



IN THE NEWS THIS WEEK:

Garden Tips: Spring Lawn Care tips

Closed GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER SUNDAY.

New hours next week: 8-6 Mon. to Sat., Sunday 1-5pm

April 16th E-NEWS

In the garden center business, we look forward to - and dread - the week (or two) when the majority of the nursery stock arrives. BUSY doesn't begin to describe the situation and I think we're all a bit weary, but it's also exhilarating because there're so many new items and everything looks so fresh and lush. Without a doubt, the stock we've gotten in so far is the BEST we've ever seen! You will be amazed at all the neat things we have this year!!

Saturday, April 26th, we're holding our 'kick-off' for the new season with EZ-Rock on location, Master Gardeners in attendance to answer all your garden questions, Morgan Price of Greenstone Farms Heritage Seeds on hand selling locally grown organic, open-pollinated seeds, and we'll be putting on a FREE Power Point presentation about all the new plants we'll be carrying this year. It will be an exciting day with lots of specials so mark your calendar and plan to spend some time with us next Saturday!

This weekend being Easter, we'll be closed **Good Friday and Easter Sunday**. However, next week our new spring hours come into effect: Monday through Saturday: 8am - 6pm, and on Sundays we'll be open afternoons: 1pm - 5pm.

GARDEN TIPS: Spring Lawn Care

1. If you have more than 1½cm of THATCH BUILD-UP, you should take the time to thoroughly and deeply rake it, or power-rake it, to remove the thatch. Thatch, when it becomes too thick, doesn't break down and prevents water penetrating to roots beneath. (If your lawn has matted areas caused by snow mold, a thorough raking will clean up the problem.)
2. If you have moss in your lawn or areas subjected to heavy foot traffic, you may have SOIL COMPACTION issues. The best way to deal with soil compaction is to aerate the lawn using



a machine that removes plugs of soil and grass roots. The plugs can be left in place to rot and feed the lawn (or removed if you prefer) and then you should apply a top-dressing of sand, raking it into the holes that have been created, in order to provide good aeration and water drainage.

3. Another cause of moss in lawns is EXCESSIVE SHADING OR ACIDIC SOIL CONDITIONS. If shading is the problem and you can ameliorate it by some judicious pruning or up-limbing of trees, then do so. If the shade is situational (caused by a building that cannot be moved)

then you could apply lime to the soil. Lime however, is *very slow acting* and is definitely NOT a 'quick fix' for a moss problem. It takes years of annual lime applications to make a noticeable difference. Using a moss killer to kill the moss and raking it out as much as possible, and then applying the appropriate amount of lime required to bring the soil pH to 6.5 to 7.0 will help you *feel* that you're taking the right steps in order to have a nice, green lawn BUT if the underlying reasons for the presence of moss (shade, soil compaction, poor drainage resulting in acidic pH) are not addressed, you'll just get to do it all again next year, and the year after, and so on....

4. This is the time to fill in dips in the lawn with a top-dressing of topsoil and to temporarily lift the turf on humps so that you can remove some soil in order to level the surface.

5. Because the Weed and Feed products that contain synthetic fertilizer and herbicides are no longer available in Canada, a different approach to weed control is required. Products like **Amazingly Green 10-0-0** (see photo, right) are a 100% natural pre-emergent weed SEED germination inhibitor and an organic high nitrogen fertilizer made from Corn Gluten Meal. The best time to apply corn gluten products is just around the time the forsythia and daffodils are in bloom. There are also iron-based products that can be used as spot treatments to kill broadleaf weeds without damaging the grass. The most effective method of getting rid of deeply-rooted perennial weeds like dandelions is to dig them out.

6. Over-seeding bare patches in the lawn can be done in spring but seed germination and fill-in is much faster if done in early autumn. You cannot, however, apply corn gluten products to the lawn if you plan on over-seeding because corn gluten will prevent seed germination. Unless the bare patches are extensive, an application of fertilizer to encourage the growth of existing grasses so they'll fill-in the bare spots should be sufficient.

7. The best fertilizer programs for lawns use a

slow release fertilizer - something that will provide nutrients to the grass over a sustained period of time. Fortunately organic fertilizers do this very well. We stock **Gaia Green Turf Essentials 5-2-2** (see photo below) as well as **Milorganite**.



Milorganite is our featured product this week @ 12.98 for 36 lb. bag which will cover 2500 sq. ft. of lawn.

For information on Milorganite and more lawn care tips, click on this link: <http://www.milorganite.com/> And be sure to watch the informative video, too.

If you need help with your spring lawn care, we have people on staff who can help. For more information or to set up an appointment, call us at 250 832 4574.

Have a wonderful Easter Weekend!

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