

Too Soon For Fertilizing Grass

By: Melinda Sperl

Every Year I send out this reminder and this year it is earlier than ever as I have seen people buying fertilizer already! It is way too early to fertilize grass now and weed killers do not work in the cooler weather. Please remember that stores will sell what you want to buy but look at the small print on the bag of weed killer, even Round-up, where it mentions that it works when the weather is over 80 degrees consistently. Putting out a weed killer now is just a waste of money. If you have clover or Bermuda grass in your beds, pull it by hand and spend money on a pre-emergent herbicide twice per year and you will get that in control for the future.

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 cool. Just like with your shrubs, if you force them out of dormancy too early, you stress the plant/grass which can make it more susceptible to disease and insects later on in the year.

The optimum time to fertilize St Augustine is after it starts growing on its own or right after you have to mow it the first time. That is mowing the grass not the weeds! 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!

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