



GREEN TIPS



From Cato Environmental Services, Inc.

Written By Brian Cato (407) 402-3005

Hi , and welcome to another addition of GREEN TIPS, I hope the advice from the last segment helped you in your gardening. We here at Cato Environmental Services, Inc. have received many comments and questions via email from the last segment. We thank you for your comments and support. We truly enjoy helping!

I decided to talk about Fertilization, due to all the questions I get during this time of the year. I would like to go through When, What Type, and How Much.

When –

- Grass to start, needs 3 to 6 applications per year.
- Plants that have become mature need only three feedings per year to stay healthy and beautiful.

What Type –

- Premium fertilizers are always best if the means are there. If a planting is young (0-1 year), a fertilizer with high nitrogen would be great to push the new growth, i.e. 18-3-8 Fertilizer.
- Mature shrubs and trees need an even fertilizer, i.e. 6-6-6 Fertilizer.
- Palms and turf grass should be a 4-1-2 ratio, i.e. 16-4-8 Fertilizer.

How Much –

- How often and how much go hand in hand. How much is really how much per year. Many light applications is best, but many of us only like to run around in circles in the yard a couple of times per year. So, I came up with the following examples for any yard;
- Twice Per Year – Early Spring (16-4-8) and Early Fall (16-4-8)
- Three Times Per Year – Early Spring (16-4-8), Early Summer (16-4-8) and Early Fall (16-4-8)
- Four Times Per Year – Late Winter (16-4-8), Late Spring (16-4-8), Summer (16-4-8) and Fall (16-4-8)
- Find the square feet of your turf and go to your local garden center to find out how many square feet come per bag and fertilize accordingly.

Fertilizers also come with herbicides, insecticides, etc. In the spring, pre-emergent can be added to fertilizers to stop germinating weeds. Insecticides can be added any time during the year. Talstar can be added in the early, mid, and late summer for Chinch Bugs. The very famous Weed-N-Feed should be applied during the winter months only. Weed-N-Feed is usually Atrazine (Herbicide) and Fertilizer.

Fertilizing is great for your lawn as long as you plan ahead and never apply anything your not completely sure about. Even “safe” fertilizers can injure your lawn when applied to heavy.

Thank you for taking the time to read GREEN TIPS and good luck in your gardening. We love to hear your questions and comments. Please call Brian Cato at 407-402-3005 or email catolandscape@yahoo.com.