

## TIPS ON USING FERTILIZERS

**LAWNS:** To retain vigour over the whole growing season, lawns require a total of about 5 kg of actual nitrogen per 100 square metres (1000 sq ft). This amount is provided by about 30 kg of 16-8-8 or 20 kg of 20-5-5 per 100 sq metres. It is best to apply it in several small applications during the season.

### A) Spring and

**Early Summer: 16-8-8 or 20-5-5**

**TO BE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY**, apply three or four light applications from early spring to late summer; this will give better results than one heavy application and will be less likely to result in run-off into waterways.

**First application:** In April when snow has disappeared and ground is dry.

**Second and third applications:** 6 and 10 weeks later (May and June).

**RATE:** (each application) 4-8 kg of fertilizer per 100 sq metres (1000 sq ft). This means that a 25 kg bag will cover 300 to 600 sq metres (or about 3000 to 6000 sq ft). Use the higher rate for heavy-feeding Kentucky bluegrasses.

**B) Late Summer: 10-10-10 or 16-8-8**

One application in late summer or early fall (Aug. 15 - Sept. 15).

**RATE:** 4 kg per 1000 sq ft (6000 sq ft per 25 kg bag).

**C) Winterizing: 20-5-5 Slow Release**

Lawn experts now recommend fertilizing lawns in late fall with a high-nitrogen fertilizer. Plants store the nitrogen and use it to boost growth in early spring.

**RATE:** 5 kg of 20-5-5 (i.e. 1 kg actual nitrogen) per 100 sq metres (1000 sq ft).

**In the Ottawa area, this should be applied in mid October.**

### Notes on using lawn fertilizers:

- \* 16-8-8 and 10-10-10 fertilizers give fast results, **DO NOT EXCEED THE RECOMMENDED RATES.**
- \* Use the higher rate in spring on heavy-feeding bluegrasses.
- \* For best results, use a fertilizer spreader; apply half the required amount in one direction, then the other half at right angles to the first to get uniform coverage and even growth.
- \* **Avoid spilling fertilizer on the grass;** always load the spreader on a driveway or patio; spills or excessive amounts of fertilizer may kill the grass. In the event of an accidental spill on grass, remove as much fertilizer as possible, then water heavily.
- \* Apply fertilizer when the grass is dry; the grass may be watered following application. **Using a mulching mower to leave grass clippings on the lawn reduces the amount of nitrogen fertilizer needed for vigorous growth.**
- \* **Healthy, vigorous grass chokes out many weeds and reduces the need for herbicides.**

**FLOWERS: 5-20-20** One application when plants are well established. **RATE:** 0.5-1.0 kg per 100 sq ft.

**ROSES: 16-8-8 or 20-5-5** Three applications during spring and early summer. In mid August use one application of 5-20-20.  
**RATE:** Two handfuls per large bush.

**VEGETABLES: 5-20-20** One application in spring. Work in with a fork or rototiller and rake before seeding or planting.  
**RATE:** 0.5-1.0 kg per 100 sq ft. Also work in well-rotted manure or compost if available.

### **HEDGES, SHRUBS & TREES:**

**16-8-8 or 10-10-10**

Trees growing in lawns need extra nutrients. Once a season, in spring, double the rate of lawn fertilizer (without herbicide) under the tree canopy or punch a series of holes under the canopy and partially fill them with 10-10-10. Maples in this area should be kept in a vigorous condition to help prevent loss from wilt disease.