



Don't Become Too Overwhelmed. Learn the basics and then just remember what your lawn actually needs.

Rockin E Gardening Handouts

Tips and Suggestions for 'Year-Round' Gardening

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Lawn Care Tips

A healthy lawn is not an accident, it takes work. However, you do not have to be an expert. As long as you keep in mind a few common guidelines, you can have a great looking, healthy lawn. A healthy **Spring Lawn** begins with proper fall & winter care; a strong, healthy **Summer Lawn** is the result of good spring maintenance.

A healthy lawn will save you both time and money, because your lawn will be more resistant to diseases, it will crowd out more unwanted weeds, it will overcome insect problems faster, and it will withstand drought conditions better, than a struggling lawn can. It will also make gardening more fun and relaxing.



Fertilize your lawn four times each year.

1. Spring --- April to May
2. Summer -- May to June
Skip July to Early-August
3. Fall ----- Late-August to September
4. Winter --- October to November



Spring Lawn Care

- Apply **Crabgrass Preventer** when the Forsythia plants are just about finished blooming, approximately April 15 to 30. Most crabgrass preventers last 60 to 90 days depending on the temperature.
- Fertilize your lawn every 6 to 8 weeks during the spring, summer, and fall with **Spring & Summer Lawn Fertilizer, Dr. Earth Lawn Food**, or one of the other recommended types of fertilizers.
- Apply broadleaf weed killers to kill dandelions and other weeds when the weeds are actively growing. Approximately May 1 to November 1.
- Water lawns with approximately 1" of water per week. Apply 1/2" of water each time you water.
- Mow your lawn 1.5" to 2" long.
- Apply **humic acid** to promote healthy roots and to prevent thatch buildup. You can apply humic acid once or twice a year to help your lawn improve.
- Aerate your lawn to promote better water penetration and to stimulate root growth.

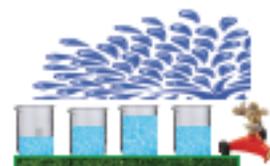


Summer Lawn Care

- Fertilize your lawn with **Spring & Summer Lawn Fertilizer or Dr. Earth Lawn Food** approximately June 1 to June 30.
- Do not fertilize during July or early-August unless you absolutely have to.
- Apply broadleaf weed killers until the temperature gets above 85°F. The temperature should stay below 85°F degrees for 24 hours after you spray, for the best results and to be safe.
- Kill Spurge and Oxalis plants as soon as you see them. Don't wait too long because they produce seeds even when the plants are still young.



- Let your lawn slow down during the heat of summer by reducing the amount of fertilizer you apply.
- Water your lawn with about 2" of water per week. Apply 1/2" of water each time you water.
- Apply **Crabgrass and Spurge Preventer** a second time, approximately May 15 - 30, to prevent both crabgrass and spurge. Crabgrass germinates all spring and summer depending on the weather. This could be a second application of crabgrass control if you applied crabgrass control earlier in the season.
- If you use a Crabgrass and Spurge Preventer without fertilizer, you can just spot treat areas around the edges and in the parking strip, instead of applying in over the entire lawn. Halts and Gallery are two crabgrass and spurge preventers that do not contain fertilizer. Apply a 6' wide band.
- Spray a **Liquid Crabgrass Killer** in July and August to control any young crabgrass plants that may have started to grow, especially around the edges of your lawn. This spray may also kill watergrass, goosegrass, barnyard grass and many other annual grassy weeds.
- Kill Bermuda Grass and Quack Grass during the heat of the summer. These grasses do not die unless the temperature is hot. It takes 2 to 3 months for complete control. Apply **Kleenup or Killzall** every two or three weeks until you are sure that all the roots and rhizomes are dead. Continue to water the area to promote new shoots to appear. Do not try to replant your lawn until you are sure that all the grass is completely dead.
- Check your sprinklers to make sure you get even coverage. Place several tuna fish cans in various locations. Check to see if you are getting the same amount of water in each can.
- Apply grub control in May and/or September to control Sod Webworms.
- Apply grub control in May and/or July to August to control lawn Chinchbugs.
- Apply grub control in July and/or August to September to



Check Your Sprinklers. Make sure they are watering evenly.

control lawn Billbugs.

- ❑ Mow lawns 2.5" to 3" tall. The longer the better during the summer.
- ❑ Apply a lawn fungicide to prevent necrotic ringspot, brown patch, fusarium, or melting out.
- ❑ Apply humic acid to promote healthy roots, to help increase drought tolerance, to help prevent and control some lawn diseases, and to help eliminate thatch buildup.



Fall Lawn Care

- ❑ Fertilize your lawn with **Spring & Summer Lawn Fertilizer, Dr. Earth Lawn Food, or Weed and Feed** approximately Labor Day weekend.
- ❑ Mow your lawn 1.5" - 2" long. A little shorter than the 2.5" - 3" long that you mowed during the summer.
- ❑ Control broadleaf weeds, especially clover and morning glory. Fall is an excellent time to kill many lawn weeds.
- ❑ Kill Oxalis before the temperature drops below 50° F. Use **Fertilome Weed Free Zone** for the best control of Oxalis.
- ❑ Water lawns 1" per week. Apply 1/2" of water each time.
- ❑ Make sure any Bermuda Grass or Quack Grass, you are trying to kill, is completely dead before replanting your lawn.
- ❑ Apply humic acid to promote healthy roots.
- ❑ Spray with a Lawn Fungicide to prevent Rust, if it has been a problem in previous years. Spray to prevent - not to control.
- ❑ Apply grub control until mid-October. Many lawn insects stop damaging the lawn when the soil temperature cools down, so insecticides are not very effective later in the fall.
- ❑ Continue to watch for signs of lawn diseases such as Rust and Necrotic Ring Spot.
- ❑ Remove mature crabgrass plants before they can produce seeds. The more seeds you remove this year, the fewer weeds you have to deal with next year.
- ❑ Power rake and over-seed your lawn in the fall rather than waiting until next spring. Fall is the best time to overseed your lawn.
- ❑ Fall is the best time to plant a new lawn from seed.



- OR -



Winter Lawn Care

- ❑ Fertilize with **Fall & Winter Fertilizer or Dr. Earth Lawn Food** approximately October 15 to November 30. Don't fertilize if you cannot water your lawn, and the weather is still hot and dry.
- ❑ Mow your lawns 1.5" until the last mowing of the year. Then cut it shorter. By cutting the grass a little shorter



in the late-fall, you reduce the chance of it laying down and creating a snowmold problem during the winter.

- ❑ Rake leaves. Do not let them remain on the lawn very long.
- ❑ Apply a lawn fungicide to help prevent snowmold if your lawn has had a snowmold problem in previous years, otherwise, just treat for snowmold next spring if needed.



Humate - Humic Acid

Humic acid is a natural soil stimulant processed from some of the most concentrated organic materials available. Humic acid usually is composed of 50% carbon, 40% oxygen, 5% hydrogen, 3% nitrogen, 1% phosphorous, and 1% sulfur. Humic acid will vary from source to source. Most humic acid was formed when trees and vegetation underwent compaction and heating many thousands of years ago. Over the ages this organic material was slowly carbonized and became coal. During the compaction process many of the organic acids and esters contained within the vegetation were squeezed out and formed a pool on top of the coal. This pool dried and aged, and became a layer known as shale. This layer of shale is the source of humate, which contains humic acid. Because of its vegetative origin, this material is very rich and benefits all plants when incorporated into the soil.



Humic acid helps chelate many nutrients and binds them to soil particles. Chelated nutrients, that are attached to soil particles, are easier for plants to absorb and use. Magnesium, iron, calcium and many other 'trace elements' are just some of the nutrients that humic acid helps plants utilize more effectively. Humic acid helps the fertilizer you apply reach the plants easier, and it also helps to release nutrients, already in the soil, that your plants have not been able to utilize. You can spread humic acid on top of your lawn any time of the year. Humic acid is not a fertilizer but your plants will react as if you just fertilized them.

Humic Acid is available as **Natural Guard Soil Activator**. or as **IFA Bountiful Garden - Humate** .



Don't become overwhelmed.

We have listed many tips for lawns in northern Utah. Not every lawn has all of these needs. Pick and choose those tips that are specific to your lawn's requirements.