



**Rice's
Picks**

www.ricesnursery.com

Fertilizing & Mowing Your Lawn

WHY IS FERTILIZING REALLY NECESSARY?

Grass has been around a long time, and it's done pretty well on its own. In meadows, for example, grass looks great, and it's never fertilized. So why must we fertilize the lawn that surrounds our home?

Here are a few reasons:

- 1 We expect much more from our lawn. The meadow, which looks so nice from afar, loses its luster when viewed up close. Its bare patches, weeds and scars fall short of the lawn we want for our home.
- 2 Lawns are subjected to great stress from mowing. We must mow at least once a week to provide the manicured look we expect from a lawn. And each mowing removes some of the blades that turn sunlight, water and carbon dioxide into carbohydrates needed to sustain vigorous plant life.
- 3 Today's grasses are hybrids. They have been developed to provide better performance than the old grass varieties found in meadows...however, they require fertilization to provide superior performance.

For these three reasons, lawns need access to a generous supply of nutrients through their roots...more nutrients than are found in even the richest of top soils. And for the grass to thrive from spring through fall, the nutrients must be available continuously, throughout the season.

What does N P K mean to your fertilizer?

N-P-K refers to the amount of nitrogen, phosphorous, and potassium present in the fertilizer. The higher these numbers, which are actually percentages of each nutrient in the fertilizer, the higher the level of nutrients available to the plant.

What does N P K do for the plant?

N-P-K are the most important elements required by the plant. These are referred to as macro elements because of the large amounts of these nutrients required by the plant.

N Nitrogen - Promotes plant and leaf growth, it also accelerates the plant's metabolic processes.

P Phosphorus - Promotes strong, healthy root growth and also promotes fruit development.

K Potassium - Also referred to as potash. Regulates the plant's water retention and provides plant protection against frost and drought.

How to figure amount of nutrient in each bag:

$\%N \times \text{bag lbs.} = \text{lbs. Of Nitrogen}$

$\%P \times \text{bag lbs.} = \text{lbs. Of Phosphorus}$

$\%K \times \text{bag lbs.} = \text{lbs. Of Potassium}$

Ex. 30N - 3P - 3K 50lb. Bag

$.30 \times 50 = 15\text{lbs. Of Nitrogen}$

$.03 \times 50 = 1.5\text{lbs. Of Phosphorus}$

$.04 \times 50 = 2\text{lbs. Of Potassium}$

We recommend...

**RICE'S FORTIFY
4-Step Program**

Other Necessary Lawn Treatments...

AERATION

Involves a machine that pulls plugs or cores of soil from your lawn and places them on top of your lawn. By doing this, you are loosening the ground for improved root growth and this also allows fertilizer, lime, etc. and water to seep down in the ground. This will increase the strength and health of your lawn.

DETHATCHING

Involves a machine that has a series of knives that slice the turf and loosen the thatch. When this process is complete your lawn will look torn up. This would be a good time to over seed, fertilize and lime. A warning, if your lawn is marginal, you could be getting yourself into a bigger mess than you counted on.

What Soil Amendments Does the Lawn Need?

LIME

Helps establish a neutral pH. Once a neutral pH is established then your fertilizer is more readily available.

Application Rate: 10-15lbs per 1,000 sq.ft.
Spring & Fall

GYPSUM

Helps neutralize dog spots and salt damage along the road, driveway and sidewalk areas.

Application Rate: 30-40lbs per 1,000 sq.ft.
before or after damage

Mowing Tips

- Never cut off more than 1/3 of the blade length at any one time
- Never mow grass when it is damp
- Cutting heights 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" first and last mowing of the season
- Move to 2" to 2 1/2" for May through August, then to 1 3/4" by September - prior to late summer feeding
- Don't forget, last cutting before snow is 1 1/4" to 1 1/2"
- Do not leave any leaves on lawn over winter
- Vary mowing patterns - diagonal, back and forth, etc.
- Mow slight slopes at a diagonal
- If ground is uneven, be careful not to scalp high points

