

APRIL

LAWNS

Crabgrass starts to germinate when the redbuds are in bloom, but it continues well into the summer, so go ahead and apply **ferti•lome Lawn Food plus Crabgrass and Weed Preventer** if you haven't already. An April application will still catch most crabgrass before it germinates. Be sure to water it in well. For broadleaf weed control only, use **ferti•lome Weed Free Zone** as a spray. Or use **ferti•lome Weed-Out** with or without fertilizer. Weed control products, like Weed-Out, are **not** to be watered in so the weed killer can stick on the weed for a day.

April is the time to seed or overseed cool-season grasses. To control crabgrass when seeding use **Starter Fertilizer plus Crabgrass Preventer with Tupersan (Siduron)**. This is the only treatment you can use to prevent weeds and plant seed at the same time. Keep soil moist until grass sprouts. After germination, water less frequently but more deeply. Follow up in 6-8 weeks with **Hi-Yield Turf & Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper** to extend crabgrass prevention through the summer.

PLANTING

April is an excellent time to plant trees, shrubs, vines and perennials. Use **ferti•lome Bedding Plant Food** slow release plant food in the planting hole to maintain your landscape plants throughout the season. Water in all new plantings with **ferti•lome Root Stimulator** to insure establishment and use it weekly for the first month to enhance later performance.

For an even better start to root development use **Milorganite** at planting time. **Milorganite** is mycorrhizal fungus which attaches to plant roots and encourages more and healthier roots. Apply **Milorganite** in the planting hole so it comes into direct contact with the roots. In early April you can put out some of the cool-tolerant annuals like alyssum, dianthus, lobelia, pansies, petunias and snapdragons. Wait until at least mid month when the soil warms up to plant summer bulbs (caladiums, cannas, dahlias, elephant's ear) and more heat-loving flowers such as begonias, coleus, impatiens, marigolds, vinca and zinnias.

In the vegetable garden it's time to seed beets, carrots, collards, lettuce mustard, radishes and spinach. There is still time to get in peas, onion sets, onion plants, and garlic, too. Perennial and biennial herbs such as catnip, chives, lavender, mint, parsley, sage, and thyme can also be planted now.

To keep gardens and beds weed free, use **American Weed and Grass Stopper** containing Treflan. Or use **Hi-Yield Turf & Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper** (the same one you can use on your lawn). After clearing out existing weeds sprinkle the granules on the ground. This will keep new weed seeds from sprouting all season. You can use these granules in flower or vegetable beds and around most plants, but always read the label for specific instructions.

FERTILIZING AND PRUNING

Use **ferti•lome Tree & Shrub Food** on all types of trees and shrubs now to help them get off to a good start. Apply the proper amount, based on the size of your plants, under and past the drip line, then just water it in. This feeding will not only aid in recovery from past damage but will build up plants to withstand adverse conditions this year.

Now is a good time to prune for general maintenance and to prune out winter injury. Avoid pruning spring blooming plants such as lilac, white spirea, forsythia, quince, etc. until after they are finished blooming or you will cut off this year's flower buds.

It is also time to cut back and feed perennial plants. These die to the ground every year so the old foliage needs to be taken off close to the soil line. Then fertilize the newly emerging shoots with **ferti•lome Geranium, Hanging Basket & Pansy Food, Bedding Plant Food** or **Milorganite**.

PESTS AND DISEASE

Cedar-Apple Rust: Control rust on crabapples and hawthorns by spraying at 7-10 day intervals between mid April and late May to cover expanding leaves. Use **ferti•lome Broad Spectrum Liquid Fungicide, ferti•lome Systemic Fungicide**

Pine Tip Blight: Spray pines with **ferti•lome Systemic Fungicide** in mid April. Repeat in 10-14 days; 2 to 3 applications.

Pine Tip Moth: Spray at the end of April for the first generation with **Hi-Yield Indoor/Outdoor**, systemic insecticide.