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## Summer 2024 Newsletter and Tips + *Summer Special!*

Today's 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 cool and wet spring kept the grass green without any need for watering at all. Some lawns suffered from continual soggy conditions due to compacted or high clay content soils that don't drain well. When soils stay wet for long periods it can bring on certain grass disease and even root-rot. As of mid-June, things are drying out rapidly and temperatures are moving much higher. Summer is finally here! Please be vigilant about keeping your lawn healthy, and follow the advice in this newsletter.

### NATURAL INSECT PROTECTION

As the summer warms up, heat-loving lawn insects as well as **Fleas and Ticks** begin to make their presence known. Ticks attach to 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. We also do **Foundation Insect Spray** for preventing insects like ants from getting into the house during the summer and before cold weather hits.

Another insect that we have to contend with is GRUBS! They will be hatching and laying eggs soon.



This year we have **Organic Grub Prevention** available for the first time in many years. Call the office if you are interested in an application.

### 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 better color when the grass is 3 or 4 inches high than when only 2 or 2 ½ inches. 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*.

#### ***Did you know?***

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.** It could get very dry for the next 2-3 months. 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 are very dense and absorb water very slowly. A half hour of watering may only penetrate ½ inch. Our **Natural Aeration and Liquid Compost applications** help with water penetration as well as soil improvement.

**Four Dry Lawn Indicators:** 1. A dry lawn takes on a bluish hue when it needs water. And if you look closely, the blades are thinner. 2. You will leave footprints when you walk on a dry lawn. 3. The grass will become "crunchy" and brittle eventually. 4. Look at the soil. Step on a spade in the lawn, push it forward, and see if the soil is moist and therefore darker in the root zone. If the soil looks lighter and dry beyond 2-3 inches, the grass needs a heavy watering.

3. **SOOTHE AND IMPROVE YOUR SOIL** Both Clay and Sandy soils can be challenging to grass. Here are our favorite ways to improve your soil:

*Sandy Soils* have too much air space and 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 getting an application of **Lime**, which helps improve the pH and grass color, and also helps the soil hold more nutrients.

*Clay Soils* are compacted and very dense. They stay soggy when wet, and turn really hard and may crack when dry. Adding organic matter, like **Organic Soil Builder and Compost Bio-Activator**, helps improve soil porosity in the long run. Another option is **Liquid Compost**, which contains "concentrated organic matter" that works quickly to improve soils. It also improves grass color and health with over 80 trace elements and plant growth factors.

\*Clay soils need regular aerations since they are extremely compacted. Our **Liquid Aeration** is the most effective and economical way of accomplishing this. It can be done year-round.

Follow up on your **Lab Soil Test Recommendations**. Many of you have had soil testing done over the past few years and have yet to apply the recommended nutrients. Deficiencies and excesses in your soil cause weeds and disease, and will affect the color and health of the grass. Call the office to go over your test results.

- **SUMMER SPECIAL:** Order one or more **LIQUID COMPOSTS** and we will give you a **FREE** full-strength application of our **NATURAL LIQUID AERATION** in the same treatment(s). You will be getting two applications for the price of one!

Thank you so much for your continued business and support!

**Have a great summer!**

*Your Friends at Green Buffalo Lawn Care*