



CHARTER

MID-ATLANTIC News Letter



Published by

Mid-Atlantic Association of Golf Course Superintendents to aid in the Advancement of the Golf Course Superintendent through Education and Merit

VOLUME XXV

NOVEMBER 1974

NO. 11

Fall Fertilization of Trees

Proper fertilization of trees and shrubs is an investment in a better landscape planting. How much and how often you fertilize trees will depend on the size and growth of the tree; it's best to fertilize small trees yearly. Large, well established trees will need fertilizing only every two or three years.

The best time to fertilize trees is late fall, after leaves have dropped. If you apply fertilizer in the fall, it has a longer period of time to penetrate down into the soil so the roots will absorb it. When spring comes your tree will have a supply in its roots and will be ready to grow.

For small trees, spread the fertilizer over the surface of the soil and cultivate it or water it in. For small trees normal fall grass fertilization may be sufficient.

How can you tell if your trees or shrubs need fertilizer? It is hard to tell from a soil test because most shrubs and trees have feeding roots that go far below the surface.

Learn to watch for "hunger" signs that show the need for fertilizer. Here is what to look for:

1. undersized leaves
2. yellow or chlorotic leaves
3. thin or sparse foliage
4. tips of branches dying back
5. crown full of dead branches
6. short annual twig growth

Some of these symptoms may be caused by insects or plant diseases, but if you are doing a good job of pest control your trees and shrubs will benefit from regular

fertilization. It will help keep them healthy and vigorous.

Select a complete fertilizer high in nitrogen. A commonly used analysis is 10-6-4. The rate of application is generally based on the diameter of the tree trunk, measured at a point 4 feet above the ground.

The standard rate for trees 6 inches or more in diameter is 2 to 4 pounds of fertilizer for each inch of diameter. For example, a tree 9 inches in diameter should get 18 to 36 pounds of fertilizer. Trees under 6 inches are fertilized at the rate of 1 to 2 pounds for each inch in diameter.

The most practical way to fertilize large trees or those in a lawn area is by the punch bar method. Make holes 2 to 3 feet apart with a crow bar or other instrument. Make them 18 to 24 inches deep, depending on the size of the tree.

Since the fibrous feeding roots are way out from the trunk of the tree, no fertilizer is needed close to the trunk. Holes should be punched from 2 to 3 feet out from the base of the tree to just beyond the drip zone of the branches.

After fertilizer is distributed into each hole, fill them with a loose soil to help eliminate green splotchy spots on the grass from grass uptake of the fertilizer.

Other means of tree fertilization are liquid injections in the soil and the new fertilizer bars which can be pounded into the ground and left to dissolve. The liquid fertilizer is quicker acting and shortly depleted within the soil while the newly marketed fertilizer bars are the longest lasting fertilizers available.

Dates to Remember

November 12	Laurel Pines Country Club Host: Gilbert Shapiro
January 5, 6, 7, 1975	Mid-Atlantic Conference Baltimore Hilton Inn 1726 Reisterstown Road Exit 20 Baltimore 695 Beltway
December 10	Eagles Nest Country Club Host: Bill Emerson Annual Election Meeting
February 16-21, 1975	GCSAA Conference and Show Pre-Conference Seminars New Orleans, Louisiana

GOLF

The average 18-hole golf course can provide the oxygen required by a town of 7,000 people, according to Philip A. Wogan, chairman of the Environmental Impact Committee of the American Society of Golf Course Architects. Wogan also points out in a recent report that golf courses have been used to recreate areas that were formerly scars on the landscape; sanitary landfills, strip mines and gravel pits. The Society is examining the question of environmental impact, and will be issuing periodic statements concerning their findings.