Horticulture

Give Cool-Season Grasses a Boost

September is almost here and that means it’s prime time to fertilize your tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass lawns. These grasses are entering their fall growth cycle as days shorten and temperatures moderate. Cool-season grasses naturally thicken up in the fall by tillering (forming new shoots at the base of existing plants) and, for bluegrass, spreading by underground stems called rhizomes. Consequently, September is the most important time to fertilize these grasses. Apply 1-1.5 lbs. of actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. The settings recommended on lawn fertilizer bags usually result in about 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. We recommend a quick-release source of nitrogen at this time. Most fertilizers sold in garden centers and department stores contain either quick-release nitrogen or a mixture of quick- and slow-release. Usually only lawn fertilizers recommended for summer use contain slow-release nitrogen. Any of the others should be quick-release.

The second most important fertilization of cool-season grasses also occurs during the fall. A November fertilizer application will help the grass green up earlier next spring and provide the nutrients needed until summer. It also should be quick-release applied at the rate of 1 lb actual nitrogen per 1,000 square feet.

Agriculture

A hot topic right now is moss – also known as algae. The first step in treating and prevention is identifying what you are for sure dealing with. Texas A&M has an excellent site on algae and also discusses treatment methods.

That link can be found here: https://aquaplant.tamu.edu/plant-identification/category-algae/

Family Consumer Sciences

September is National Family Meals Month…. Let’s Stay Strong with Family Meals!

Over the past year, we’ve found ourselves at home more. We may be cooking more, and eating more meals with our family members. These Family mealtimes have benefits AND challenges –

Benefits:
- Fuel Better Nutrition
- Foster Emotional Balance
- Make the Grade(s)
- Fend Off Risky Behavior

Challenges:
- Get the kids involved
- Connect with conversation
- Keep it Simple with easy
- Recipes to enjoy

Need some help with the challenges, so your family can reap the benefits of eating together? Check out these articles from KSRE for healthy family mealtime and activity ideas https://www.ksre.k-state.edu/news/stories/fam-con-science/.

No matter what your family schedule looks like, you can find out more about the benefits and find ways to take on those challenges with food tricks, conversation starters, recipes, and more. Raise your mitt and commit to Stay Strong with Family Meals!

4-H & Youth Development

Join Butler County 4-H!

Enrollment for Butler County 4-H is coming up soon! From hands-on exploration to project-based skill building young people thrive through 4-H participation, finding their way to success in life and career. We are excited to offer over 35 projects ranging from Foods and Nutrition, to Robotics and Geology to livestock. There truly is something for everyone!

We focus on exploration, learning, and experiencing the world around us through hands-on activities lead by our qualified volunteers and mentors. Any Butler County youth ages 7-18 is eligible to join 4-H! Our learning pathways support 21st Century learning skills to help our youth grow and develop into productive citizens within their community!

We encourage you to visit our website: https://www.butler.k-state.edu/4-h/ to learn how to enroll in 4-H!