

LAWN MAINTENANCE

When cutting grass, never take more than one third off the blade.

Unfortunately, lawns are not part of a water-wise gardening regime and require regular watering (at least three times a week in summer for sandy soil).

Aerate lawns at the beginning of the growing season in spring by mechanically scarifying or manually raking the grass yourself.

BIO-CONTROL

Biological control uses natural methods to control pests. Birds, for example, do a great job of eating worms and insects that might otherwise plague a garden.

When it comes to lawns, the hadida ibis is a good bio-control agent. These birds eat lawn caterpillars and aerate the soil along the way too. Insectivorous Cape golden moles (runner moles) also benefit lawns by eating pests and aerating the soil.

If lawn caterpillars become a problem, spray Margaret Roberts biological caterpillar insecticide.



Suppliers of plants, seeds,
gardening products and
services from a loyal
horticultural
team



21 LIESBEEK PARKWAY, ROSEBANK
TEL: 021 685 4120 FAX: 021 685 3837
info@starkeayresgv.co.za
www.starkeayresgc.co.za

STARKE AYRES GARDEN CENTRE INFORMATION PAMPHLET



LAWN CARE



UNDERSTANDING FERTILIZERS

Fertilizers contain different amounts of macro- and micro-elements. The most predominant macro-elements are Nitrogen (N), Phosphorus (P) and Potassium (K). The fertilizer packaging clearly states the proportions of N:P:K elements numerically.

- For green growth, use a fertilizer high in nitrogen (5:1:5)
- For root development, use a fertilizer high in phosphorus (2:3:2)
- For flower and fruit stimulation, cold tolerance and disease resistance, use a fertilizer high in potassium (3:1:5)

Trace elements (micro-elements) are also necessary in small amounts for healthy plants and are generally included in fertilizers.

ORGANICS

Organic fertilizers are composed of organic plant or animal material as well as naturally occurring mineral deposits.

These include manure, compost, earthworm castings, guano, seaweed, bone meal and rock dust.

GREEN CONSCIOUSNESS

Inorganic fertilizers act quickly and are usually cheaper than organic fertilizers, but the high salt content if used long term, can damage the soil rather than benefit it.

Organic fertilizers release their nutrients slowly, promoting a more stable long term lawn.

Adding organic matter like compost or manure to the soil not only adds nutrients, but it also improves the soil's structure, feeds the living organisms and boosts the soil's ecosystem.

When starting a new garden or growing lawn the tendency is to focus on plant choice and ignore the soil. By adding organic matter food is provided for the organisms that release nutrients into the soil as they break down compost.

Earthworms and soil-dwelling insects move around underground, aerating the soil as well as contributing to the organic content through their actions. Organic material is necessary for them to be there in the first place.

Organic fertilizers stocked at Starke Ayres Garden Centre include Talborne, Bounce Back and Starke Ayres 3:1:5 Organic.

FERTILIZER APPLICATION

When planting lawn, work in a 2:3:2 fertilizer so that the phosphate is available for root development and growth.

On already established lawns, fertilize with 3:1:5 fertilizer in autumn and spring to strengthen the grass.

If quick growth and greening is required in summer, the strength can be increased to a 5:1:5 fertilizer during this season.



Contact Starke Ayres Garden Centre for any further questions.