



# Lawn fertilizing isn't a spring thing.



**It's time for more  
sustainable activities.**

## Managing a healthy lawn in spring.

Lawns are important to your landscape. They provide naturally soft play surfaces and cool gathering areas. They serve as paths and as a carpet to set off other flowers and shrubs in your landscape.

Maintaining a beautiful, livable lawn is easy – if you know when to perform certain tasks.

### **1 IN SPRING, YOU NEED STRONG ROOTS, NOT SHOOTS.**

Grass shoots will grow naturally, at their own pace, from last fall's roots when the temperature is between 60 and 75 degrees. But it's the strong roots that will help your lawn withstand the summer heat.

### **2 LEAVE THE CLIPPINGS ON YOUR LAWN.**

Grass clippings improve the soil by releasing nutrients as they decompose – without the risk of runoff!

In fact, by leaving clippings on the lawn, you can reduce the amount of fertilizer you would ordinarily buy and use in a year by up to a third.

### **3 WHY WATER WHEN YOU DON'T NEED TO?**

Unless you have a newly seeded or sodded lawn, you don't need to water lawns in Delaware. Grass typically goes dormant during the hottest part of summer, but it'll green up again with natural rainfall.

## 4 HIRE A CERTIFIED LAWN CARE PROVIDER TO HELP MANAGE YOUR LAWN.

You'll get professional and environmentally sustainable advice that could make a big difference throughout your home landscape!

Visit [www.delawarelivablelawns.org](http://www.delawarelivablelawns.org) for a certified lawn care provider near you.

### HERE'S WHAT TO DO **NOW!**

**Feb.**

Prune trees (easier to see without leaves).

**Mar.**

Spread compost on landscape beds.

- ▶ Cut back perennials.
- ▶ Transplant shrubs and trees.
- ▶ Mow any natural meadows.

**Apr.**

Fertilize only if soil test says you must (maximum 1/2-lb. nitrogen per 1,000 sq. ft.).

- ▶ Sharpen mower blade.
- ▶ Plant perennials.

**May**

Begin mowing (remove no more than 1/3 of leaf blade per cut). Maintain a height of at least 4".

- ▶ Plant annuals in mid-May.

**June**

Sharpen mower blade.  
Mow your meadow again.

- ▶ Remove spent flower heads to encourage re-blooming.

**July**

Thoroughly water new trees, shrubs and perennials once a week.

- ▶ Keep gardens weeded to reduce competition.



For more information visit  
[www.delawarelivablelawns.org](http://www.delawarelivablelawns.org)

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