



Special points of interest:

- Mid August thru Late September is a great time for lawn seeding
- Check for insect damage on trees and shrubs
- Deadhead and thin out overcrowded perennials
- Keep mower blades sharp; do not mow during drought periods; be sure to wait at least 1 day after lawn applications have been done to mow
- Continue to monitor lawns for disease and insect activity, especially during dry spells
- Begin planning for your fall landscape projects

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Lawn Care Treatments: Should They Be Applied To Dormant Turf?

This is the exact question that many homeowners as well as lawn care professionals are asking. The last time we had a drought like this in Iowa was in 1988. At this point in the season, conditions have not gotten quite as bad as they were during that timeframe. The lawns began to go dormant about the end of May and we did not receive any rain until early September.

During that time a test was performed by Iowa State University using three different variables. One section of dormant turf grass was not fertilized at all, one section was fertilized at a normal application rate, and one section was treated at a much higher rate (almost 10x the normal recommended rate). Their first assumption was that they would damage the turf that was treated at the higher rate.

When the turf grass recovered later that fall, they were surprised that no damage had been caused to either of the sections that were fertilized. However,



the section that was not treated with fertilizer showed signs of damage (i.e. dead spots). In conclusion, they determined that there was no risk of damage from applying the treatments to dormant turf grass and more importantly that it had a positive effect on the turf in the fall.

With hot and dry conditions setting in, the most important thing you can do for you lawn is to keep up with your normal fertilizer and weed control applications and to make sure your lawn is getting at least 2" of water per week. Water during the early morning hours when evaporation rates are the lowest to ensure you are getting the most out your waterings. As always, feel free to give us a call if you have any questions or concerns on your lawn. We are here to help.

Lawn Care Spotlight: Bird's-Foot Trefoil



With the recent hot and dry conditions, many homeowners are beginning to see this yellow-flowered weed emerge in their lawns. It is included in many roadside planting mixes used in Iowa and over time has spread into residential areas, mainly along curb lines and sidewalks. It is classified as a perennial, but most people do not

notice it until late June when it begins to flower. Being a clover-like broadleaf, it can be controlled by the same broadleaf herbicides that we use for other clovers. It is most commonly seen in lawns that were not treated with pre-emergent broadleaf control products.

The best way to get rid of it is to wait until the fall and treat it with a broadleaf herbicide. The main reason for waiting is that certain herbicides can cause damage to other landscape plants during this time of the year.

We are a locally owned and operated company that has been serving the Des Moines and surrounding areas for over 20 years!