



Follow the 4Rs to a healthy lawn

Warmer temperatures and sunnier days mean one thing: the green of spring is not far away.

And when it comes to lawns, a little care now will go a long way to ensuring plant health in the dog days of summer that lie ahead. The Urban Fertilizer Council suggests following the 4Rs to ensure your lawn is getting the nutrients it needs to stay healthy from season to season:

- **Right Source:** buy a fertilizer recommended for your lawn or garden
- **Right Rate:** know the size of your lawn and only buy what you need. Apply at the application rate as recommended on the label, using a good quality fertilizer spreader
- **Right Time:** apply fertilizer in the correct season. Spring and fall are the best times to fertilize. Don't apply if

heavy rain is expected, or on frozen ground

• **Right Place:** fertilizer can't do its job if it's not on your lawn or garden. Sweep on to the lawn any fertilizer that might land on hard surfaces such as sidewalks and driveways

Don't apply fertilizer near ponds, streams, rivers or lakes, or use a low phosphorus or phosphorus-free fertilizer on established lawns. New lawns (under two years old) will benefit greatly from a lawn fertilizer with phosphorus. Ideally, take a soil sample to determine if your lawn needs phosphorous, and if it does – apply with care by following the 4Rs.

More fertilizer tips and best practices can be found online at www.GreenWorld.ca (launching May 2011).

—www.newscanada.com



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