



NUTRI LAWN Inc.

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

RP2 Newsletter

Spring 2019

RP2

While the abundance of rain made scheduling for our first round challenging, you won't see us complaining. Our landscapes love the extra water, and the increased snowpack is good news for the coming year. Landscapes are waking up and we're starting to see touches of green and bursts of color as spring kicks off. As soil temperatures approach 53°F, crabgrass seeds will germinate in unprotected lawns. Our first round of lawn service established your crabgrass preventer and an initial feeding. Now we're focusing on our biological program, improving your soil and greening your turf using our primarily organic blend. As usual, we'll be spot treating any weeds we encounter during the application and on the lookout for anything in your lawn that needs to be addressed.

Shrub Services

We will initiate our Spring Shrub Fertilization program soon. This service provides your shrubs, groundcover, and small trees with a special foliar feeding for the upcoming growing season. Iron-loving plants such as dogwoods, azaleas, and camellias will receive a separate iron-rich granular feeding. We'll also be gearing up for the Spring Shrub Weed Prevention application. We'll apply a liquid pre-emergent barrier to your shrub beds and other landscaped areas, preventing a significant number of weeds from germinating this spring and summer. If you don't already take advantage of these services, call today for a free quote.

Azaleas & Camellias

The best time to prune, pinch back, and feed azaleas and camellias is right after blooming. They will begin to "set up" for next year's bloom this summer.

Collar Rot

Spring is a good time to clear away debris, leaf fall, ground cover, mulch, etc. from ornamental tree and shrub collars. The collar is the part of the trunk right above the root flare at the soil level. This portion of the trunk needs to dry out between waterings and debris can prevent this essential drying. Continual moisture in this zone can often lead to crown diseases and shrub or tree loss.

White Grub Prevention

Northern California has a relatively new and serious lawn pest that seems here to stay, the Masked Chafer. We are **highly recommending** homeowners take advantage of our preventative grub control application, offered in early July, which provides preemptive control for the turf damaging white grub stage of the Masked Chafer beetle. This application is time sensitive to control white grub populations while they are most vulnerable and before they have the ability to damage the lawn. The cost is the same as one of your regular lawn applications. If you are interested or have any questions, please call or email.

Caddyshack

We've received a lot of requests to curb gopher and mole activity in our clients' lawns since adding this service to our portfolio. We employ subsurface baiting techniques that have proven successful. Subsurface baiting minimizes the risk to non-target animals and is a lot less intrusive than trapping to the lawn and landscape. Although gophers and moles don't hibernate in Northern California, they seem to get a lot more active as the weather warms, so give us a call if you need help!

Snails & Slugs

Snails and slugs also get more active as the weather warms up. They glide along on a muscular foot that secretes a slime trail, often heading towards tender plants such as hostas every spring. They don't need a mate to lay eggs, and an adult brown garden snail can lay 500 eggs a season - even more reason to keep their population low. Some control strategies are:

- Reduce hiding places - boards, weedy areas, debris
- Consider utilizing traps (go to the internet for ideas)
- Baiting

On the subject of baiting, many baits contain metaldehyde (it will say on the label) which is very toxic to dogs and cats. When using this material, apply in warm, dry weather. Water first to encourage snails and slugs to move around and then apply according to the label. Try to skip a watering or two after the application. Don't place in piles - this might attract pets. This is especially true with the pellets.

Alternatives to metaldehyde are iron phosphate baits such as Sluggo or Sluggo Plus, which offer a safer alternative around pets and children. Whatever technique (handpicking with a flashlight at night, barriers, habitat modification, traps, or bait), the best time is now!

Mowing

Please mow cool season lawns on the tallest setting, especially with warming weather - 3" to 4" is ideal. A tall mow height gives the grass blade the largest surface area for photosynthesis, blocks weed germination, and promotes deeper root growth. Also be sure to change your mowing direction each week to prevent rutting and turf wear.

Scheduling

Arranging your lawn application at a specific time during the day is next to impossible for our technicians. Each service professional is responsible for 15-20 quality stops per day. If you need to meet on site, please allow us a two to three hour window so we can properly service all of our customers that day. A reasonable time allocation would be appreciated.

Bill Pay

A reminder that while we do not take online payments at this time, most banks do offer a convenient Online Bill Pay service. You simply log into your account and look for the Bill Pay section. Fill out our address (P.O. Box 522 Chico, CA 95927), the amount you are paying, and your account number with us (see your invoice). Your bank will withdraw the funds directly from your account and send us a check for the amount specified. Easy!

Irrigation Tidbits

As spring arrives, it's time to turn on irrigation systems and start watering again. We've already started noticing drought stress in lawns around town. Here are a few things to think about when getting started:

- If your main water supply is shut off, open it slowly to allow the pipes time to fill up gradually so you don't subject your valves and water lines to high pressure surges. These surges can cause water hammer and can crack or burst the lines.
- For proper operation of the controller, manually activate each station from the controller and properly set the time and date and reprogram for automatic watering. Make sure to change the battery backup if you have one. This battery keeps the clock's memory if there is a power loss.
- Go through each station, checking sprinkler coverage and looking for any heads that are not rotating properly, have weak pressure, or are completely plugged. Most sprinklers have filters that may need cleaning from time to time.

These basic steps are quick and easy to follow, but doing it early will help ensure your landscape is ready for spring. If after running through these steps you end up needing additional help with your irrigation system, there are two local options for irrigation supplies and advice:

Chico Sprinkler
(530) 891-0308
www.chicosprinkler.com

Normac
(530) 895-3714
<http://normac1.com/>

As you adjust your watering schedules, be sure to supply sufficient water to shade trees in lawn areas. These areas may need additional water to satisfy the water requirements of both the lawn and the tree. During previous summers, we've seen a lot of stressed trees which lead to increased disease and insect problems. In addition, for those of you who had our aphid control injections to your trees and shrubs, proper watering moves the product from the soil to the plant more efficiently. You might find that if the tree is not getting adequate water, you may not be getting the best aphid coverage possible.

By checking the evapotranspiration tables published in the Enterprise Record and on the Water Conservation page of our website (www.nutrilawn.net) and looking at the stats for Urban Turf Grass you can zero in on how much water you will need to replace from what is being used and lost by your cool season lawn. This changes each week, peaking in July. You simply have to replace the amount listed. A rain gauge can be used to determine how many minutes your irrigation needs to run per week. Warm season grasses such as Yukon bermuda require half or less water than cool season fescue lawns.

Don't forget to look to our website for additional water conservation tips. If you have any additional questions, please call.