



NEWS AS IT HAPPENS

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IRONING Out Those Winter Blues

According to "Punxsutawney Phil" (who saw his shadow on Groundhog Day), we can look forward to six more weeks of winter. And while that may seem a long ways off, now is the time to start preparing to help your turf, trees, and ornamentals emerge from the long winter.

Many plants will have turned straw-colored and dormant during the winter months, especially if they did not receive enough water and nutrients prior to the onset of winter.

Another reason for the condition of your plants is that when temperatures are cooler – and the ground is moister – there is less oxygen available. The result is an undesirable yellow plant color. In addition, the conversion of a plant's energy reserves to soluble sugars is very inefficient during wet soil conditions. This translates into depleted energy reserves and little new growth to support the plant.

After winter dormancy, plants begin an important period of growth. Root growth occurs first in early spring, when soils begin to thaw. Active shoot development follows (as temperatures climb between 60 and 75 degrees Fahrenheit).

Green-up and recovery begins when nighttime temperatures remain above 60 degrees Fahrenheit for several days and soil temperatures reach 65 degrees at a depth of four inches. In turf, this

process is also accompanied by a rapid dieback of old roots and the production of new roots.

While nature alone helps stimulate spring green-up, most plants require additional fertilization to realize their maximum growth potential. Spring fertilization is especially critical on recreational turf areas (such as soccer fields).

Iron deficiency is one of the most prevalent causes of inadequate spring recovery. Such deficiencies are most pronounced in the early spring when soil temperatures are low. Soils with a high pH, high phosphorus levels, or high moisture levels are particularly prone to iron deficiencies.

Iron provides an important, gradual wake-up call for your turf, trees, and ornamentals to emerge from colder conditions, winter dormancy, and stress. Unlike the rapid "jump start" provided by quick release nitrogen, iron's "wake up call" provides new growth and color (which has to do with the plant's ability to synthesize chlorophyll) without unwanted surge growth.

To address iron deficiencies and chlorotic conditions, foliar applications of 100% Chelated Growth Products' X-Xtra Iron (6-0-0) at the time of green-up provides a perfect solution. The most noticeable result of such an application will be the quick restoration of deep, green color.

Less visible, but equally important will be the other improvements to your plants. For instance, X-Xtra Iron also promotes strong root systems for high traffic areas and stress conditions.

Growth Products' X-Xtra Iron (6-0-0) contains more iron than its closest competitor. Formulated using a citric acid chelate that converts the iron to a soluble form, this product is excellent as a foliar spray or root applications for quick green-up without surge growth.

X-Xtra Iron contains the three most important nutrients for photosynthesis – iron, nitrogen, and sulfur. And since it is extremely pure (no fillers and an extremely low level of salts), your plants WILL respond. Foliar applications of X-Xtra Iron often bring visible color improvements within hours!

Want to learn more about any of the products in the Growth Products Line? Call us at (800) 648-7626. You may also visit us on the World Wide Web at www.growthproducts.com. E-mail: questions@growthproducts.com. Faxes may be sent to (914) 428-2780.