



JUNE

2008

## LAWN CARE

It's time to fertilize warm-season lawns with **ferti•lome South-West Green Maker**. This product has slow and quick release nitrogen to feed these grasses during their period of rapid growth. Use a second application in about 6 weeks. There is also still time to plant bermuda, buffalo and zoysia. Buffalo and bermuda are usually planted by seed. Bermuda can also be planted by sprigs or plugs like zoysia.

On cool-season lawns, raise the mower cutting height to help beat the summer heat. Mow to 3 to 3.5" for fescue and to 2.5 to 3" for bluegrass.

Established cool-season lawns need about 1" of water a week taking rainfall into account. Bluegrass needs more than fescue, so while fescue may need to be watered once or twice, bluegrass will probably need an extra time. Deep watering encourages a deep root system that results in a healthier and more drought-resistant lawn.

Be on the alert for conditions which would trigger an outbreak of Brown Patch disease—high humidity and nighttime temperatures above 70°. If these conditions exist for several days—especially if your lawn has a history of disease—apply a preventative application of fungicide.\* Also water during the early morning hours so grass blades will be dry at night. Avoid high nitrogen fertilizer if you suspect Brown Patch. The fertilizer, in effect, feeds the fungus and causes it to spread even more rapidly.

For grubs, a preventative treatment with **Hi-Yield Kill-A-Grub** or **ferti•lome Grub Free Zone** can also go on now before damage is seen.

\*Preventative fungicide rates will be less than curative rates.

## FLOWERS

Keep hanging baskets, planters and garden flowers fertilized to maintain vigorous, healthy plants. A slow-release fertilizer, like **ferti•lome Start-N-Grow**, will feed plants all season—but remember to supplement with a water-soluble high in phosphorus (**ferti•lome Blooming & Rooting**) to keep plants blooming profusely. This same fertilizing routine will increase vegetable yields as well.

Other tips to keep plants blooming all summer include deadheading the flowers and maintaining good soil moisture. "Deadheading" is removing the old flowers

so the plants won't waste energy producing seeds, and will produce more flowers. Water is crucial. Don't let plants dry out to the point of wilting. Check every day and maybe twice a day with containers. One way to increase the moisture holding ability of potting soil is to add **Soil Moist** polymer crystals. These granules swell up with water, then slowly release it to the plants. Mulch plants in the ground with **Cottonseed Hulls** or **Cedar Mulch** to retain moisture.

## WATER GARDENS

Water temperatures are up now and water plants are ready to grow and so is algae. Fertilize potted lilies and marginal plants with **Aquatic Plant Food Tablets**. These slowly feed the intended plants without adding to the algae bloom. Another way to discourage green water is to cover 50-70% of the surface area of your pond. Now is a great time to add more plants, especially tropicals and floaters. Beneficial bacteria, like those found in **Microbe-Lift PL**, are also helpful in controlling algae.

## PEST CONTROL

**MOSQUITOES** - These pests can ruin outdoor activities. In ponds or other standing water use Mosquito Dunks in the water to take care of the larva. For area control use **Bayer PowerForce Multi-Insect Killer**.

**BAGWORMS** - The larva are now active and feeding inside their bags. Spray with **American Thuricide** or **ferti•lome Borer, Bagworm, Tent Caterpillar & Leafminer Spray**. This product will also control budworms on flowers like geraniums and petunias.

**SPIDER MITES** - Hot weather brings these pests out. If your leaves look stippled or yellow check the back side of the leaf for webbing. To check for mites tap the leaf over a piece of white paper. The mites will leave a red streak when smeared. Use **Bonide Eight Insect Control** or **Hi-Yield 38 Plus** to control mites.

**PINE TIP MOTH** - Look for the second generation of moths in June and spray with **American Thuricide**, **Hi-Yield 38 Plus** or **ferti•lome Borer, Bagworm, Tent Caterpillar & Leafminer Spray** once a week through June.