

GROWING TOGETHER

The Best Offense is a Good Defense

GROW RITE'S PROGRAM

1. **Spring:** Crabgrass and Fertilizer
2. **Early Summer:** Broadleaf Control and Fertilizer
3. **Summer:** Spot Broadleaf Control and Fertilizer
4. **Late Summer:** Fertilizer
5. **Fall:** Broadleaf Control and a Winterizing Fertilizer

Additional Services

- Core Aeration
- Grub Control
- Fungus Control
- Seeding
- Landscaping
- Snow Plowing
(Litchfield area only)

In fact, lawns that are under watered, under fertilized, and sparsely growing provide an ideal growing condition for crabgrass.

What can you do to fight crabgrass?

1. Raise your mower deck. Keeping your lawn mowed higher (3inches) will help provide shade and prevent crabgrass seeds from germinating.

2. Apply a pre-emergent. A pre-emergent herbicide will hinder germination. The herbicide works like a blanket, creating a barrier over the soil. The barrier kills seeds as they try to germinate. There are millions of seeds in the lawn. Herbicides are not a 100% guarantee, but it's very close with proper maintenance.

Grow Rite's pre-emergent product is different than the pre-emergent products you can purchase from local retail stores. Retail product directions state to apply the product a week or so before germination to be most effect. Our product has a longer application window and will last for 3-4 months. Grow Rite's product requires a license to purchase thus the longer protection.

3. Water after spring application. For any pre-emergent to be most effective the material has to be activated by water within the first week of application. The longer you wait after a couple days the more the product loses effectiveness. Watering the spring application into the grass is very important in preventing crabgrass.

Grow Rite's Drought Defense

The past few years have been tough with the lack of rain. Grow Rite is planning to take a proactive approach by applying different products that don't require watering. You will get the same results if not better results. We still encourage you to water, but it will not be necessary with the exception of your spring application.



(320) 693-7305

Summer Drought Conditions

The past couple of years Grow Rite has done heavy over seeding as a result of dead turf from the drought. One misconception we'd like to clear up is this, in the summer turf will go dormant, but unlike winter dormancy it can only survive 4-6 weeks without moisture as a rule of thumb. If your not going to water during extended periods of drought, make a mental note when the dry period starts and water after about 4 weeks. Give the lawn a good watering and it will keep the lawn alive for a couple more weeks. This will not green up the lawn and make it lush, but it will keep the roots alive so when we do get a good rain the lawn will come back. This one watering will probably save your lawn from severe lose of grass.

The drought conditions will also lead to thinning areas of grass over the entire lawn. This will provide more weed germination spots in your lawn..

The best advice is to have your lawn in a healthy condition year round so if a drought does happen your lawn will survive and come back healthy in the fall when we typically get rain. A healthy lawn includes proper mowing, watering, fertilization, de-thatching and aeration.

Contact Grow Rite with any concerns, we're here to grow together. 320-693-7305

Spring Mowing Tips

When mowing in the spring for the first time try setting your mowing height down by a 1/2 inch. This will help pull the dead decaying matter up from the winter snow and help dry and warm the soil up. It will also green the lawn up quicker because you're cutting the grass tips and this promotes growth. After this initial mowing go back to the normal recommended height (3 inches).

When spring does finally arrive take a walk through your lawn and look for matted areas which probably indicate Snow Mold. This disease glues grass blades together , which will inhibit the grass from growing. A light raking will remedy this situation.

Other Tips:

- Always keep the mower blade sharp
- Don't mow more than 1/3 the height of cut at one time
- Recycle clipping (leave clippings when mowing)



Ash Tree Alert

Emerald Ash Borer is getting closer to Minnesota. The forestry department has found Emerald Ash Borer insects in Chicago, Illinois recently. This is alarming because of the massive destruction that this insect is doing in the Midwestern states. The main states are Indiana, Michigan and Ohio now recently Illinois. It's just a matter of time before our Ash trees will be affected here in Minnesota.

This insect like its name applies will only affect Ash trees, all Ash trees. It is being compared to Dutch Elm disease because of its destructive ability. This is just a heads up to be on the look out for the Ash trees in your lawn.

Some things to look for our a capital D shaped exit hole in the trees bark. A thinning canopy or dieback (loosing leaves from the top down) are some of the easier things that may indicate problems from Emerald Ash Borer. If you notice or have questions about your Ash trees, contact the local Extension office: 320-693-5275