

Fertilizer Program Designed Just For You!



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THANK YOU!

Here at **Red Hen Turf Farm**,
we strive to make

Do-It-Yourself Lawn Care Do-able.

We hope you find this guide and
our website helpful, and
remember, if you EVER have
any questions or concerns,
give us a call.

We're here to help!



Why Fertilize?

Fertilizing, mowing, and watering are the fundamental lawn care practices. When you fertilize your lawn, you are feeding it the **nutrients** that it needs to maintain its **density** and **vitality**, enhance its **green** color, and encourage **growth** and **recovery** from turf damage and seasonal turf stresses (such as drought periods).

Unfertilized lawns will gradually lose density, allowing undesirable grassy weeds (like crabgrass) and broadleaf weeds (like dandelion and clover) to encroach. In addition, the risk for soil erosion increases.

Lawns that are properly fertilized and treated for problem weeds and pests can more easily tolerate stresses. Applying the right (quality!) products at the correct time (for your particular lawn) helps turf plants accumulate and store the essential plant foods that are used for growth and development.

Why Not Just Follow a General “Step” Program?

Experts tend to suggest that fertilizing your lawn should be done at specific times during the season.

But the reality is that every single lawn has its own unique needs.

Some VARIABLES that Red Hen Turf Farm will consider when designing your customized fertilizer program include:

- Site Conditions
 - ⇒ How much sun and shade does your lawn have?
 - ⇒ Are you seeing evidence of weeds, insects and/or grass diseases?
 - ⇒ Is your soil overly compacted?
 - ⇒ What soil types make up your lawn?
 - ⇒ What soil nutrients are available to your lawn (identifiable by performing an inexpensive soil test)?
- The types of grass(es) in your lawn

- The time of the year you contact us and any current weather trends that might affect things
 - You!
- ⇒ What are your lawn care and management preferences?
- ⇒ What are your goals and expectations?
- ⇒ How much time and money are you willing to invest in reaching your goals and expectations?

In this handout, we've included a Chart on Page 4 with examples of GENERAL fertilizer programs for lawns located in northern Indiana, along with the suggested timing for each.

Let's explore the examples in this Chart a little further.

Low Maintenance Programs for a minimum quality turf grass ... 3 Applications Annually

- Choose if a consistent seasonal green color is not a priority
- Not suitable for intense traffic or use, as turf density will decline over time
- Acceptable for non-irrigated lawns and lawns not on sandy soils

Moderate Maintenance Programs for an intermediate-quality turf grass ... 4 Applications Annually

- Choose if you desire a dense, green lawn, but some seasonal color changes are tolerable.
- Suitable for moderate traffic and use during non-drought periods
- Good for sandy soils, especially with irrigation

High Maintenance Programs for a high quality turf grass with good color and healthy growth characteristics ... 5 Applications Annually

- Choose if the darkest green color and densest turf is desired
- Will tolerate intense traffic and use during active growth

Again, we can't overemphasize how difficult it is to create a generalized lawn care program that fits all lawns. When tailoring programs for individual lawns, we tend to use information like the Chart on Page 4 as a "jumping off point."

Let's Get Ready to Design Your Customized Fertilizer Program

This process usually begins with a conversation to talk about some of the variables mentioned previously. We can do this by email, phone, or come on into our shop and see us—it's up to you.

It's helpful to think about the questions that we posed previously in "Why Not Just Follow a General "Step" Program?" Grab a sheet of paper or start typing some of the things that come to mind. If you have any questions that come to mind, jot those down, too.

We typically encourage you to have a soil test performed before we make any specific recommendations. There are several reasons for this.

- A soil test of your lawn is a key step, especially if you are particular about your lawn or have grass problems.
- Soil testing is economically prudent. Why buy nutrients that your soil may not even need, when an inexpensive soil test can provide the information we need to help you adjust your fertilizer program so you are investing in the nutrients that will result in a beautiful, healthy lawn?
- Soil testing is an environmentally responsible practice. Applying fertilizer or other nutrient sources incorrectly can lead to nitrate or phosphorus contamination of our water resources.
- We recommend that you do a soil test every 3 years. If you use our soil testing procedures, we'll provide you with a kit that we send off to a certified lab. To process one (1) soil sample bag, this would cost \$25.00. For bags 2 – 4, there will be an additional charge of \$10.00 per soil sample bag. The results are sent to us and we will translate them into layman's terms, using this information as an important piece of the puzzle that will become your Customized Fertilizer Program.

We look forward to working with you to find out more about you and your lawn, and to making specific adjustments as needed to create the ideal custom program - designed just for you.



EXAMPLES of GENERAL Fertilizer Maintenance Programs for Established Cool Season Grass Lawns		Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep**	Oct	Nov
Low Maintenance	For non-irrigated lawns, but not lawns on sandy soils.		FERT				FERT		FERT
Moderate Maintenance	For non-irrigated lawns, but not lawns on sandy soils.		FERT		FERT		FERT		FERT
Moderate Maintenance	For problems with broadleaf weeds (like dandelions, clover & chickweed) & to treat the complete lawn.		<u>BRLF</u>		FERT		FERT		FERT
High Maintenance	Good for sandy soils, especially with irrigation.	FERT	FERT		FERT		FERT		FERT
High Maintenance	For problems with annual grassy weeds (like crabgrass) & to treat the complete lawn.	<u>CRAB</u>	FERT		FERT		FERT		FERT
High Maintenance - Program 6 -	For problems with broadleaf weeds & to treat the complete lawn. Fall is actually a better time to control broadleaf weeds, especially clover. As weeds melt away, the fertilizer provides the nutrition for the turf grass to fill in those spaces making a more dense	FERT		FERT		FERT		<u>BRLF</u>	FERT
High Maintenance	For cases when grubs have been a regular problem & to treat the complete lawn.	FERT	FERT		<u>GRUB</u>		FERT		FERT
High Maintenance - Program 8 -	Want to win the crabgrass war? Use this program if you have had crabgrass after applying a pre-emergent in April. Applying a 2nd treatment around July 1 will help stop the "summer flush" of crabgrass. Sandy soils are less able to hold on to the April pre-emergent and	<u>CRAB</u>		FERT	<u>CRAB</u>		FERT		FERT
High Maintenance	For two common problems, crabgrass control and broadleaf control.	<u>CRAB</u>		<u>BRLF</u>	FERT		FERT		FERT
High Maintenance - Program 10 -	For thinning turf with grassy weeds, grub control, & to treat the complete lawn. The annual pre-emergent will control grassy weeds while the fertilizer thickens the turf, eliminating the need for a annual grass pre-	<u>CRAB</u>		FERT	<u>GRUB</u>		FERT		FERT
High Maintenance	For broadleaf weeds and grub control.	FERT	<u>BRLF</u>		<u>GRUB</u>		FERT		FERT
High Maintenance - Program 12 -	For problems with annual grassy weeds, broadleaf control, and to treat grubs. This program throws	<u>CRAB</u>	<u>BRLF</u>		<u>GRUB</u>		FERT		FERT

NOTES:

FERT = Fertilizer CRAB = Pre-Emergent Annual Grassy Weed (Crabgrass) Control

BRLF = Post-Emergent Broadleaf Control GRUB = Grub Control

Guarantee

Red Hen Sod is guaranteed to be in good growing condition at the time of sale; after that, it is your responsibility. If the sod is not watered properly, it will not grow. Call us immediately at the time of sale if the sod is anything but healthy. We will give the matter our prompt attention. You must call within the first 24 hours if there are any issues with the sod.

"Fertilizer Program Designed Just for You!" Last Revised: 7/16/15