

Conclusions

Fertilizing established turf is best when based on a sound knowledge of the annual cycle of turf needs and the availability of nutrients in the soil.

Cool- and warm-season turfgrasses differ in their root growth cycles and consequently require different strategies for applying nutrients.

The amount of fertilizer required by turf can often be reduced substantially if its application is properly coordinated with turf needs and soil nutrient availability.

No general suggestions should be taken without fully considering your situation and recognizing how it might differ from the so-called "typical" turf condition. In short, turf fertilization in the spring and at any time is largely a matter of common sense.

Dr. Richard J. Hull is professor of Plant Science and chairman of the Plant Sciences Department at the University of Rhode Island. His research has concentrated on nutrient use efficiency and photosynthate partitioning in turfgrasses and woody ornamental plants.

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