



## Fertilizing Your Home Lawn

- Do a soil test
- Take 12-24 cores per lawn site to a depth of 4 inches
- Mix in a bucket
- Send 1-2 cups to the Soils and Plant Analysis Lab
- The report includes the amount of P and K needed, the soil pH (ph 6-7 desired), the organic matter content and recommendations

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- **Macronutrients N - P- K** are needed in a 4:1:3 ratio
- **Secondary nutrients:** Ca, Mg, S
- **Micronutrients:** Fe, Mo, B, Cu, Zn, Mn, Cl
- **Typical Lawn Fertilizers:**
  - “Starters” 1:2:1 ratio (high P for root growth)
    - Ex. 13-25-12
  - “General” 7:1:1 ratio (High N for growth)
    - Ex. 18-3-18
  - “Winterizers” 6:1:6
    - Ex. 21-3-4

## Fertilizing Your Home Lawn

- **N is the limiting factor for turfgrass growth**
- **In our area of the state, P and K levels tend to be excessive, so all that is really needed is N for a low-maintenance lawn**
- **How much N do you need and when is it best applied?**

## Seasonal Turf Growth



## Turf Fertilization Schedule

- Best rate: 4 lb N/1000 ft<sup>2</sup> per year (no more than 1 lb at once!)
- Follow the Holiday Schedule (For turf in sun)
  - May 31, July 4, Sept. 1, October 31
- Adjust schedule for maintenance level (applies less N)
  - Low-maintenance: October (After last mowing)
  - Medium maintenance: May, Sept., October
  - High maintenance: May, July, Sept., October
  - **IF JULY IS DROUGHTY DO NOT FERTILIZE**

## Watering

- Water when:
  - Foot-printing occurs
  - The grass is blue-green in color
  - For clay-loam soils, about once a week
  - For sandy soils, about twice a week



## Watering

- Turf uses about 1 inch of water per week
- You can use an empty coffee can to measure how long to run the sprinkler at a certain rate to get 1 inch of water
- Water...
  - Cools the turf
  - Aids in growth, maintenance
- Water in the morning – late afternoon or evening can encourage disease

## Happy Mowing!

