

FITT

Facts, Information & Turf Tips

With the public's growing concerns about pesticides Lawrence Lawn Care has been committed to researching and developing alternative methods and products to reduce the amount of chemicals used to maintain a healthy and beautiful lawn.

Over the past few years LLC has developed a natural approach to our turf care programs that are simple and scientific. These products have been tried, tested and true to the lawn care industry and are now getting global recognition. It is our mission to continually improve in all areas of operation and to be a leader in the revolution of the lawn care industry. It is also our priority to educate and inform the public on responsible turf management.

Our methods and products are based around soil science. The products and services combined in our turf care programs are incorporated to address your soil deficiencies and to balance certain soil variables. The key to having a healthy weed resistant lawn with minimal or no chemicals is dependant on good cultural practises along with products that will balance your soils deficiencies. The natural products that LLC uses are not only incorporated into our "Natural Program", but are also used in all our programs for a reason. The benefits of using our natural products are two fold, not only do they feed your lawn with proper N-P-K levels they help to balance out your soils deficiencies because they do not leach or volatilize and remain plant available.

Pesticides are generally the main concern for the public and the environment but very few people recognize the problems with synthetic fertilizers. Some synthetic fertilizers themselves are somewhat of a problem because commonly when they are used they deplete the soils ability to function (microbial activity); they leach away into rivers and streams and often force growth with excessive nitrogen that can stress your turf grass leaving your lawn susceptible to disease and insect damage. With that being said they can be incorporated into a lawn care program if used properly with cultural practises and natural products. The main reasons they have been used so long in the turf grass industry is because they are relatively inexpensive and there were no real effective natural products available. Times have changed!

For further information on our FITT program refer to our Facts, Information and Turf Tips.

Vince Oldford

Turf Manager, LLC

HEALTHY LAWN CARE PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS

Easy Flo™ Compost • Pelletized compost made from leaves and yard waste. This product is easily applied through a spreader to increase the organic matter in your soil and stimulate microbial activity. Micro organisms help your soil function, they break down the thatch layer taking away a home for surface insects to thrive allowing your soil to breathe. Increasing the organic matter in your soil by 1% will increase your drought tolerance by 50%.

Alfalfa 5-1-5 • This is a natural plant based granular fertilizer that has a variety of benefits. It is 100% plant based and has all sixteen nutrients that turf grass requires. This alfalfa fertilizer has a natural bio-stimulant called triacontal which is a root stimulant that even at low concentrations has been proven to increase yields in garden plots. Triacontal is also a natural photosynthesis enhancer and seems to unlock nutrients stored in the soil and make them plant available. Some of the recorded benefits of alfalfa fertilizers are early breaking of dormancy, an increase in seed germination and flower production, improvement in the development of roots and an increase in nitrogen assimilation.

Corn Plus 8-1-6 • This is a corn based fertilizer that also contains magnesium and sulphur. Corn based fertilizers have an enzyme that inhibits the growth of root hairs on new seedlings, this helps with the reduction of weed germination in the summer but because of this enzyme we do not apply at the same time as seeding. The 8-1-6 fertilizer is high in nitrogen which helps to achieve a darker green turf, it is also high in potassium which helps to fend off disease and build drought resistance.

Agrogeen 4-1-1 • This is a natural liquid fertilizer that contains neem and has a wide variety of uses. Research and testimonials show that this fertilizer is excellent for fighting of fungus diseases on trees, fruits and lawns while increasing fruit yield and flower production. The Agrogeen 4-1-1 fertilizer has a strong pine smell and

taste which when applied to plants fruit and turf deters insects and animals from feeding on the plant.

Acadian Ornamentals Seaweed • The seaweed extract from this liquid fertilizer comes from the North Atlantic variety known as *Ascophyllum nodosum*. This fertilizer does not contain large amounts of N-P-K but does contain the whole spectrum of micronutrients. The bio-stimulant cytokinin found only in *Ascophyllum nodosum* has many benefits.

Acadian Ornamentals Seaweed • (Benefits of cytokinin) – It is known to increase anti-oxidant activity in plants thus retarding the loss of protein and chlorophyll. This stabilization of chlorophyll results in darker green leaves and an increased sugar content in plants. Seaweed also relieves stress in plants that are caused by disease, insect attack, drought, and even chemical burn. Seaweed extracts improve seed germination and increase root development. It also increases microbial activity at the soil surface, which therefore helps reduce thatch buildup. Although foliar applications benefits are short-lived this product is great for summer applications when growth is not wanted but green turf is.

Soil Correctives • Depending on your soils deficiencies based on a lab soil analysis Lawrence Lawn Care uses organic or mineral based applications that will help to adjust and balance the appropriate levels of your soil. The most common deficiencies found in this region are potassium, organic matter and a high pH level. The higher your organic level gets the greater your water holding capacity and nutrient holding capacity gets. Potassium is the key nutrient for disease and drought resistance, raising the potassium level will give you a stronger insect and disease resistant turf. Having an ideal pH level of 6.2 – 7.0 will allow your turf to uptake all available nutrients making a stronger healthier turf. When pH levels are too high or too low the turf is not able to uptake all available nutrients resulting in a weaker turf.

HEALTHY LAWN CARE PRODUCTS AND SOLUTIONS

Lab Soil Analysis • This is a cost effective way to find out the state of your soil and the deficiencies it has. Lawrence Lawn Care has an independent lab do these soil tests and convert the scientific print-out into laymans terms so the average home owner can understand their soils needs.

Overseeding • Seed selection is very important to having a healthy visually pleasing lawn. Lawrence Lawn Care uses certified seed only whether a shade seed mix or an elite seed mix is required. Our elite mix also has endophyte in it which is a natural deterrent to surface feeding insects.

18-2-14 (synthetic) • This fertilizer has 3%mg and all 16 nutrients that turf grass requires. Although synthetic fertilizers do not have the benefits of proper natural fertilizers we believe this fertilizer that we have made specifically for Lawrence Lawn Care to be as good as it gets as far as synthetics go. When used properly in a lawn care program it will help keep costs down while giving the desired results. This fertilizer is ideal in the drier summer months.

Beneficial Nematodes • These are natural parasites that are not harmful to people or pets. When used properly they are an effective way to control grubs and crane fly larvae. These nematodes are uv sensitive and need water to get into the soil to seek out the grubs. This is why we may apply them at night or on overcast or rainy days.

Core Aeration • This step is very important, it will help get oxygen and water to the root system. Core aerating will help break up compaction and bring microbial life to the surface. When the cores are brought to the surface they act as form of topdressing as well. Aerating helps to thicken up the turf as well, by cutting the root ryzomes new grass blades are grown. Overseeding Is ideal after aerating.

Slitseeding • Machines that have vertical blades that slit the surface of the soil and drop seeds into these slits. This method is excellent for repairing damaged lawns or establishing new lawns. The slitting process is also a form of aerating.

Dethatching • This is usually required on lawns that have chemical-ly dependant where there is little or no microbial activity to break down the thatch layer. This machine has vertical blades that are not fixed (meaning they are flailing blades). This is similar to verticutting except the thatch layer is brought to the surface where it can then be removed.

Mowing • This is an area where people make the biggest mistake. Proper mowing height is 3 inches. Cutting your lawn too short stresses the turf making it easier for disease, insects and weeds to invade your lawn. Grass clippings should also be left on your lawn, when they break down they account for 1/3 of your turfs desired nutrients for the year. Never cut more than 1/3 off the length of your grass, doing this will stress your grass as well.

Watering • Watering once per week slowly and deeply is ideal maybe twice per week in extremely dry conditions. Watering to a depth of 6 inches is ideal. What you want is to have the root system chase the moisture down from the surface as it dries out. Watering more frequent and shallow leaves your root system near the surface making your turf weaker and more vulnerable to drought. Watering early in the morning is ideal because your soil is cooler and the water will not evaporate as easily. Watering at night leads to evaporation because the air and soil is warmer, also moisture left on the grass at night for lengthy periods leaves your turf susceptible to turf grass diseases.

RESIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

**LAWRENCE
LAWNCARE**

LANDSCAPE DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION IRRIGATION SYSTEMS

122 - 1 EARL THOMPSON ROAD, AYR, ONTARIO NOB 1E0
KW 519 896 3661 • OXFORD 519 421 9720 • GUELPH 519 823 7995

 Member of
Landscape Ontario