



## APRIL LAWNS

# 2026

Now is a great time to incorporate water conservation into your lawn care routine. Mowing higher can improve drought tolerance, and applying water slowly and steadily prevents runoff, especially in heavy clay soils. Optimize irrigation by splitting run times into shorter cycles with breaks for absorption. During droughts, allow lawns to enter dormancy to conserve water. We also recommend applying **Hydretain** to pull moisture from the air to the turf's root zone.

Crabgrass starts to germinate when the redbuds are in bloom, but it continues well into the summer, so go ahead and apply **ferti•lome For All Seasons II Lawn Food plus Crabgrass and Weed Preventer** if you haven't already. An April application will still catch most crabgrass before it germinates. Be sure to water it in well. This contains the longest lasting pre-emergent available, but it has no effect on dandelions, henbit and other broadleaf weeds that are already present.

March into April is the time to seed or overseed cool-season grasses like fescue. Keep soil moist until grass sprouts. Note that any regular crabgrass prevention or other weed control product will also prevent grass seed from growing. After germination, water less frequently but more deeply. Follow up in 6-8 weeks with **Hi-Yield Turf & Ornamental Weed & Grass Stopper** for late season crabgrass control.

**ferti•lome HuMic** will enhance the performance of all lawn fertilizers as well as improve the soil to help with drought tolerance this summer.

## PLANTING

April is an excellent time to plant trees, shrubs, vines and perennials. Use **ferti•lome Start-N-Grow** slow-release plant food in the planting hole to maintain your landscape plants throughout the season. Water in all new plantings with **ferti•lome Root Stimulator** to ensure establishment; and use it weekly for the first month to enhance later performance.

For an even better start to root development use **MYKE** at planting time. MYKE is mycorrhizal fungus which attaches to plant roots and encourages more and healthier roots. Apply MYKE in the planting hole so it comes into direct contact with the roots.

In early April you can put out some of the cool-tolerant annuals like alyssum, dianthus, lobelia, pansies, petunias and snapdragons. Wait until at least mid month when the soil warms up to plant summer bulbs (caladiums, cannas, dahlias, elephant's ear) and more heat-loving

flowers such as begonias, coleus, impatiens, marigolds, vinca and zinnias in the ground.

In the vegetable garden it's time to seed beets, carrots, collards, lettuce, mustard, radishes and spinach. There's still time to get in peas, onion sets, and onion plants, too. Perennial and biennial herbs such as caraway, catnip, chives, lavender, mint, parsley, sage and thyme can also be planted now.

To keep gardens and beds weed free, use **Hi-Yield Herbicide Granules Weed and Grass Preventer containing Treflan®**. After clearing out existing weeds, sprinkle the granules on the ground and lightly rake the soil and water in. This will keep new weed seeds from sprouting. You can use these granules in flower or vegetable beds and around most plants, but always read the label for specific instructions.

## FERTILIZING and PRUNING

Use **ferti•lome Tree & Shrub Food** on all types of established trees and shrubs now to help them get off to a good start. Apply the proper amount, based on the size of your plants, under and past the drip line, then just water it in. This feeding will not only aid in recovery from past damage but will build up plants to withstand adverse conditions this year.

There is still time to prune for general maintenance. You can prune spring-flowering shrubs like lilac, white spirea, forsythia and quince after they are finished blooming this spring.

Feed perennials now with a balanced food like **FoxFarm All Purpose 5-5-5** or **ferti•lome Gardener's Special**.

## PESTS and DISEASE

**Cedar-Apple Rust:** Control rust on crabapples and hawthorns by spraying at 7-10 day intervals between April and late May to cover expanding leaves. Use **ferti•lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide II** or liquid **F-Stop Lawn & Garden Fungicide** (for fruiting apple trees).

**Pine Tip Blight:** Spray pines with **ferti•lome Systemic Fungicide II** or **Copper Soap Fungicide** in mid April. Repeat in 10-14 days; 2 to 3 applications.

**Pine Tip Moth:** Spray at the end of April to eliminate the first generation with **Systemic Insecticide** or **Spinosad**.