

MN Lawn Fertilization

The Basics

Fertilize Naturally!



Keep your grass clippings on the lawn and mulch them in for a natural fertilizer



Instead of raking up your fall leaves, mulch them into your lawn! Make sure you can see half your grass through the mulched leaves

Test Your Lawn

It's not a pop quiz! Before you apply any manufactured fertilizers, send a soil sample in to the University of Minnesota Soil Lab- they'll test it to let you know exactly what kind of nutrients your lawn needs. It may not need any!

Use the Right Fertilizer

In MN it's illegal to use a fertilizer with phosphorus with a few exceptions. Buy fertilizer with at least 50% slow release nitrogen to avoid burning your lawn. The University of Minnesota has a great page all about fertilizing lawns for more information!

Use the Right Timing



Early September is the best time to apply fertilizer. If you're aerating your lawn, wait until after aeration to fertilize. The University of Minnesota has lawn fertilizing chart to find the best times to fertilize your lawn based off of your level of lawn maintenance.

Think About Water

Don't fertilize a dry lawn because that can burn the grass. Water the grass (or let the rain water it for you) a few days before you fertilize. After applying fertilizer, lightly water it in. Make sure not to water too heavily as that can wash fertilizer off, wasting you money and polluting water. You can also avoid pollution by not fertilizing near water bodies or storm drains.

Use a Spreader

Spreaders are the best way to apply fertilizer; if you don't own one, you can rent them from most garden stores. Make sure to calibrate your spreader before use. Be careful to not spread fertilizer onto hard surfaces like driveways or streets.

Check the Weather



If it's too hot, applying fertilizer may burn the grass- check fertilizer bag for temperature restrictions. Don't apply if there's rain predicted as that can wash away your fertilizer, causing pollution.

Clean Up!

If you do spill any fertilizer on a hard surface, make sure to sweep it up so you can reuse it and avoid pollution! Always wear gloves when handling fertilizer.