

BUCHANAN'S

NATIVE PLANTS

Late Winter Early Spring Lawn Care

- **Keep it Watered:** If we've had little to no rain, **watering deeply once a week** is recommended. This keeps the grass healthy and encourages a deep root system.
- **Control Weeds:** Even though your grass is not actively growing, there may be annual cool season weeds that have sprouted up. It is important to **mow these weeds** before they flower and go to seed, this will drastically reduce the number of your turf grass weeds in the future. In February/March, apply **corn gluten meal** as a pre-emergent herbicide to reduce the number of warm season weeds in your turf.
- **Add Organic Matter:** Adding compost may be the best thing you could do for your lawn. **Spread a rich humus based compost** to benefit soil structure and increase water holding capacity. The addition of this broken down matter also increases your lawn's soil biology while providing vital nutrients to the turf. This can be done in February/March; we recommend:
 - a. **Nature's Way 'Leaf Mold Compost'**- distributed at a rate of about ¼ inch over the entire lawn.
 - b. **MicroLife 'Humates Plus'**- (Granule) distributed at a rate of 5-10 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
- **Vitamins & Minerals:** Most soils along the Gulf Coast are deficient in trace elements that act like vitamins for plants and microbes. The result is that plants have reduced growth and production, and they are more susceptible to damage by insects and diseases. **Azomite** can be used to add trace elements, 10 pounds per 2,500 square feet. This can be done in February/March.
- **Insect Control:** For those of you who want to protect your lawn against grubs, chinch bugs, and other harmful insects before damage is done; applying **beneficial nematodes** in early March can protect your lawn for the entire spring season.
- **Fertilize at the Correct Time:** The rule of thumb is your lawn is ready to be fertilized after your second mowing; this shows your grass is actively growing. This usually occurs in **March**, depending on the weather. Use a fertilizer with high nitrogen to promote healthy new green growth. **MicroLife 6-2-4** is an all organic fertilizer inoculated with billions of bacteria and fungi to feed healthy soil ecology and encourage a hardier, more self-sufficient lawn. This is the best fertilizer for your lawn and soil, distributed at a rate of 20 pounds per 1,000 square feet.

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