as mower will not effectively collect heavy deposits. End of month, lower height setting of mower to more intermediate level. Fertilize **heavily** with a "winter" fertilizer (low first number, higher second and third numbers).

NOVEMBER: Continue to mow at lower setting as necessary. Remove as many leaves and dead clippings as possible to prevent growth of fungus and winter kill. Prepare to take the winter off by draining gas and oil from mower.

GOOD JOB, now take the rest of the **WINTER OFF** (except for hauling in all the firewood, shoveling the snow, etc.)