

The Hoe Truth Newsletter

Helping You Dig Up Gardening Ideas

HORTICULTURE

Fertilizing Landscape Plants

If you haven't had a soil test done of your landscape beds, turf areas, etc. you should do it now. Take eight to ten soil samples from individual areas of the yard, stay away from pot holes, drainage ditches, down spouts, etc. The soil samples should be about 4 inches deep and doesn't have to be very big around; you can use a garden trowel. Mix the samples together and allow them to air dry, bring the soil to the Extension Office, we have bags to put it in. Be sure to take out any thatch, leaves, mulch, and rocks before submitting the sample. The test is \$5.00 but will undoubtedly save you money on fertilizer that you would have applied and probably not needed.

The soil test analysis will test the amount of phosphorus, potassium, soil pH, and other nutrients depending on what plants will be growing on the sight. In a couple weeks you will receive a print out of test results and recommendations based on particular crops. In Washington Co. you will also receive a hand written recommendation from me if it is a horticultural crop that you are growing such as

landscape plants, lawn, vegetables, fruits etc. Now is actually the best time to get a test because applications made now can have time to take full effect before spring.

It is especially important to have a soil test done before you set out new plants such as trees and shrubs. Many times you have to wait several weeks or months for fertilizer to trickle down to deep root systems, however if applied before planting the fertilizer can be dug in and placed at the root system to help new plants get off to a good start.

Soil tests do not test for nitrogen. It is always moving in and out of the soil from leaching, plant use, and volatilization. Deciding how much nitrogen to apply depends on the level of growth and maintenance you want. For average healthy growth most landscape plants need around 2 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet. This would equal applying about 6 pounds of ammonium nitrate or 4 pounds of urea per 1000 square feet. If you are wanting increased growth of your landscape 4 pounds of actual nitrogen per 1000 square feet or 12 pounds

of ammonium nitrate or 8 pounds of urea per 1000 square feet should do the trick, but don't apply more than that at one time you could risk burning your plant material.

It's important to remember the difference between actual nitrogen and what is on the actual fertilizer analysis on the bag. For instance if you are using a fertilizer with an analysis of 10-10-10 you would have to apply 20 pounds of

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November Horticulture Calendar

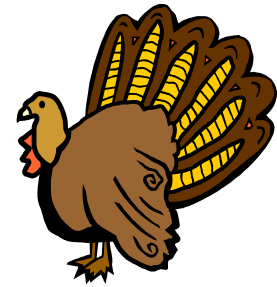
Monday November 9, Extension District Board 5:00 P.M. At the Extension Office

Wednesday and Thursday November 11-12 Leadership Washington County in Jabez Kentucky. We will leave the Extension office on Wednesday morning at 9:00 A.M.

Monday November 16, Lincoln Trail Beekeepers Association at St. Rose Social Hall at 6:30 P.M. Dr. Phil Craft State Apiarist is going to discuss the culture, biology, and control of Varroa Mite.

Tuesday November 17, Area Secretary Training, Holiday Decorating with pine cones.

Thursday November 19, New Pioneers Board Meeting at St. Catharine at 8:30 A.M.



To Do's For November

*Any trees or shrubs that you still have in containers should either be planted or hilled in. This simply means the pots can be buried in soil or mulch to protect the root balls from freezing.

*You can plant most tree seeds now. The cold winter weather will satisfy their dormancy requirements and they will sprout next spring. If they don't have an extremely thick seed coat such as Kentucky Coffee Tree. Trees seeds such as these should be filed down a little to break the seed coat. This will allow the seed to uptake water and germinate.

*If you see any bagworms hanging on your shrubs go ahead and pick them off and step on them. Each of these bags could contain up to 1000 eggs ready to hatch and munch on your landscape next spring.

*If you have newly planted trees or shrubs give them a good soaking before you put the hose away for winter. You

would be surprised how dry the soil can get even when its cold.

Fruit

*Don't prune or fertilize fruit crops now, wait until February.

*Remove all dried and shriveled fruit. These are called mummies and will serve as a source for disease next year.

*If you have tame blackberries and raspberries remove any wild blackberries growing nearby. They will have a higher risk for orange rust which will attack tame berries as well.

*After leaf drop spray peach, nectarine, and plum trees with Ferbam, Bordeaux mixture, or daconil 2787 to control peach leaf curl and plum pockets disease next spring.

*Black knot galls on branches

of plum and cherries should be pruned out 4-8 inches below the gall. Destroy of by burning.

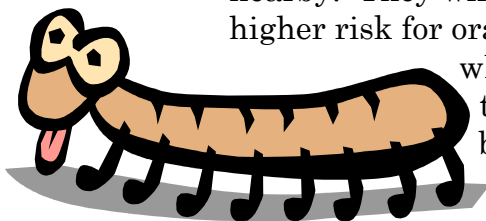
*Remove all grass and weeds from around your fruit trees to discourage nesting of mice and voles. They will gnaw the bark in the winter and could girdle the tree. Wrapping the trunk with tree guard will help discourage rodent feeding.



Ornamentals

*Roses should not be cut back until we have temperatures down into the low 20's and the leaves are burnt and or dropping off. Some years this occurs in November and some years in December. After the leaves drop rake them up and compost them. Don't apply this compost to your roses next year unless you are sure the temperature got up to 130 degrees in the pile.

*Cut hybrid tea and grandiflora roses to 8 to 12 inches, shrub roses such as knockouts and most floribundas by 1/3,



To-Do List For November

Cut hybrid tea and grandiflora roses to 8 to 12 inches, shrub roses such as knockouts and most floribundas by 1/3, and leave climbers until spring and then prune out any dead or over-grown canes.

*When the ground freezes

mound soil or mulch over the bud union of your roses to keep them from freezing out. This isn't necessary if you have roses on their own root meaning they weren't grafted.

*Apply 3 inches of mulch to your perennial bed after the ground freezes to prevent them from heaving out of the ground when it freezes and thaws.

*Plant any spring flowering

hardy bulbs now.

*Cut back ornamental grass or leave it for winter interest.



Pruning an established rose bush

*All tender bulbs such as cannas, calla, elephant ear, dahlia, etc. should be dug and brought indoors for the winter. These are freeze sensitive and rot prone during

the winter. You should store them in a cool dark place above 32 degrees.

*If you have had trouble with deer digging and eating your hardy bulbs plant alliums, autumn crocus, grape hyacinth, hyacinth, daffodils, and galanthus. They don't like these as much and are less likely to feed on them. In fact autumn crocus is poisonous.

Vegetables

*Cool season vegetables will be good in the garden until the temperatures get down into the low twenties.

*Extend harvest of cool season vegetables such as broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, radish, turnip, beet, lettuce, spinach, etc. by covering them with re-may fabric or tobacco canvas.

*Cut back asparagus tops after they have frozen back. Apply a fresh layer of mulch after the ground has frozen.

*It's not too late to plant a cover crop of winter wheat or rye.

*Discard and compost any vegetable plant material. Use the compost on the flower garden if you aren't sure you have a hot compost pile. This way you won't risk introducing insects and disease next year.

A Note From Dennis

I could have just copied and pasted what I wrote in this space last year since all the same fruits and vegetables are frozen and canned for winter, I have always been a "foodie" but have gotten a bit more into this year. The local food movement has been growing yearly in the U.S. and has always been a part of my eating habits since I grow a bit of my own food. I hope that everyone that has room and the health to garden will consider at least planting a small vegetable plot next year. Its good exercise and you get cheap, healthy, produce! If you grow it, you know where its been, what its been sprayed with, and you know its the freshest produce you can consume.

There is nothing like eating home grown tomato or fresh picked sweet corn. There is also nothing like eating blackberry jam on a hot biscuit in January, especially when you grew the blackberries and made the jam yourself! Happy Gardening!

Dennis Meyer

Thanksgiving Soup



Ingredients

6 c. turkey stock
2 c. leftover turkey (Keep the bones to make stock.)
2 c. chopped leftover sweet potatoes
1/2 c. barley
2 c. chopped [kale](#) (spine removed)
1 c. onion, chopped
1 clove of garlic, minced
1 T. olive oil
2 tsp. salt, or to taste
2 tsp. pepper, or to taste
1/2 tsp. sage
1/2 tsp. thyme

Directions

1. In a pan, sauté onion and garlic, add kale. Add 1-2 T. of water and place the lid on the pan. Turn off heat and let sit until needed.
2. In a large pot bring turkey stock to a boil.
3. Add barley. Cook for 15 minutes.
4. Add turkey, sweet potatoes, and the onion, garlic, and kale mixture.
5. Bring to a simmer. Add spices.
6. Cook until barley is tender.

Fertilizing Landscape Plants

fertilizer just to get 2 pounds of actual nitrogen. Therefore you can see how a soil test will help you save on fertilizer costs and amounts to apply. Also, with the 10-10-10 you will be applying phosphorus and potassium you might not need. If you already have an adequate supply of

these nutrients unlike nitrogen the plant won't use any extra so it would just be wasted.

There are several rea-

sons why applying fertilizer in late fall and early winter is optimum for turf and woody landscape plants. By applying nitrogen to grass and woody

plants in spring and summer you are promoting excessive growth that is susceptible to drought, disease, heat, late and early frost and freeze. How-

ever, fall fertilization helps build an overall healthier plant. The plant has time to grow deep root systems and to

actually store some food for winter and spring use. The plant isn't forced to use all of its nutrients at one time in an excessive flush like it would in the spring or even summer. Most woody plants are considered dormant by November 1 in most years; at least enough where the fertilizer won't jump start the growth cycle. Don't apply nitrogen fertilizer to woody plants any earlier than that, a tender flush of succulent growth would result in winter die back. However, other nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium can be applied anytime as well as lime or sulfur for adjusting pH.

