

716-681-7793

gbinfo@greenbuffalolawncare.com



Mid/Late Spring 2023 Newsletter and Tips

How you care for your lawn and soil at this time of the year can make a huge difference in what happens later on in the season. A healthier lawn and soil will have better color throughout the year, as well as less weeds, crabgrass, and insect issues as well. This newsletter is loaded with useful information and guidance, so make sure you give it a read.

Today's application will help keep your lawn green and healthy well into early summer. If you ordered weed control, the weeds should start to show signs of dying within 7-10 days after treatment. If they don't, call the office for a re-spray.

OFFICE BUSINESS

Mowing. If you have a mowing service, please find out what day they plan to mow and let us know. We'll avoid applications on that day.

Pay Online. Paying by check is great, but for your convenience we have a payment portal right on the homepage of our website at www.greenbuffalolawncare.com. You'll see it at the top right corner of the page. If you prefer to pay as you go with a credit card, you can set up **Auto-Pay**, where your card is charged after the application is done. To set this up just give Chelle or Tabitha a call at the office.

THE SEASON SO FAR

Aside from a few hot days, it was a pretty cold start to spring. This slowed up grass and weed growth, but we expect all will be back to normal as we moved into mid-May. We are on schedule and looking forward to a great season. Most of the lawns we treated last season are looking fantastic this year.

Grubs/Crane Flies alert. The winter soil temperatures were not consistently cold enough to kill off the over-wintering insects. So, we expect to see more grubs and crane flies this season, as well as other lawn insects. If you did not order insect prevention it's not too late. We have both conventional chemical controls as well as organic insect prevention available.

Attention pet owners. **Yard Guard-Organic Flea & Tick Spray** protects you pets and yourselves with safe and natural treatments for lawns and surrounding plantings. Regular applications are required for best results. Yard Guard also works to protect the lawn from Grubs and Crane Fly larvae, and even has some mosquito repelling properties as well. By the way, if your dogs are creating lots of brown burn spots on the lawn, our organic **Dog Spot** applications can help buffer the burning.

LATE SPRING LAWN TIPS (Visit our *Lawn Care Education* section on our homepage for more tips.)

Mow high: Higher mowing promotes deeper rooting, improved color, and can help prevent *crabgrass*. Your lawn should be 3" or more *before* summer begins, *not after it is already hot and dry*. **The only grass around here that should be mowed shorter is sideways growing *Creeping Bentgrass*.**

Did you know? *“With continuous short mowing, the grass will eventually weaken and gradually die off. Short mowing, as well as scalping the edges the lawn with a weed wacker, will also allow **weeds, crabgrass, and moss** to fill in.* (See the post [Lawn Care Simplified- All About Crabgrass](#) on our educational center.)

Don't mow too much off at once. Instead of mowing the lawn, think of it as *trimming* the lawn. Try not to cut more than 1/3 of the leaf blade at once. Don't wait too long before mowing. If you mow high and often, the clippings should be short and you can (and should) leave them on the lawn. A mulching blade would be best.

Watering: *The Farmer's Almanac is predicting a dry 2023. **When it's time to water, water deeply.*** Light watering doesn't penetrate far into the root zone, especially when you have clay soil or *thatch*. When lawns are dry, *water all areas for 2-3 hours at a time*, giving the grass an inch of water once a week. (Our Water Saver application, used a lot on sports fields, can lower water needs up to 50%.)

When soils are already saturated, it is a good idea to hold off watering until the grass needs it. Otherwise, roots will stay close to the surface and not dig in deep. Visible signs of your grass being too dry *are a bluish tint to the grass, and thinner looking leaf blades*. Also, if a lawn needs more water, when you walk across it you will see *footprints*.

Handle Thatch: If we have noted that there is a matted thatch layer on your lawn, this needs to be addressed. Thatch not only blocks water penetration, but it causes shallow roots, and is a haven for both disease organisms and insects. **Biological Dethatcher** applications safely decompose thatch from the ground up without any mess or ripped out grass. We have this in a DIY bottle as well.

A HEALTHY LAWN BEGINS WITH A HEALTHY SOIL

A porous soil that is abundant in nutrients and organic matter will give you the healthiest possible lawn- and will decrease the likelihood of weeds, insects, and disease.

In WNY we have a lot of really bad clay soils that get sticky, compacted, and need aeration as well as organic matter, and humus. There are also sections of the county that are quite sandy. This type of soil is low in organic matter and lacks the ability to hold nutrients and water. Often it is too acidic.

Here are some Soil Treatments that can benefit the health and color of all lawns:

Natural (liquid) Aeration. The absolute best way to improve compacted soil is with our **Natural Aeration** application, which is more effective, less messy, and less expensive than core aeration. It is also loaded with trace elements and bio-stimulants that improve color and rooting. For really bad clay you should do it twice a year.

Lime/Calcium. Calcium comes in many forms and is not just a nutrient, but a vital part of the soil make-up. We will put on the appropriate product for your lawn and soil.

Compost Bioactivator: Improve the bio-life in your soil with this organic application. It helps improve grass color, health, and rooting. It will also help improve clay soils as it generates and feeds beneficial soil microbes that improve soil structure and aeration. Helps sandy soils hold more nutrients.

Organic Soil Builder: Organic matter is needed in order to change “dirt” into good soil. Sandy soils always lack organic matter, but clay soils are usually deficient too. This shows up on most lab soil tests. The best product we have for increasing organic matter is our **Organic Soil Builder**.

Finally, consider a **Lab Soil Test**. We offer a 14 point analysis from Waypoint Labs. This tells us what your base soil is actually like. It will uncover hidden excesses or deficiencies that could be affecting the color and health of your grass.

Enjoy the spring! We'll see you on the next round.