

## **FERTILIZING (continued)**

Fertilizers can come in many formulations and types.

They can be synthetic, organic, or a combination of the two. The difference is that synthetic fertilizers tend to feed the plant and organic fertilizers tend to feed the soil. Synthetic Fertilizers (slow release) provide a predictable, slow release of nutrients so that turf growth is uniform throughout the season.

Organic Fertilizers offer many benefits. Most have soil-building properties, improving its structure and organic matter content, in addition to providing nutrients. They release nutrients slowly, so plants have a steady supply of “food” through the growing season. They often contain valuable micronutrients and growth hormones that help to strengthen the plants.

Fertilizer must be applied evenly and at the proper rate to prevent burning or leaving stripes on the lawn. Autumn fertilizing stimulates a lawn to become thick and strong rather than increasing top growth. During the cooler days between August and November plants begin storing nutrients and sugars for the upcoming winter. It is building up its reserves, which will speed up the lawn greening up in the spring.

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