

Hinton



HORTICULTURE NEWSLETTER by Adrian C. Hinton,
USU - Utah County Horticulture Agent

**GREETINGS FROM
THE COUNTY AGENT**



The spring of 2000 is near!!
Let's all give a great big cheer
to keep ole Jack Frost out of here!

This early spring season was looking too much like last year as far as the earliness and then... the Killer Frost! We have a great bud set so far this year and we are getting very close to our last normal frost day of May 13-15.



So far the fireblight and other spring problems have been generally held to a minimum (knock on wood).

Hopefully we all have our dormant spray on, trees and shrubs pruned, and our tomatoes ready to get in. Along with all the OTHER early spring projects.

I wish you all a very safe and successful planting season.

Adrian C. Hinton

TIPS FOR MAY-JUNE 2000

1. Keep those mower blades sharp.
2. “Mulching mowers” are over all the better way to go in most situations.
3. Let the bulb tops stay up as long as possible to ensure a great bloom next year.
4. Please don't OVERwater the landscape. A dry period is better for lawns, trees, shrubs, houseplants, etc. Irregular is the healthy and most economical way to water.
5. Look for more information on tv and in the newspaper about the new Utah County “Water Check” Program. It is a super new service FREE to homeowners and businesses. Water evaluations will help you save time and money and have a healthier landscape.
6. Water your shrubs less frequently; water at the dripline; water down 2' deep.
7. Water your trees less frequently; water down 3' deep at the dripline.
8. Water your flower beds down 15" deep every 7 days (this should get rid of 90% of your slugs).
9. Water your vegetable garden down 15 inches (tomatoes 15") once a week.
10. If you have plant or insect problems, come in and use our Diagnostic Clinic. It's a bargain at \$1.00 a problem (much less than a psychiatrist charges for your “other” problems).



EARLY SEASON PESTS

by Julia B. Tuck

These are a few of the problems you may run into this year. For specific application times and more complete guidelines on how and when to do what, come into our office and check out our "The Home Orchard Pest Management Guide" by Diane Alston and Sherman Thomson.

Billbug Attacks bluegrass and bentgrass. It is a small, black, weevil.

To control adults use diazinon in mid-April to early May.

To control larvae- treat in late June to late August. Damage is caused by the larvae. Newly hatched larvae feed inside, or on grass stems. As they grow, they feed on the crowns and roots.

Crabgrass & Spurge Control crabgrass with Acclaim or arsonates. Control spurge with Dacthal, Pendimethalin, Combos, Turflon, Confront, or 2,4-D. Apply April 15th with a second application May 15th.

May & June Beetle Grubs Apply GRUB-X and water down 3-4 inches.

Mites on Ornamentals Use Isotox.

Mushrooms

In flowers they are caused by overwatering. Water once a week, down 12-15".

In lawns you should core aerate and water 8-10" down less frequently. You may use Captan, Fore, Bayleton, or a similar fungicide.

For Fairy Ring, fertilize to promote even growth and color.

Remove fruiting bodies with a disposable glove to help prevent spreading by spores. If it is really bad, and water can't penetrate the soil or lawn, break up the soil to break up the strands of mycelium. You may need to rototill and replant.

Powdery Mildew on ornamentals You may use a fungicide such as Captan.

Sod Web Worm Apply diazinon liquid. Wash it down into the top 2-4" of soil; or apply GRUB-X only 2-4" down into the soil.

Strawberry Root Weevil This is the insect that makes your leaf edges look scalloped. For every notch you see nibbled on a leaf, 10 notches have been nibbled on the roots. The adults eat mostly in the evening and after dark. Use an Orthene drench

around the base of the plant and then spray the foliage every 2 weeks.

FRUIT PESTS

Aphids, Leafrollers, Mites, and Scale These, of course, you already have controlled by spraying your delayed-dormant oil, right? If you missed it, come into our office and pick up a dormant oil spray guide for \$.05 so that you will know when to do it next year. Some of these pests require another chemical to be added to the dormant oil.

Apple Maggot Apply Phosmet on apples; malathion or rotonone-pyrethrin on cherries.

Codling Moth (apples and pears) Use Phosmet, diazinon, or Bt.

Coryneum Blight Apply Bravo, chlorothalonil, Captan, or a Bordeaux mixture.

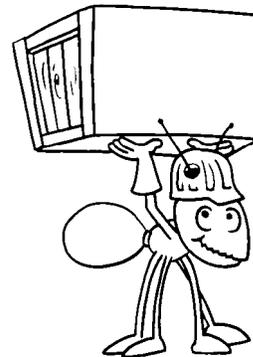
Fireblight (apples and pears) Copper Fungicide and Bordeaux mixture are good choices for homeowners. For commercial users, Agri-Mycin and Mycoshield are also choices.

Leafrollers Apply Phosmet, diazinon, or Bt

Oriental Fruit Moths (peaches, nectarines and plums) Apply diazinon or phosmet.

Powdery Mildew Use Bravo, sulphur, Benomyl, triforine; and/or plant resistant varieties.

Western Cherry Fruit Fly Treat with rotenone-pyrethrin or malathion. Begin treating when cherries begin to change from green to salmon color, and continue until harvest. NOTE: diazinon is no longer recommended for cherries because they changed the carrier.



LAWN CARE

by Julia B. Tuck

Here are some guidelines to help you keep your lawn looking better than your neighbors' lawn (you will share your secrets, won't you?):

Soil Preparation: A good lawn can be established by following the basic rules for seeding or sodding. If you will take the time to make a good soil bed for your turf, your lawn will reward you for many years to come. We have sheets with the complete directions in the office for \$.10. In a nutshell, here are general guidelines:

1. Control perennial weeds with herbicide sprays.
2. Rough grade the lawn area. Allow the soil to settle.
3. Have your soil tested. Apply corrective fertilizer.

Organic matter can be spread uniformly and worked into the soil - 3 cubic yards or more per 1,000 square feet.



4. Rototill or otherwise till the soil 5 to 6 inches deep. The soil surface should be smooth with few clods bigger than one inch in diameter. Remove stones, wood and other debris from the top 3-6" on the soil.

5. Allow the soil to settle. The soil should be worked well and left firm but not packed. The grade before laying sod will be about one inch lower than a soil prepared for seeding.



Seeding: Apply one-half of the seed in an east/west direction and the other half in a north/south direction with a cyclone spreader or drop spreader. We recommend a blend of 4-5 bluegrasses. Rake seedbed lightly to incorporate seed to a shallow depth. It helps to roll the surface to make sure you have good contact between the soil and the seed. Mulch newly applied seed with a weed-free mulching material such as peat moss. Sod may need to be rolled if uneven. Irrigate frequently for grass seed establishment

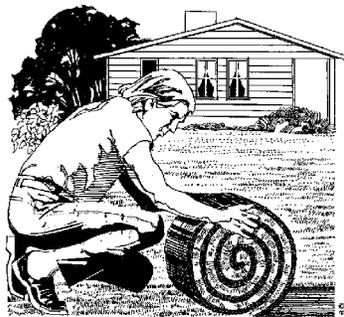


Watering frequency will be less for establishing sod. Water daily until seed germinates. Bluegrass germination takes from 10-28 days. August

25 to September 15 is the best time to establish a lawn from seed or sod. There is less competition from weeds and the cool weather helps germination and seedling growth.

Seed Kentucky bluegrass at 3-4 pounds per 1,000 feet. Some suggested varieties to look at: Adelphi, America, Arboretum, Eclipse, Fylking, Glade, Merit, Monopoly, Nassau, Nugget, Ram 1, Rugby, Sydsport and Touchdown. There is another variety called Midnight. It is a very dark grass. If you keep it under 10% of your blend, Midnight can add depth. If you add too much, your lawn will look dull.

Sodding: Lay the first course or row of sod along a straight line across the width of the site. Then, in the next row, stagger the end joints as if laying bricks. The individual sod pieces should be placed close to one another but should not overlap. Do not stretch the sod during the laying process. Water the sod with a hose as it is being laid if the weather is hot. Laying dry sod on dry soil can damage grass roots.



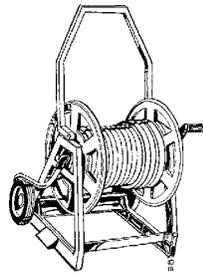
The newly laid sod should be walked on as little as possible. Work some prepared topsoil into any noticeable joints or seams that develop between the sod pieces. This will prevent excessive drying of the ends of the pieces and avoid spaces between the sod pieces.

When laying sod on a slope, work from the lowest point up to the top. Lay the sod strip across, not up and down the slope. On steep slopes pegging or staking is necessary. Six to eight inch stakes will anchor each strip of sod to the slope.

Sod should be rolled when the sod and soil are moist. Roll the sod in an east-west directions and a north-south direction. Keep the sod well-watered but not saturated, until it is firmly rooted into the soil - 2 to 3 weeks. During this time prevent concentrated traffic on the sod.

Water a newly sodded lawn with increasing amounts of water, less frequently with the passing weeks.

Watering: DO water down 10" deep (check with a screwdriver, or a piece of rebar). This will encourage your lawn to have deep roots and that will cut down on stress during the hot summer months.



DO water early in the morning, so it has time to dry out during the day. This will cut down on disease. There are many fungi that love wet grass.

DO train your lawn to become drought tolerant.

After your deep watering, your lawn needs time to dry out a little so that oxygen will get to the roots. If you walk on your lawn and you leave immediate and obvious footprint impressions, then it's time to water again. Depending on your soil type, you may be able to train your lawn to go 3-5+ days between waterings. Deep roots means no heavy thatch build-up to worry about. You will also avoid some of the annual grasses that have shallow roots.



Actually, well-managed lawns will have roots that extend 2 feet deep!

Core Aeration: Do core aeration once a year, 2 times a year if your soil is heavy. I am talking about aeration where a plug of dirt is pulled out and ends up on your lawn (they will break down). This will help let oxygen into your soil. Make sure the soil is moist for maximum penetration.

Fertilization: Try adding 1/2 lb. actual Nitrogen per 1000 square feet the beginning of April, May, June, July, August, September, and October. This will keep your grass nice and green, but not let it grow so fast that you will be cutting it so often.

DO NOT ADD GYPSUM- PERIOD.

Mowing: Keep your turf at 2 1/2-3" during the summer. Your lawn will be healthier. The longer grass will keep your grass less stressed during the summer and help to conserve water. Do not remove clippings, if possible.

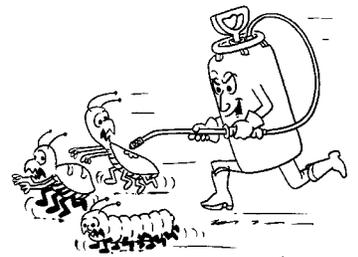
Suggestion: Do not plant trees in your turf. They have different requirements for survival.



Weeds: Broad-leaved weeds, like dandelions, can be controlled with 2,4-D. 2,4-D is a selective

herbicide - it kills broad-leaved plants, not grasses.

Roundup is a non-selective herbicide - it will kill any plant. If you use Roundup you need to protect the rest of your plants and turf. You may want to cut the top and bottom off of a gallon milk jug; place that over the weed, and then spray inside the container. Or, you can use a foam craft brush to "paint" the chemical on the weed.



Trimec works well on Black Medic and violets.

To increase the effectiveness of Roundup or 2,4-D, you can add 1 Tablespoon liquid dishwashing soap (like Dawn or Sunlight) and 1 Tablespoon of liquid high nitrogen fertilizer to one gallon of ready-to-use 2,4-D or Roundup. The weed will think it is getting nutrition (the fertilizer) and it will take more of the chemical into it and the soap will act as a surfactant which will help the chemical spread evenly, stick to the leaves, and go deeper into the cuticle.

UTAH COUNTY FAIR WEEK

August 11 and 12, 2000

Utah Valley State College

Please plan your garden and landscape to have flowers ready for the Fair. The Fair this year will be August 11 and 12 at Utah Valley State College. We are trying to expand the Fair this year with fruits and vegetables. Let's all have a great fair entry this year!



