



NEWS AS IT HAPPENS



March

Turf Edition

Special Issue: Are Your Trees Ready?

Should you fertilize your trees this spring?

Since springtime is an active growth period for trees and other plant materials, it is important that they have everything they need to survive and thrive. And in fact, fertilizing in the spring will help address any deficiencies that exist in the soil for the tree as it comes out of winter dormancy. Spring fertilization also helps prepare trees for the stresses they will invariably face in the summer.

Also, healthier trees are better able to fight off – and recover from – damage from things like stress and pests. The strength and health of a tree has serious ramifications into its ability to resist disease and environmental stresses.

First, there is the matter of making sure that your trees do indeed need to be fertilized. This can be accomplished through soil and tissue testing, which will help determine whether or not any required nutrients are lacking.

If you have established that your trees require fertilization this spring, you should wait until the soil thaws (thereby allowing for fertilization). A good way to tell if the soil is sufficiently thawed is to check to see if your grass has begun growing.

The kind of fertilizer you use will depend a lot upon what kinds of trees you have and their subsequent nutritional requirements. For instance:

For deciduous trees (oaks, maples, elms, etc.), use a 1-1-1 ratio like Growth Products' Triple Ten (10-10-10). This balanced N-P-K ratio will provide your trees with nitrogen to encourage top growth, phosphorus for new root development, and potassium to build the tree's caliper. Why is this so important? As the tree grows, its roots and caliper must keep up with it. This will help avoid problems later (such as high wind or winter damage).

If you're fertilizing evergreens (Blue Spruces, White Pines, Hemlocks, etc.), use a 3:2:1 ratio fertilizer like Growth Products' 15-8-4. These trees undergo rapid growth in the spring, and in the process, require more nitrogen and phosphorus. An important added benefit is that 15-8-4 also contains a complete micronutrient package.

Blooming trees (like dogwoods, cherry, orange, apple, and tulip trees) need phosphorus to achieve their best blooms. A good fertilizer choice for getting these trees the phosphorus they need is Growth Products' Triple Ten (10-10-10).

When it comes to the fertilizers you utilize for your trees, Growth Products liquids provide many benefits. If you are used to the hassles of granulars or water solubles, you'll love high quality Growth Products' liquids. Gone will be the days of abrasive additives, high salts, and fertilizers settling out of solution. You'll also avoid problems – like abrasion, clogged nozzles, and wear & tear on your pumps and trees – that come with other fertilizer forms.

In order to look their best, your trees are also going to need micronutrients. If your fertilizer does not contain micros, Growth Products' Micrel Total is a great solution. It provides critical micronutrients in a 100% chelated (available for tree uptake) form, and will help treat trees that are chlorotic.

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