

Spring Is Time To Give Lawns A Lift

NEWARK, Del. — A little extra springtime attention to your lawn may mean a lusher landscape by summer.

According to Dave Tatnall, University of Delaware extension horticulturist, spring is the time to aerate your lawn soil, to add lime, fertilizer and weed killers, and to reseed bare spots.

The first step is to rake away winter debris to let air and light reach the grass. A vigorous raking with a leaf rake is fine, Tatnall says. A garden rake can remove thatch buildup, but it may also remove some healthy grass and make reseeding necessary.

If the soil is heavy and compacted, Tatnall recommends renting an aerating machine. The best machines, the specialist says, are those that remove tiny plugs of

soil from the lawn, allowing air to reach the roots.

Homeowners may want to request a soil analysis from county extension offices before adding lime or fertilizer to their lawns. A University of Delaware lawn and garden soil test bag can be purchased for \$4. Testing takes about two weeks and the results and recommendations are then mailed directly to the homeowner. Several recommendations for lawn maintenance will be included along with the analysis of the soil's pH and present levels of four basic nutrients — phosphorus, potassium, magnesium and calcium.

Liming your lawn should only be necessary every three to five years in this area. Early spring or late fall is the best time to apply lime,

provided the ground is not frozen or baked hard, Tatnall says. A general recommendation is 50 pounds of ground or pelleted limestone per 1,000 square feet.

"Early spring is also a good time to control wild onions and crabgrass," says Tatnall. "Treat wild onions with a 2, 4-D combination spray. Even though crabgrass is not yet visible, it is easier to control now, before it has had a chance to grow and take hold in your lawn."

Tatnall suggests using a granulat combination crabgrass control and fertilizer. It is best applied between April 1 and April 15.

Seed bare or sparse areas now while the ground is moist and workable, and the days are still cool enough for good grass growth.

Tatnall recommends mixtures of Kentucky bluegrass, red fescue and improved perennial ryegrass.

The Delaware Cooperative Extension System offers two free fact sheets on lawn care: "What's Wrong With My Lawn?" and "A Shopper's Guide To Selecting

Grass Seed." A more general publication on all aspects of lawn care, "A Recipe for Successful Lawns," is also available. To obtain these publications, call county extension offices in Newark (451-2506), Dover (697-4000) and Georgetown (856-7303).

Resolution Asks Va. To Drop Egg Tax

HARRISBURG — The State Senate has approved a Senate Resolution which asks the State of Virginia to exempt eggs produced and processed in Pennsylvania from its special Egg Excise Tax.

Bill sponsor Sen. Noah Wenger said Virginia taxes all eggs marketed in the state at 5 cents per 30 dozen case, including eggs produced in Pennsylvania. "Such a tax increases pressure upon the Pennsylvania General Assembly

to impose a similar tax upon Virginia-produced products such as ham, peanuts and beef," said Wenger.

Wenger said such taxes would adversely affect interstate commerce and the economies of both Virginia and Pennsylvania which rely heavily on the sale of their agricultural products.

"I hope the State of Virginia responds positively to our request," said Wenger.

Ag Art Exhibit

"Rural Renaissance," an upcoming art exhibit by Carol Slusser Fraind, at Bloomsburg University, April 5th to May 9th promises to be an inspiring tribute honoring those involved in small enterprises, especially agriculture.

The artist relates, "I feel very fortunate to have been raised on a small farm, Longfields, and to now be the stewardess of that homestead with hopes to pass it on intact to the next generation. Like myself, I want my children to have the opportunity to assimilate the admirable qualities and traditions

farm life affords. Though it is not an easy life, I think the valuable lessons are taught well."

It is often said, "An artist paints best what she has experienced, and I consider it a privilege to share my records of the people and places that have so greatly enriched my life."

The public is cordially invited to attend the artist's reception, Sunday, April 5th, 2 to 5 p.m. in the President Lounge, Kehr Union Building, Bloomsburg University Campus. The exhibit is open daily from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. For further information call 717-752-5313.

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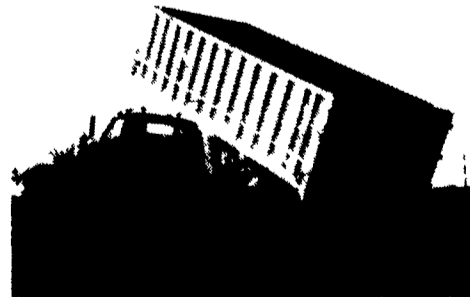
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