

# PRO TIPS

## 3 Things You Need To Be Doing On Your Lawn RIGHT NOW!

### 1 Pre-Emergent and Fertilizer

February and March are great times to both fertilize the lawn and get down a material that will prevent crabgrass, foxtail and other pesky summer annual weeds. Use a product that contains either Prodiamine or Dithiopyr as these are the only two truly effective chemistries on weeds that are problematic in our area. Additionally, use a fertilizer that is either coated with sulfur, polymers or a combination of both, or a methylated urea as your nitrogen source.

There are usually 3 numbers when you are looking at purchasing fertilizer. The middle number, phosphorous is less important to spring grass plants, and would be fine as a 0 or a single digit number. The final number in the fertilizer. Potassium should be in the single digits as well. Let us know if we can help with any of these items!

At Custom Lawn, we use a 15-0-4 with Prodiamine and 50% polymer coated, sulfur coated urea as well as 10% organic nitrogen source derived from encapsulated solid waste. We also diligently spot spray any broadleaf weeds growing in the lawn as long as the temperatures are over 50.

*As February closes and March begins...*

### 2 Mow the Lawn Low and Bag It In February or the 1st week of March Only

Late February and early March are the only times you will catch any one who cares about lawn health, recommend mowing your lawn short. It is not that it is great for your lawn, it just helps the lawn green up quickly and completely, many times, faster than your neighbors! Cutting the winter brown off allows those first warm rays of sunshine to heat the soil, start photosynthesis and get the lawn off to a great start.

There is little or no risk at this point of multiple days of sub-freezing weather that may impact the crown of the plants so your plants are safe. Blowing the leaves out of the corners of your flower beds, and out of the little nooks and crannies of your house, then bagging all the clippings will give your lawn a great finished look to start off the season. It is also not a bad idea to have the gutters cleaned prior to doing this as well so they are ready for the spring rains as well. Again, give us a call if we can help with any of these services.

### 3 Cut Back Roses, Grassy Flowers Like Daylilies, Hostas, Liriope, and Ornamental Grasses

Late February is a great time to cut back your dormant sections of grassy plants like fountain, love and pampas grass. Anything in your landscape that is a light shade of brown, and dormant would benefit from being cut off and hauled away.

**Pro Tip:** use an old belt or piece of rope to tie up the grasses, then cut through the bottom at about 8-10 inches depending on how tall the grasses are, then you have a neatly bundled bunch to pick up instead of a yard full of junk!

**ProTip:** Do your pruning and cleanup before mulching, you can do a less complete job with the cleanup and work the debris in under the mulch, it acts as additional fertilizer!

Roses should also be trimmed back to 21" from the ground at a minimum as well. Both knockout and stem roses benefit from this cutting back and removal of dead branches. Remember to sanitize your pruners between rose plants to prevent the spread of rose rosette.

