

716-681-7793

gbinfo@greenbuffalolawncare.com



Summer 2023 Newsletter and Tips + *Summer Special!*

Our Summer application of fertilizer will help your lawn tolerate the extreme conditions of summer. It won't force excessive growth during times when the grass is under stress, but if growing conditions are good, it will be there for your lawn. The fertilizer (and *grub preventer* if ordered) is a granular product so ***it needs to be watered into the soil to make it effective.***

THE SEASON SO FAR

The lack of rain this spring dried and hardened soils. It also inhibited deeper root development as well as the normal spring buildup of food reserves that help grass get through typical summer heat and drought. We finally got some good rain the last week of June. A few more weeks with decent rain or watering would be ideal. As you know, lawns that are stressed by weather, hard or sandy soils, or lack of nutrients, are also going to be more prone to insects, disease, and weeds. We don't know what kind of weather the rest of the summer will bring, so please try to be vigilant about keeping your lawn healthy by following some of the advice in this newsletter.

NATURAL INSECT PROTECTION

Summer weather means more insects will be showing up in your yard to feast on your lawn and plants. It also means possible **Fleas and Ticks** coming into your property. Ticks like both animals and people and are known to spread Lyme Disease. Our *cedar-based Yard Guard spray program* can give you protection for your kids and pets, and peace of mind too. There is still time to get started with the *Yard Guard* program. Call the office or email us for a quote; we can do whole yards, or just the back yard if desired. We also do **Foundation Insect Spray** for preventing insects like ants from getting into the house during the summer and before cold weather hits.

SUMMER LAWN CARE TIPS

Proper lawn care is a lot more critical in the summer than in the spring. This is the time of the growing season that you need to be very concerned about avoiding conditions that stress the lawn.

1. **DON'T MOW THE COLOR OUT OF YOUR LAWN!** Most grass types in WNY are not the kind that are meant to be mowed short. There is more color in your grass at 3 or 4 inches than at 2 or 2 ½ inch height. Often, just by raising the mowing height 1 notch, the lawn will look greener and healthier. So, ***raise your mowing height and see if it makes a difference.*** This applies to all grass types except those that grow sideways, like *bentgrass*.

Tall grass in the summer means deeper roots, more shade on the soil, and more cooling effect for the lawn as a whole. *It also removes and sinks more carbon and produces more oxygen.* Short lawns dry quickly, are more stressed, and are more exposed to weed invasion as well.

2. **WATERING WISDOM.** All lawns will suffer from lack of water, but it is worse on lawns that are short, in full sun, or when there are tree roots competing for moisture. If you want the lawn to be green, plan on ***soaking*** all dry areas (and don't forget your garden beds) for 1-2 hours, once or twice a week if necessary. ***It's better to get ahead on the watering rather than wait for the lawn to get dried out.*** Recovery time for grass is a lot slower in the summer than in

the spring and fall.

Remember, clay soils absorb water very slowly. A half hour of watering may only penetrate ½ inch. Our **Natural Aeration applications** help with water penetration as well as soil improvement.

***Dry Lawn Indicators:** 1. A dry lawn takes on a bluish hue as moisture level in the root zone becomes less and less. And if you look closely, the blades are thinner. 2. You will leave footprints when you walk on it. 3. Let it remain dry for too long and the grass will become "crunchy." If it does become crunchy, you need to get some water on ASAP because it will be prone to injury just from walking on it or riding over it with a mower. 4. Look at the soil. A definite way to tell if your lawn is dry is to step on a spade in the lawn, push it forward, and see if the soil is moist and therefore darker in the root zone a few inches or so below the surface.

- 3. SOOTHE AND IMPROVE YOUR SOIL** Both Clay and Sandy soils can be challenging to grass. Soil structure affects rooting, color, fertilizer uptake, and overall grass health. Here are our favorite ways to improve your soil:

Sandy soils need more organic matter to help bind the sand and improve its ability to hold water and nutrients. This can be improved with applications of our **Organic Soil Builder or Compost Bio-Activator**. If your sandy soil is also acidic, we advise an application of our **Lime/Calcium** will help improve the pH. Calcium also helps the soil hold more nutrients.

Clay soils need more organic matter to help improve soil structure and porosity. Our **Liquid Compost** contains "concentrated organic matter" that generate and feed beneficial soil-building microbes. It also improves grass color and health with over 80 trace elements and numerous other plant growth factors. They also need regular aerations since they are extremely compacted. Our **Liquid Aeration** is the most effective way of accomplishing this.

- **SUMMER SPECIAL: Order Liquid Compost and we will give you a FREE full-strength application of our Natural Liquid Aeration (soil penetrant) in the same treatment. You will be getting two applications for the price of one!**

Finally, do not neglect your **Lab Soil Test Recommendations**. Many of our customers have had soil testing done over the past few years and have yet to apply the recommended nutrients. Deficiencies and excesses in your soil affect the color and health of the grass. They could contribute to disease, insects, and even weed presence as well. Call the office to go over your test results.

Thank you so much for your continued business and support!

Have a great summer!

Your Friends at Green Buffalo Lawn Care

For more lawn care tips and "hacks" click on the Lawn Care Education tab on our homepage at www.greenbuffalolawncare.com