



April 1st, 2011

Get out in the yard and enjoy the beautiful April weather while it lasts. Before you know it we will be right back into the 100 degree temperatures!

New coupons are now available at www.treelandnurseries.com/specials.

LAWNS

April and into early May is a great time to begin the transition of your winter lawn to your summer lawn. Bermuda grass becomes active when the nighttime temperatures are in the 60's. Over the last few years we have heard many homeowners having problems with Bermuda grass growing very thin with many bare areas. This is usually attributed to the fact that homeowners let their rye grass die naturally with the heat of the summer rather than killing it off early. If you allow your rye grass to grow well into the latter half of May and June you are not allowing the Bermuda grass enough time to reach its peak performance before you over seed again in September. Doing this year after year can cause your summer lawn to become very thin, for it has to compete with the rye.

The best time to make the transition is once we have consistent 90 degree temperatures. When making the transition, it is best to mow the lawn set at the mowers' lowest setting and turn off your sprinkler system for up to two weeks. The lawn will look rough for a few weeks but remember, it is only two to three weeks and it's what is best to get a great looking lawn. After a couple weeks, fertilize the Bermuda with ammonium phosphate or Turf Royale then water thoroughly.

When reseeding Bermuda grass, it is important to wait until nighttime temperatures reach the mid-60's. We carry both Blackjack Bermuda seed and Common Bermuda seed. If you are trying to match an existing lawn that was originally laid as sod, then Blackjack will be the best match to the color and texture. We recommend a rate of 3 pounds per 1000 square feet for both varieties.

WATERING

With the weather warming up you will need to increase how often you run your drip or watering system. Remember to run a drip system more in terms of hours as opposed to just minutes. For most landscape trees and plants it is best to water long, deep, and less often than it is to water for 15 to 30 minutes every day or every other day. The key is to water deeply and let the plant dry out before

watering again. It is also time to apply iron, zinc, manganese, and magnesium to plants that require supplemental treatments to regular fertilizer.

WEEDS

To kill broadleaf weeds in Bermuda or Rye grass use Fertilome™ Weed-Out or a weed and feed such as Fertilome™ Weed-Out plus Lawn Fertilizer. Fertilome™ Weed-Out with Q works great on killing both broadleaf weeds and crabgrass as well.

For weeds that are in gravel or dirt areas use Hi-Yield™ Kill-Zall or Spectracide™ Triplestrike. Hi-Yield™ Kill-Zall has the same active ingredient as Round-Up (41% Glyphosate) and is just as effective.

Bermuda grass can start to pop up in and around trees and shrubs. Fertilome™ Over the Top II can be sprayed onto the plant and will effectively kill the Bermuda without harming the plant.

When spraying any herbicide it is best to add a surfactant such as Hi-Yield™ Spreader Sticker. This product will help increase the efficiency of the weed killer.

INSECTS & DISEASE

Organic insecticides are safe alternatives to chemical options for controlling troublesome bugs. Organic controls include Neem Oil and Spinosad. Neem Oil can be used as long as temperatures are below 85 degrees or else it can burn the plant. Spinosad is a very unique insecticide. Discovered in a rum distillery, Spinosad is a naturally occurring bacterium effectively killing a wide range of bugs and is safe for humans and pets. We sell Spinosad under the catchy name of Bonide® Captain Jack's Deadbug Brew. Captain Jack's is safe to use on veggies, fruits, roses, and ornamentals.

A white fuzzy substance on the foliage of roses will start to appear, known as Powdery Mildew. Use Bonide™ Liquid Copper Fungicide at the first signs of the mildew appearing.

VEGETABLES

To ensure great quality vegetables, be sure to regularly fertilize your garden with Fertilome™ Gardener's Special or Growmore™ Fruit and Vegetable. Always water the fertilizer immediately after applying.

The following can be transplanted in April: cantaloupe, watermelon, okra, green beans, cucumbers, squash, artichoke, and herbs.

The following seeds can be planted in April: beans, carrots, cucumbers, squash, cantaloupe, radishes, pumpkins, and watermelon.

We continue to receive weekly shipments of fresh vegetable and herb plants from Bonnie Plants™.

CITRUS & FRUIT TREES

Remember to paint or wrap the trunk of younger fruit trees before this summer to prevent their trunks from sun scald. Keep the trunk painted or wrapped until the canopy is large enough to shade its own trunk. Both brown and white colors are available to paint the trunk with.

PRUNING

Now is time to prune back frost damaged wood on plants and trees, if you have not done so already. Start from the top of the plant and prune your way down to where you start to see green or live wood. Remember to use Treeland Premium All-Purpose Fertilizer if you have not fertilized yet this spring.

PLANT OF THE MONTH – Cactus species – Many varieties of cactus are beginning to bloom across the valley. A wet winter and the current warm temperatures will cause numerous varieties to blossom with brilliant colors. Not all cacti will reach a large stature. There are many species that stay small, compact, and still flower with vibrant colors. It is not too difficult to find a spot in the yard for just one.

TREE OF THE MONTH – Citrus species – From lemons to oranges and everything in between, citrus trees are evergreen and make a great addition to any yard. They come in both dwarf and standard sizes to fit almost any space. Most dwarf varieties can still reach 8 to 12 feet, depending on variety, but can be easily be maintained to a smaller size. Two unique varieties of citrus are Meyer Lemon and Cara Cara Pink Navel. Meyer Lemon is desired by many chefs for its sweet flavor compared to Lisbon Lemon. Cara Cara Pink Navel Orange is an early ripening variety which has pink flesh and a rich sweet flavor. When shopping for a citrus tree you will have many varieties to choose from: lemons, limes, grapefruit, oranges, tangerines, kumquat, and tangelos are all available.