



COMPLETE LAWN CARE GUIDE

WITH LAWN PROGRAM CALENDAR

4,5,6 STEP LAWN PROGRAMS



CRABGRASS PRE-VENTER PLUS LAWN FOOD: EARLY SPRING

Prevents crabgrass, spurge, foxtail and other annual grassy weeds from germinat-

ing. Time-released fertilizer helps lawns fill in and turns a yellow lawn dark green. Apply March through mid-April, before seeds begin to germinate. Wait 4 months after application before sowing grass seed. Can be applied before rain. Can be applied as late as May 15 in Northern & Eastern Iowa.

WEED & FEED: LATE SPRING

Apply when dandelions and other broad-leaved weeds are actively growing and the day-time temperature is above 60° F. Apply when weed leaves are wet from dew, rain or watering.



Do not water in for best results. Weed control should stick to the leaves for 24 hours. Also provides a full feeding of time-released fertilizer. This product can also be used in the fall when weeds are actively growing.



INSECT CONTROL: SPRING-SUMMER

Insect Control for surface insects: Use Insect Control when you first notice surface insects, generally from June to

August. A second application may be necessary in 4 to 5 weeks if there is additional infestation.

SEASON LONG GRUB CONTROL: SPRING-SUMMER

Prevents white grubs and other lawn damaging insects all season long. Only one application is needed June through August. Water in after applying. Lawns



with a heavy thatch layer may require a second application in 6 weeks. Will control 90-95% of grub populations.

SUMMER LAWN FOOD: SUMMER



Apply in the summer to green your lawn with a very low risk of burning.

Contains extra iron and sulfur for the health of your soil and

for extra deep greening. Designed for summer in our lawn programs, but can be applied any time of the year. **CAUTION- Iron stains concrete and must be swept, not washed, off all concrete surfaces.**

LAWN FOOD:

LATE SUMMER- EARLY FALL

Earl May Lawn Food contains timed-released nitrogen with sulfur, iron, copper, magnesium, and zinc, which were added to improve the health of your soil. Apply in early fall for quick green up with long lasting results....without fear of burning your lawn. Watering is recommended to



quicken the uptake of food by the grass roots.

FALL LAWN FOOD: FALL

Contains time-released nitrogen with extra nutrients lawns need to thrive. Apply in fall when high temperatures cool to the 50s. Fall Lawn Food helps your lawn store nutrients so it will be greener and thicker when it emerges in the spring. It also helps with disease resistance and overall hardiness.



EARL MAY BASIC 4-STEP INCLUDES:

- Step 1: Crabgrass Preventer
- Step 2: Weed & Feed
- Step 3: Insect Control
- Step 4: Lawn Food

EARL MAY 4-STEP W/ GRUB CONTROL INCLUDES:

- Step 1: Crabgrass Preventer
- Step 2: Weed & Feed
- Step 3: Grub Control
- Step 4: Lawn Food

EARL MAY PREMIUM 5-STEP INCLUDES:

- Step 1: Crabgrass Preventer
- Step 2: Weed & Feed
- Step 3: Grub Control
- Step 4: Lawn Food
- Step 5: Fall Lawn Food

EARL MAY PREMIUM 6-STEP INCLUDES:

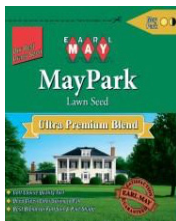
- Step 1: Crabgrass Preventer
- Step 2: Weed & Feed
- Step 3: Grub Control
- Step 4: Summer Lawn Food
- Step 5: Lawn Food
- Step 6: Fall Lawn Food

Preparation for Seeding

Whether renovating or starting new, preparing your lawn for seeding is one of the most important, yet most overlooked steps. If the soil is not loosened properly prior to seeding, results will be poor. When seeding a new lawn, a roto-tiller should be used to loosen the top 6 inches of soil. If the soil is poor, amend it or bring better soil in. We recommend Structure Soil Conditioner to permanently loosen heavy soil and allow for moisture and oxygen exchange in the soil. If roots do not get adequate oxygen and moisture, your lawn will be thin.

Seeding

A general rule of thumb when seeding is to use the best quality seed you can afford. Quality seed varieties, like Earl May exclusive blends, are proven better performers due to their resistance to disease, drought and foot traffic.



MayPark Lawn Seed

is our best seed mix. It contains high quality bluegrass varieties and a nurse crop of fine-leaf rye.

MayPark is great for new lawns or for overseeding, and will grow in part shade.

Marvel Lawn Seed is a mix of top quality turf type fescue. From a distance, most people can not tell the difference between a tall fescue and a bluegrass lawn, although put side-by-side, tall fescue has slightly wider blades. Marvel's main advantage is the ability to withstand heavy foot traffic and has much better drought tolerance than bluegrass.

The best time to sow grass seed is in the Spring or Fall, August to the

end of September being the very best.

The same times apply to overseeding, but there is an opportunity in late fall to "dormant seed" a lawn as nature would.

Fertilizing

When seeding, applying a new lawn starter type fertilizer is important. This type of fertilizer is high in Phosphorus which helps root systems establish quicker.

Established lawns should be fertilized regularly throughout the season. Since lawns are mowed frequently grass needs many more nutrients than other plants, in order to maintain the desired color and vigor you want. Like grass seed, you get what you pay for. Cheap fertilizers make your grass grow like crazy for a couple of weeks, then quickly fizzle leaving your lawn pale again. You can not tell by looking at an analysis (i.e. 30-10-10) on the front of the bag whether the fertilizer is a quality time-release product or a cheap quick-release product.

Watering your lawn

Once established, lawns should be watered once a week, the equivalent of 1/2 inch of rain (unless it rains of course). During the heat of summer, this may need to be done twice a week. The best time to water established lawns is in the morning.

Weed Control

Weed control in lawns is probably the most common, yet misunderstood aspect of maintaining a lawn. Weeds in new lawns can be sprayed once the lawn has been mowed 2 or 3 times. Weeds in established lawns can be treated when they are actively growing. Trying to kill weeds when

it is too cold (below 60°F) or too hot (above 88°F) can lead to poor results. Earl May's Super Brush and Weed Killer works on very hard to kill weeds like ground ivy and wild violets and is much more effective at cooler temperatures.

For the most difficult weeds to control apply weed killer twice, 10-14 days apart, mixing Turbo Spreader Sticker with the weed killer into your sprayer. A spreader sticker makes the spray solution cover better and hold on to the leaves of the weeds. Before resorting to weed killers, you can reduce the amount of weeds in your lawn by mowing higher in late spring and summer. This lets the lawn shade the soil which reduces the germination of weed seeds.

Simply fertilizing a lawn will make it more vigorous and thicker and will again be more likely to choke out weeds.

Maintenance

1. Sharpen the blade. Keep your mower blades sharp throughout the season. Dull blades rip the grass tips instead of cutting. This makes the lawn look off-color and promotes disease.

2. Mowing your lawn.

As a rule of thumb never mow more than 2" or 3" of grass off of the top at any one time. Never mow your lawn closer than 1" from the ground. You will inevitably "scalp" areas that are uneven and cause many more problems. As a rule, mow closer in spring and fall (1-2") and taller in summer (3").

3. Rake up your leaves. Unless they are finely chopped, leaves and grass do not mix. Letting leaves collect and lay on your lawn for extended periods can cause thin spots or even completely kill out an area if they are thick enough.

4. Be cautious of compaction. Compacted soils are really the only thing, besides weeds and insects, that would keep a lawn from being thick and free of thin spots.

5. Avoid walking on wet lawns as much as possible, and do not drive on your lawn if you can avoid it. Periodically aerating your lawn in the Spring or Fall is a good idea, or you can use Humic Acid products that naturally work to loosen heavy soil. This eliminates compaction and the lack of oxygen in the soil.

PRODUCT	APPLICATION DATES	
Crabgrass Preventer PLUS Lawn Food	March 15 - May 1	
Weed & Feed	May 1 - June 15 Apply as early as April 1 in KS & MO	
Insect Control Season Long Grub Control		June 1 - August 1 Apply anytime you notice surface insects
Summer Lawn Food "sweep off cement to prevent staining"		June 15 - August 1 Apply as early as June 1 in KS & MO
Lawn Food		August 15 - October 1
Fall Lawn Food		October 1 - November 15 Can be applied later if conditions permit