



NUTRI LAWN Inc.

P.O. Box 522 · Chico, CA 95927 · (530) 891-1551 · info@nutrilawn.net · http://www.nutrilawn.net

RP1 Newsletter 2020 Early Spring

Happy New Year and welcome to a new decade! We're eager to get back on lawns again. We've had a decent amount of wet weather this winter, which bodes well for the coming summer. We've seen many lawns that have experienced winter stress, and while well fed lawns with healthy soil and root systems have withstood this stress better than most, a good feeding is certainly going to be appreciated as the lawns come out of winter dormancy.

As always, we'll be focusing on sustainable horticultural practices, from water conserving irrigation to soil health. Our newsletters and trained professionals will provide you with valuable input on your landscape whenever possible.

In this application, the first of the year (RP1), we'll be focusing on establishing a pre-emergent crabgrass barrier for your lawn as well as an early spring feeding and broadleaf weed control. This is our only fully liquid lawn application, so for the most part do not expect to see the granules in the lawn that you are used to. Our technicians may still use granular fertilizer under some circumstances, for instance in very shaded areas. **A reminder, the crabgrass preventer we apply during this round will work equally well at inhibiting the germination of turf seed, preventing your lawn from rooting for months.** Please let us know if you plan on seeding this spring and we will adjust your service. The crabgrass preventer will also only be effective as long as the pre-emergent barrier is not broken. For this reason, we recommend holding off on aerating and dethatching until the fall. Each plug removed or tine dug into the soil is a point where crabgrass seeds can germinate. Cool season lawns (fescue, bluegrass, rye) will initiate spring green-up when soil temperatures approach 53°F.

WHITE GRUB PREVENTION

Last fall, many North State lawns were once again damaged by white grubs, the root feeding immature form of the Masked Chafer beetle. A relatively new pest, they are establishing territory throughout Butte County. Damage ranges from dead spots in the lawn to areas torn up by raccoons and skunks foraging on the large grubs. Prevention is the key. Trying to control an infestation after the fact is difficult due to the late stage grubs' resistance to most insecticides available in California. We offer a preventative treatment that must be applied during the Masked Chafer's egg laying period in July. The product will greatly reduce small, emerging grubs, which in turn greatly reduces subsequent fall damage. Please call the office if interested in signing up for this July service.

IRRIGATION TIDBITS

As the winter turns to spring, we need to start thinking about firing up the irrigation systems in our yards after a long pause during the colder months. This is a great time to check for broken heads, plugged nozzles, and proper coverage. It's also a good idea to complete any improvements or modifications to your system before warmer weather arrives and irrigation contractors are swamped, and before your lawn and shrubs experience stress from increased temperatures.

Winter and spring rains mean most of us get to take a break from constantly irrigating our lawns and landscapes. While the break is nice, you still need to make sure certain areas of your landscape remain adequately watered. Pay attention to plants under overhanging roof lines that typically don't receive rain. They are easily overlooked and do need a little water during the wet months. I also check potted plants that are sometimes forgotten during the winter and need supplemental water.

For parts, supplies, and expert advice, visit **CHICO SPRINKLER**. They are a locally owned irrigation supply company (since 1978) and can accommodate your residential needs with knowledge and service. You can reach Chico Sprinkler, Inc. at (530) 891-0308 or online at www.chicosprinkler.com.

If you aren't DIY inclined and need a spring irrigation tune-up, call Chip at Peyton Irrigation. You can reach him at (530) 521-2133.

SHRUB SERVICES

When was the last time your shrubs were fed? If you don't already take advantage of this service, you may want to treat the rest of your landscape (in addition to your lawn) to a feeding. The application is foliar (liquid) for the most part, although we do apply a special blend of iron rich granular fertilizer to iron-loving shrubs such as azaleas and camellias.

We also offer a liquid pre-emergent application to prevent a majority of weeds from germinating in your shrub beds. Both shrub services start at \$75 for an average landscape and are offered twice a year, spring and fall, so call us early to receive an estimate!

WINTER PRUNING

It's very common in early winter to find homeowners pruning right after leaf fall. However, a local nursery grower notes that he waits as long as he can before making cuts. He reasons that the less time cuts are exposed to rain or other elements that can promote and spread invading fungi and bacteria (see pseudomonas), the better. In most cases we still want to prune before bud swell. As the plant wakes up it will initiate healing and seal off the wounds.

While on the subject of pruning, ornamental grasses and Fortnight Lily (Morea) should be pruned almost to the ground to allow fresh new spring growth. Pruning woody shrubs depends on the plant species and when it typically blooms. The very popular Fringe Flower (Loropetalum) should be cut back after its spring bloom (as well as Camellia and Azalea) if they are getting leggy or too big for their space.

PRE-NOTIFICATION

The state requires we pre-notify you about any EPA registered products that might be used on your property during the course of the lawn care season. *Please keep in mind that your lawn may need only a few of the materials listed below throughout the season* (example, Prodiamine for crabgrass prevention and Element for spurge.)

We strictly review any material that we will use in our community. Many lawn care products available in nurseries, and for that matter, many products under homeowners' kitchen sinks, would never pass our NutriLawn scrutiny.

Our policy is to use chemical controls *only* when cultural controls (i.e., proper mowing, aeration, and watering) are not enough. However, to satisfy state demands, we reiterate our *basic service contract: Our regular program (6 applications per year) includes lawn fertilization and weed controls. Turf fungicides and insecticides are an additional charge.*

PRODUCTS

End Run	Hardball
MSMA 6 Plus	Element 4
Speedzone Southern	Subdue Maxx
Merit	Prostar
Empero	Prodiamine 65WG
Bifenthrin	Ranger Pro
Sevin	Dimension

Again, this is our inventory for lawn care and shrub beds. We use specific materials for specific problems which result in reduced applications. As the season progresses we may introduce new materials. If you wish, you may call the office for an update.

PREPAYMENT DISCOUNT

Once again, we are offering a 10% discount on our annual lawn fertilization program (six applications of lawn fertilization and weed control with pre-emergent). A prepay discount coupon is attached to your RP1 invoice. If you choose to take advantage of the discount, simply send a check for the full prepayment amount noted on the coupon within 30 days of receiving your first service invoice. **This amount includes the cost of the first invoice!** If you'd prefer not to take advantage of this once-a-year offer, please pay by the invoice, sending payment within 30 days of each service. *Please remember that shrub bed services, fungicides, insecticides, and other supplemental services are NOT included in the pre-pay discount offer.*

LITTLE EXTRAS

MOW DAYS - Please call and let us know if your regular mow day changes - we'd prefer not to get in your gardener's way if possible

CALL FIRSTS - A few clients request a "call first" before servicing due to a new puppy, locked gates, etc. If you need a call first, please notify the office. If you requested to be a call first client, but no longer need advance notification, please let us know.

TEXTING - If you prefer texting to call firsts, contact the office. Our technicians would be happy to accommodate you.

WATERING - Please finish your yard watering before 8:00 AM (if possible). It would make NutriLawn's service more efficient, plus save water and reduce problems with lawn fungus in the warmer months. Another reminder, delay watering your lawn until 12 to 24 hours after we've serviced for best product effect.

CANCELLATIONS - If you move or wish to cancel our services, **please** let us know *before* we service. **Unless you notify us to stop services, we will provide uninterrupted service.** Just call, drop us a note, or send an e-mail to info@nutrilawn.net.

PREPAY CHECKS - Prepay checks take much longer to process, so we appreciate your patience during this very busy time for the office.