

packet's sides and slowly dissolves the fertilizer, which escapes in liquid form. The combination of slow release and minimal amounts of fertilizer delivered to a plant at any one time assures that fertilizer burn of root tendrils will not occur, Attoe says.

The packet's activity is largely controlled by the seasons, i.e. it operates through a timing mechanism triggered by vapor pressure in warm soil and halted when the soil is cold. Thus, fertilizer is not released during plants' dormant periods, according to Attoe.

The life of a two-ounce packet is usually about five years, he says. In warmer climates, however, it is reduced to about three.

Recommended for roses, potted plants, deciduous bushes, evergreens, shade and fruit trees, Root Contact Paket may be used in new plantings or with established plants.

For more information, write S & D Products, Inc., 216 S. Minnesota St., Prairie du Chien, Wis. 53821.

MSU Says Lawns Need Air Circulation and Nitrogen

A recent Michigan State University study has indicated that surrounding your lawn with a solid screen of trees and shrubs will increase lawn maintenance problems.

If air movement across a lawn is restricted, the grass may die from high temperatures. This results in a brown, weak turf incapable of resisting injury from insects, drought or disease.

Another MSU tip concerns the addition of nitrogen in developing a more lush lawn. Dr. Paul E. Rieke, MSU soil scientist, suggests guidelines for nitrogen application.

On Merion bluegrass and bentgrass receiving plenty of water, apply 6 to 8 lbs. of actual nitro-

gen annually per 1000 sq. ft. of turf. As no more than 2 lbs. of actual nitrogen should ever be applied at a time, divide this amount among 3 or 4 applications.

Use 8 lbs. of nitrogen annually on heavily watered, sandy soil; on low management turf, use 4 to 6 lbs.

On other Kentucky bluegrass, 3 to 4 lbs. per 1000 sq. ft. should be applied to turf getting lots of water; 2 to 3 lbs. for non-irrigated turf. For red fescues, only 1 to 3 lbs. should be applied per 1000 sq. ft.

MSU studies show that about 40% of your total fertilizer requirement should be applied in April and May, about 20% in June and July, and the remaining 40% in August and September.

The key to good lawn maintenance is getting an early start with fertilizer to help your grass get a jump on any weeds that may be present, says Rieke. It may be necessary to mow more often, making sure clippings are removed to avoid susceptibility to thatching.

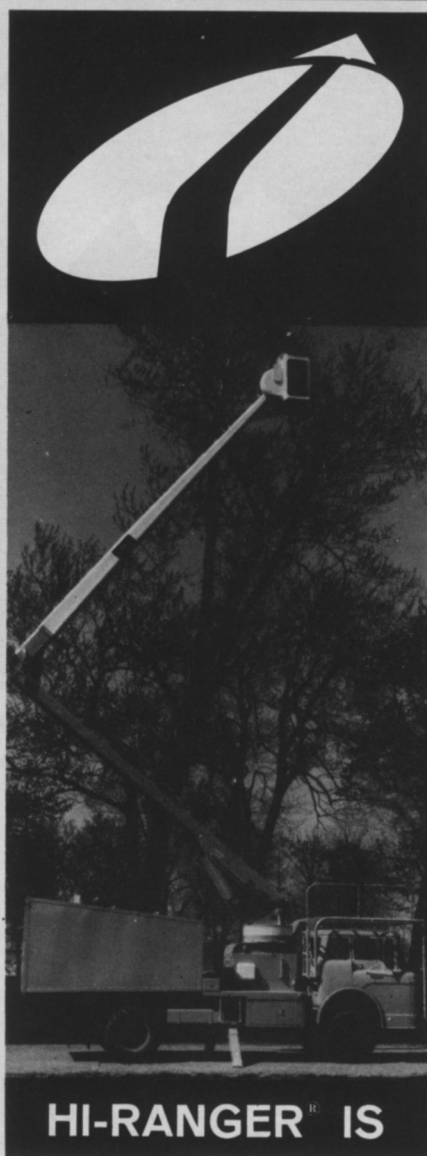
If your lawn has come through the winter with a good stand and color, fertilize a little later in the spring, Rieke suggests. This will mean less mowing, less nitrogen, and fewer clippings to remove.

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