

Wednesday, August 21, 1991

Town Gardener

Proper care will ensure your lawn survives

By TOM CAVAN
Lawn Maintenance

During the summer time we experience hot dry weather and without proper watering your gardens will suffer due to heat stress, desiccation, hot dry winds and for many water time restrictions. You can manage to get the job done and maintain a level of water maintenance to keep the plants in your gardens healthy.

What really takes a beating is the lawns. Obviously without watering your turf grass it will go brown and dry up, what people don't realize is that this is how grass survives the extended heat without water. The turf actually goes into summer dormancy from lack of water, nutrients and improper maintenance.

This spring we received our share of rain and the lawns have greened-up and have been growing healthy. But if you haven't fertilized because of all this rain and it does turn hot and dry, the spring rains will have done more harm than good because with all the rain comes vigorous growth and the turf will use all reserved nutrients. If the lawn is deficient of nutrients, and if your cutting heights are not adjusted to 3"-4" your lawn will suffer a major setback in strength and endurance. With all that rich green growth the grass uses up all the nutrients existing and any that you have applied in the way of lawn fertilizer, due to the excessive growth.

To prepare your lawn for a potential heat wave and drought

you should take the following steps.

1. Raise the cutting height of your lawn mower.
2. Rake excess grass after cutting.
3. Fertilize your lawn with a recommended summer application of organic lawn food with a high carbon content i.e. Milorganite.
4. When you do water it takes 3 hours per sprinkler position to achieve a 6" water depth penetration, any less and you are doing more harm than good. Shallow watering will cause the roots to go to the soil surface and heat stress.
5. Check the level of thatch and do not let it build up.

By applying these changes your lawn may still go into sum-

mer dormancy but the damage will be minimal to the turf. If you cannot apply water do not cut during the day and avoid using the lawn when it is hot. Cut the grass during the cool part of the day and your lawn will endure the heat stress that will surely happen. The question will arise in your mind why fertilize my lawn, will that not encourage growth and then obviously create more lawn cutting time? The answer is no. Today's lawn fertilizers are designed to release slowly, they require heat and water to release. But more importantly is the fact that a well fed lawn will be stronger than an undernourished lawn. A well fed lawn is more resistant to stress.

Think of it this way, who will survive a walk through the

desert, a well fed person or a person who has not been fed. The answer is clear and simple, so check your last fertilizing date, raise your cutting height of the lawn mower and if you can water be sure to water properly otherwise you should just stay off the grass until better conditions return.

Question: If it rains enough during the summer should you still fertilize the lawn.

Answer: Yes, it is important to maintain a consistent level of nutrients for a consistent, healthy lawn.

If you have any questions about your lawn please call the Grapevine Hotline 519-833-2117.



PRICE CUTS ON MOWERS



LIMITED QUANTITIES



Black & Decker Power Plus Mower. 9-amp motor with automatic electronic power-up for heavy cutting, 5-position fingertip wheel height adjustment, 7" diameter wheels. 60-1748-2. Reg. \$209.74

SAVE
\$70

PRODUCT NOT EXACTLY AS SHOWN

NOW \$139⁷⁴

 <p>SAVE \$56</p> <p>B & D mulcher mower. Finely chops up grass cuttings with 18" multi-pitch mulching blade. 9-amp motor. Painted folding swing-over handle and 5-position fingertip wheel-height adjustment. 7" diameter wheels. 60-1749-0. Reg. \$255.96 SALE \$199.96</p>	 <p>SAVE \$100</p> <p>Mastercraft self-propelled 22" gas mower. Takes the strain out of pushing and pulling mower. Powered by 3.5-hp Tecumseh engine. 9-position height adjusters for desired grass cutting. Trailing shield. 8" gear-tread wheels. 60-1859-4. Reg. \$366.76 SALE \$266.76</p>	 <p>SAVE \$76</p> <p>21" rear-bagging gas lawnmower. Has powerful 4-hp, 2-cycle Tecumseh XL engine. Comes with rear discharge deck and convenient grass bag. 9-position height adjustment. Fully baffled to reduce engine noise. 8" wheels. 60-1878-2. Reg. \$325.89 SALE \$249.89</p>	<p>GARDEN TRACTOR COVER Reg. \$31.95</p> <p>SAVE \$16</p> <p>SALE \$15⁹⁵ One Only</p>	<p>10 Cu. Ft. TOW BEHIND DUMP CART 500 Lb. Cap. Reg. \$322.93</p> <p>SAVE \$123</p> <p>SALE \$199⁹³ One Only</p>
<p>TOW BEHIND SPREADER Prod. No. 60-1852-2 Reg. \$83.98</p> <p>SAVE \$24</p> <p>SALE \$59⁹⁸ One Only</p>	<p>INDUSTRIAL 18 HP TRACTOR 14 SPEED 45" CUT Reg. \$3203.78</p> <p>SAVE \$553</p> <p>SALE \$2649⁷⁸ One Only</p>	<p>RIDING MOWER Twin Bag Grasscatcher Reg. \$367.51</p> <p>SAVE \$166</p> <p>SALE \$199⁹⁹ 60-4079-0</p>		

— IN-STOCK MERCHANDISE ONLY — NO RAINCHECKS —

— ALL MERCHANDISE SUBJECT TO PRESALE —



CANADIAN TIRE
(GEORGETOWN LOCATION ONLY)
236 GUELPH ST., GEORGETOWN

SPORTS 877-5140 PARTS 877-5147

HARDWARE 877-5149

STORE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Closed Sunday