

Landscape Commercials

By: Melinda Sperl

If you see the commercials for different products on television or hear them on radio, it is easy to be misled. I saw one yesterday telling us that now is the time to put out green up fertilizer with weed killer. No, that is not correct when our temperatures are 100 degrees. Yet, I would guess that this weekend there will be many people at the store purchasing this product. This is a national product chain based in the northern climates where they are having 78 degrees and they can do this but if you were to do this to your grass now, you will end up with very stressed grass. If you must fertilize now, use a slow released fertilizer or better yet, organic products.

This also runs true for insecticides. We don't really have a grub problem in Houston or they are very rare. Our main insects in grass are chinch bugs and, in recent years, Sod Webworm. Yet the commercials make you want to run out and buy products that target insects we don't have and waste your money. It is very important to diagnose your problem before you treat it.

My favorite commercial was the information to plant only in the fall. We are in Houston where we can plant almost 12 months of the year. It is actually best to have your plants in the ground here and have the roots set before our harsh winters. Yes, we do have harsh winters for our sub-tropical plants. As long as you water them in well for two weeks after you plant them they do fine no matter what time of year it is, but, we do plant all year long here and the plants do just fine. We are very lucky so don't wait to spring or fall to plant your landscape!

Happy Gardening!

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