



Grassroots News

Winter 2006

PROTECT YOUR TURF – Make sure there are no leaves covering and choking out the grass. Give your turf a good cleanup on a warm day by raking leaves and fallen twigs. Don't walk on frozen grass because you will damage it and leave tracks on the surface. In March blow any remaining leaves off the turf as the roots can be damaged by raking this time of year.

MOW LOW – When warm weather permits, set mower blades one notch lower than normal and mow lawn. Letting more sunlight in will help stimulate an early green up.

LIME TIME – Now is the best time to prepare your soil for spring growth. Your turf is moist and tender, thereby, let's nutrients pass easily to the grassroots. Adding lime raises the pH value of this areas acidic soil. Granulated limestone will slowly move into the root zone when applied to damp soil.

CRABGRASS – Here's a weed that has no friends. When the heat of summer makes desirable grass shrink back and a siesta, crabgrass gets going. By crowding out good grass and dropping thousands of seeds on the lawn, it survives year after year. Grassroots crabgrass preventative and fertilizer will create an invisible barrier at the soil surface and kill off any tiny crabgrass plants as they start. A spring fertilizer will also help by stimulating early green up to help the grass grow thicker and tall to shade out crabgrass seeds.

TREES AND SHRUBS – Strong winter winds cause evergreens to lose water through their foliage. Water plants thoroughly, especially those planted under an overhang where they fail to receive enough rain. Be sure to mulch pants at least two inches to help with the insulation. Roots cannot replace lost water quickly enough. Leaves may turn brown and plant may wilt. Horticulture oil will give leaves a coating to help prevent loss of water throughout the winter. Snow seldom hurts plants because it acts as an insulator. What does kill plants are a combination of high winds and severe cold weather, which robs the plants of the much needed moisture.