

Too Soon For Green Grass

By: Melinda Sperl

As I drive around I have actually seen yards being fertilized. It is way too early to fertilize grass now with any fertilizer except for Organics. Nitrogen is in what turns your grass green and will also make it come out of dormancy now.

St Augustine Grass is a warm season grass and it is very important for it to stay dormant while we are having cool weather. Right now we may have a couple of sunny days with warmer air but the nights are still chilly. Just like with your shrubs, if you force them out of dormancy too early, you stress the grass which can make it more susceptible to disease and insects later on in the year.

The optimum time to fertilize any grass is after it starts growing on its own or right after you have to mowed it the first time. That is mowing the grass not the weeds! Of course, what usually happens in a neighborhood is one person sees a green yard and thinks it is time to green up their yard. This also means that you have to start mowing earlier in the year than necessary and who wants that? If your yard person recommends fertilizing now, ask them to hold off for a month or at least another couple of weeks to ensure we are done with the cold before you start to fertilize.

Happy Gardening!

Melinda Sperl is the owner of Dream Landscape Design, Inc., a full service landscape company. You can reach Melinda at Melinda@dreamlandscapedesign.com or www.dreamlandscapedesign.com