

# *Ralphy's Lawn Guide*

## **Application Rate Cheat Sheet**

### **Fertilisers:**

Baileys 3.1.1 with Grosorb 30grams per sqm every 8 weeks  
Baileys 3.1.1 Granulated 25grams per sqm every 10-12 weeks  
Baileys 4.1.1 15grams per sqm every 4 weeks or 30grams per sqm every 8 weeks  
Baileys Brilliance 25grams per sqm every 8 weeks  
Baileys SG Maintain 25grams per sqm every 10-12 weeks  
Baileys SG Elite 20grams per sqm every 8 weeks  
Baileys SG Renovate 25grams per sqm every 8 weeks  
Baileys Turfct Energy 30grams per sqm every 8 weeks  
Baileys Energy Max 50grams per sqm every 8 weeks  
**All Eco Growth Fertilisers** 25grams per sqm every 8-10 weeks

### **Wetting Agents:**

Eco Growth Eco Wet 150-200mls per 100sqm every 4 weeks  
Ralphy's Refresh 50-100mls per 100sqm every 4 weeks  
Floratine Propel 100-200mls per 100sqm every 2-4 weeks  
Plant Doctor Nature Soils Wetter 100-200mls per 100sqm every 2-4 weeks  
Baileys Grosorb 30-50grams per sqm every 8 weeks

### **Retaining Agent:**

Ralphy's Refresh 100mls per 100sqm every 4 weeks  
Floratine Retain Pro 200- 300mls per 100sqm every 4 weeks

### **Seaweed Products:**

Ralphys Seacharge 100mls per 100sqm every 4 weeks  
Plant Doctor Seaweed Secrets 100-200mls per 100sqm every 2-4 weeks  
Plant Doctor Activ8mate 75mls per 100sqm every 2-4 weeks  
Eco Growth Eco Vital 100mls per 100sqm every 4 weeks

### **Stimulant:** \* Humic Acid can stain \*

Plant Doctor Stimulizer 4mls per 100sqm every 2-4 week  
Plant Doctor Quantum H 50-75mls per 100sqm every 2-4 weeks  
Ralphy's Unleash 100mls per 100sqm every 4 weeks  
Baileys Turfct Humic 100-200mls per 100sqm every 4 weeks  
Eco Growth Eco Humate 200mls Per 100sqm every 4 weeks  
Plant Doctor Humic Acid Powder 30grams per 100sqm every 2-4 weeks

### **Green Up:** \* Iron will stain fencing and concrete \*

Baileys Turfct Rapid Green & Iron & Manganese 300mls per 100sqm.  
Baileys Turfct Green Plus & GT Green 300mls per 100sqm  
Plant Doctor Liquid Iron 150-400mls per 100sqm  
Plant Doctor Max Green 150-400mls per 100sqm  
Floratine Knife Plus 50-100mls per 100sqm

### **Notes:**

- All can be applied every 2-4 weeks
- Iron based products will stain driveways, fences and other porous surfaces

**Preferred order for Ralphy's packs:**

1. Give the Lawn a cut and tidy ready for the products its best start you can get.
2. Make sure the lawn is dry this is crucial for a couple of reasons.
  - Because if there is only light water on the lawn it could cause the nitrogen to burn.
  - Because there is iron in the mix this is what stains your driveways if wet.
3. Check the temperature if applying fertiliser in peak heat you also risk burning your lawn.
4. Weigh out your fertiliser this is important using too much can not only be harmful to your lawn but it's also harmful to the environment if it leeches away. You could also not be putting out enough on the other side of things.
5. Apply Fertiliser at the above rates best done with a spreader for accuracy.
6. Sweep or Blow any overthrow of fertiliser of paths and driveways remember any iron in the fertiliser can leech out when wet and stain.
7. Water in with the soil based liquids which all can be applied together if you have more than one product. You can also add your wetting agent in as well if your watering day is the next day. If not leave it out and try and wait until just before your watering day to ensure it gets into the soil.
8. Sit Back and Admire the growth of your lawn.
9. Give the lawn a cut in how many days you normally cut the lawn ideally as often as possible regular mowing promotes growth.
10. Finally Apply the Iron if you have it to give the lawn that bit of depth. ( Wash off any over spray remember iron stains ) Iron can also be tank mixed with Plant Growth Regulator if you are heading that way.

**Notes:**

- After applying products make a note in your diary or calendar on when you applied.

**Water Tips:**

- Hydrophobic soil is one of the biggest issues we face in Perth. Hydrophobic soil is where a wax coating is formed around the sand particles creating a barrier, which causes the soil to then repel water. To find out if your soil is hydrophobic - get a small amount of water and tip it on an area where you see soil and just watch to see if the water pools or soaks in. If the water pools the soil is hydrophobic. If the soil is slow to take in the water, it might not be completely hydrophobic but a wetting agent that specifies the break-down of the wax coating is needed. To do this test, the soil needs to be dry if it has been raining or, if the soil is wet take some samples put it aside and let it dry out completely and do the test then.
- Other factors that cause water pooling can be compaction so at the same time as doing the hydrophobic test. Get a screwdriver and poke it in the ground you should be able to get it in without too much resistance. If it is firm or hard you need to look at getting your lawn aerated to relieve this compaction and allow air water and nutrients in.
- Watering in the morning when the lawn wakes up is my ideal time to water. If watering at night, there is a chance you could get a fungal disease.
- Catch Cups are an essential tool in any lawn owners kit. I place cups out every 3 months to check coverage. This not only helps to ensure you are getting the correct amount of water out per watering day, but it also helps you work out if you have good sprinkler coverage.
- A fortnightly walk around whilst sprinklers are on just to ensure no blockages is a good idea as well
- If you notice a dry patch before your next watering day then soak that one patch only with the hose don't water the whole lawn. This encourages a deeper root system and the lawn won't constantly rely on water. If you continue to notice dry patches you may need to consider using a retaining agent.

## **Seasonal Guide:**

### **Spring:**

This is where the fun begins, and the planning of that picture-perfect lawn starts. September the temperature generally is still a little cool, so we continue with liquid products throughout September. October is where the action happens this is where you put your renovation plans into action. This includes Verti-mowing, Top Dressing and Coring. We also start using a good control release fertiliser as well. If you normally get a lot of insect attacks during the season preventative is better than multiple treatment applications to cure. So applying a product like Accelpryn GR in September or after renovating is a great idea. September is when we also apply a wetting agent for the first time for the season as well.

Another thing we start to use in spring is Plant Growth Regulator as there is no set timing for re-application intervals so this needs to be monitored. You can either watch your lawn clip rate or the use of a GDD tracker.

### **Summer:**

It's Summer now we are getting some heat. By now you should have applied a couple of applications of Wetting Agent and if you're still struggling to keep that lawn from shriveling up you may need to look to a retaining agent. This will help boost the wetting agent's effectiveness. Training your lawn not to rely on constant watering can be a tough process - my tip like mentioned above in watering tips is pick up a set of catch cups and ensure you're getting an even 10mm of water across your lawn. ( if uneven speak to an irrigation expert to help you correct it ) Set your watering time to achieve this 10mm. If you do notice a dry patch before the next watering day give that dry patch a good deep water with the hose and do not water the rest of the lawn. Doing this will encourage the roots to go deeper and where the soil is cooler and the water retains for longer. Big note for summer is be careful with applying fertilisers in the direct heat of the day you do not want to burn your lawn.

Grab a cool drink and enjoy the fun on the lawn and share with friends and family making them envious of your nice green patch.

### **Autumn:**

Autumn time the renovations should be coming to an end, the temperature is cooling down and this is also the time we get some humidity. High humidity increases the chance of fungal disease. An application of Bumper in March and again 28days later should help prevent it becoming a problem. Now is also the time to look at putting out a pre-emergent herbicide to help prevent some of those pesky weeds germinating. Make sure you read the label carefully before applying any chemical especially a pre-emergent like Spartan as there is a few processes different to a normal herbicide to follow. Towards the end of Autumn, you will also notice some broadleaf weeds appear, a great herbicide like Bow and Arrow or Dicamba M will sort those out. Don't forget to use a surfactant to make the chemical more effective. You will also apply your last application of fertiliser just before winter as well. When the soil temps drop we move away from granule fertiliser and start using more Liquid fertilisers. We do this and as a foliar because lawn root uptake is slowed down during the cooler months but you can still feed through the leaf.

### **Winter:**

Winter time is where everything slows right down, unless you're interested in over-seeding with a cool season grass like Perennial Rye Grass. If that's the case jump over to my how to over-seed flyer. Plant Growth Regulator should be completely stopped, if you had been using it and your last Granular fertiliser application should have well and truly gone out as well and started on a liquid feeding program. Over winter is a great time to make sure everything is serviced and in good working order for the next season ahead. This include cutting gear and your reticulation system. Grab a coffee and relax spring isn't too far away.