

MAY



2024

LAWNS

Warm-season lawns (bermuda, buffalo and zoysia) can be dethatched and/or mowed short now. This is also the start of seeding time for bermuda and buffalo. Established warm-season grasses take less water than cool-season grasses, like fescue and bluegrass, however newly seeded buffalo and bermuda will need to stay moist when starting out. Use **ferti•lome New Lawn Starter Fertilizer** when seeding; otherwise feed established warm season grasses with **ferti•lome Pro-Green Lawn Tonic**. **ferti•lome HuMic** will help all lawns with drought resistance. HuMic is a soil conditioner that promotes better root systems, helping grass tap into moisture and nutrients in the soil.

If broadleaf weeds are still a problem you can use **ferti•lome Weed Free Zone**. Weed Free Zone comes in a liquid concentrate and a ready-to-use spray. Weed Free Zone is rainfast in four hours so you don't need 24 dry hours for it to be effective. For spring-seeded lawns wait until you have mowed the new grass three times before using any weed control.

PLANTING AND FERTILIZING

We can now safely plant all those annuals (vinca, impatiens), shrubs (butterfly bush, crapemyrtle) and vegetables (cucumbers, eggplant, sweet potatoes) that like it hot. You can continue planting most other shrubs, trees and perennials, too.

Make sure to use **ferti•lome Root Stimulator & Plant Starter Solution** on non-edible plants when planting or transplanting. Apply it weekly for the first month on trees and shrubs.

On bedding plants and vegetables you can substitute **ferti•lome Blooming & Rooting Soluble Plant Food** as a starter solution. The high phosphorus content (9-58-8) helps plants root out and then produce more flowers and more fruit. In beds you can feed flowers and vegetables with granular **ferti•lome Gardener's Special**. Its 11-15-11 analysis is a good all-purpose fertilizer for most gardens. Use Blooming & Rooting for the in-between feedings to get the most production or blooms from your plants.

CONTAINER GARDENS

Growing almost anything—flowers, vegetables, herbs—in pots is becoming more and more popular. You can plant earlier than in the ground as well as control the soil environment. Also, container gardens are mobile—you can move them to the perfect spot for your enjoyment and for the plant's health. There are special steps to take to make sure your potted plants thrive. Start with a well draining potting mix, like **ferti•lome Ultimate Potting Mix**.

Do not use garden soil or top soil—it is too heavy for containers. In hanging baskets and smaller pots especially, mix in **Soil Moist**. It will absorb and store water, releasing it as the soil dries out. Containers also need more regular feeding than plants in the ground. Mix **ferti•lome Garden Cote 6** slow release fertilizer into the soil, then supplement with **ferti•lome Blooming & Rooting Soluble Plant Food** to maximize blooms.

TOMATOES

No garden is complete without at least one tomato plant, and there are always new varieties and old standbys to choose from. For best results, rotate where you plant tomatoes each year. If you have to plant in the same area, choose a disease resistant variety or consider planting tomatoes in a container.

The best tomatoes are grown in soil prepared with organic amendments. **Cotton Burr Compost** is an excellent choice to add organic matter. Using **FoxFarm Happy Frog Tomato and Vegetable** at planting time, and again when tomatoes are walnut size, will provide all the food needed. This fertilizer is natural and can be used in containers or in the ground. It also contains calcium to help prevent blossom end rot, or you can add **Hi-Yield Calcium Nitrate** to your soil when you plant and 2 weeks later to add the needed calcium. In containers, use **FoxFarm Ocean Forest Potting Soil** for a rich organic mix.

Water in all vegetables with **ferti•lome Blooming & Rooting Soluble Plant Food**. Just using this as a starter solution can increase yields 79%.

PEST CONTROL

- Ash/Lilac Borer - use **Hi-Yield 38 Plus Turf, Termite & Ornamental Insect Control** every two weeks in May - June. Saturate the trunks to the ground.
- Cedar Apple Rust – continue spraying **ferti•lome Liquid Systemic Fungicide II** or **ferti•lome F-Stop Lawn & Garden Fungicide**, at 7-10 day intervals on susceptible apple, crabapple, hawthorn and pear trees.
- Euonymus Scale – appears as white flecks on leaves and stems, then the leaves start to yellow. Use **Hi-Yield Bug Blaster** in May - June to control the first generation crawler stage.