



AUTUMN 2008  
Upper Valley Edition

# Green Works

Tree Preservation • Turf & Soil Care • Forestry • Land Enhancement



HAPPY FALL! We hope you are enjoying the autumn crispness and marvelous changing colors of our landscape now. As the days grow shorter we are reminded of our many property chores that still need to be accomplished before the snow flies (*see our Fall Checklist*).

We are very pleased with the reception of our new Essential Turf Care program as described in our main article—I know our lawn has never looked better and my wife is especially delighted with the natural approach. As always, I welcome your feedback for any of our services: you can reach me via phone at 802.457.5100 x1103 or via email, [will@chippersinc.com](mailto:will@chippersinc.com).

—Will Russell

## BRANCHING INTO TURF:

### Your Grass *will be Greener*

Over the years we've had numerous requests from our clients for turf care services. As a result, we have created a state-of-the-art program designed to evaluate each lawn in a new way, above and below the ground. This concept involves looking at the whole picture from potential turf problems, to the soil, to the turf micro-climate. With the specific problems isolated, we then can proceed to address any issues at hand by prescribing the appropriate applications. Such a philosophy is not found in traditional lawn care companies, providing us with a unique opportunity to serve our clients in a more comprehensive manner.

The basis for our program development depended upon critical product selection in order to provide maximum results. Hundreds of products were evaluated and only the best have been selected based upon their overall ingredients, historical results, and benefit to the soil based upon common issues found in NH and VT. Our research indicated that many consumers desire a more natural, slow-release lawn care program, thus we chose fertilizer that reflects this trend and provides both organic and natural nutrients, as well as those used for insect or weed control.

*"Hope is the tree that holds the world."*

—PLINEY, THE ELDER

As with our Plant Health Care (PHC) program, we maintain an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) philosophy, and make appropriate treatment recommendations to our clients if significant damage is likely to occur or has begun. Such attention to detail means we can satisfy any demand requiring fertilizer, from slow release, to granular, to liquid applications. With new legislation dictating fertilizer types applied near lakes, streams, and ponds in NH, we also determined there was a great need for a zero phosphate fertilizer in a slow release formulation. Fertilizer provides the elemental basis for turf building and our choices have established the cornerstones of our new Essential Turf Care program.

Many lawn problems arise over time from low soil pH, micro- and macro-nutrient deficiencies, to the wrong grass planted in the wrong location. Multiple issues also arise from poor soil texture, compaction,

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The beauty of the trees,  
the softness of the air,  
the fragrance of the grass,  
speaks to me.

The summit of the mountain,  
the thunder of the sky,  
speaks to me.

The faintness of the stars,  
the trail of the sun,  
the strength of fire,  
and the life that never goes away,  
they speak to me.

And my heart soars.

—Chief Dan George, 1889-1991

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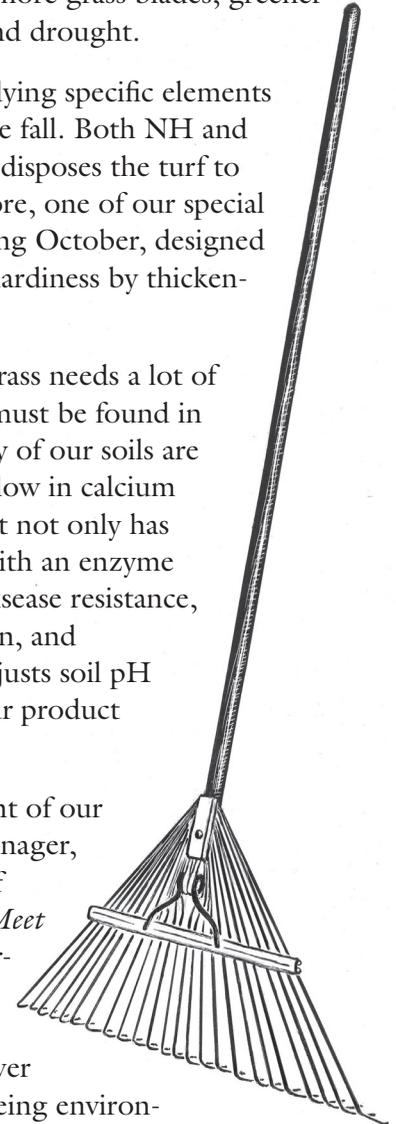
and low organic matter. North Atlantic sea kelp is our top choice for an organic soil additive, not only for the benefit of the grass itself, but also to assist the micro organisms present in the soil. Research shows that sea kelp increases turf root mass due to its vitamin and nutrient content. Why is this important? More roots mean more grass blades, greener lawns, and an improved ability to withstand drought.

Many turf diseases can be reduced by applying specific elements such as potassium (K) at higher rates in the fall. Both NH and VT soils are low in potassium and this predisposes the turf to red thread disease and winter kill. Therefore, one of our special applications is a potassium treatment during October, designed to improve disease resistance and winter hardiness by thickening the grass cell walls.

All lime is created equal, right? Wrong! Grass needs a lot of calcium, an essential micro-nutrient that must be found in the soil if it is to remain healthy, and many of our soils are low in this element. Standard lime is also low in calcium and high in magnesium. Our lime product not only has 95% calcium carbonate, it is also coated with an enzyme that aids in seed germination, increased disease resistance, improved soil texture, reduced compaction, and enhanced drought tolerance. Our lime adjusts soil pH in as little as four weeks, and 500lbs of our product equals 2,000lbs of standard lime!

Finally, an extremely important component of our Essential Turf Care program is its new manager, Theron Peck. Theron has over 20 years of experience in the lawn care industry (*see Meet a Chipper, next page*) and he has the expertise to assess your total turf needs and achieve the results you are seeking. Outcomes are a priority, but doing it right never takes a back seat to our commitment of being environmental stewards.

For more information or a personal consultation, please contact Theron at [turf@chippersinc.com](mailto:turf@chippersinc.com).



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Editor: Mundy Wilson  
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Design: Edie Crocker  
Original Illustrations:  
Betsy Brigham  
Printing: Spaulding Press



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## ASK THE TURF MAN: *Customer Forum*

### Q: What causes moss and what can be done about it in my lawn?

Moss is a common problem in lawns and is caused by several issues usually associated with the surrounding area. Shade, poor air circulation, low soil pH, compaction, and poor soil texture typically supports moss versus turf grass. Moss grows better when turf cannot, i.e. turf usually thins out over time because its environment is unhealthy and moss takes it place. Contrary to common myths, lime is not the “magic” cure for moss control. Moss should be raked away or controlled with an iron application. The soil should be aerated, limed, and then seeded with an appropriate turf grass for the micro climate present. Improving air circulation and light through pruning can also help a great deal.

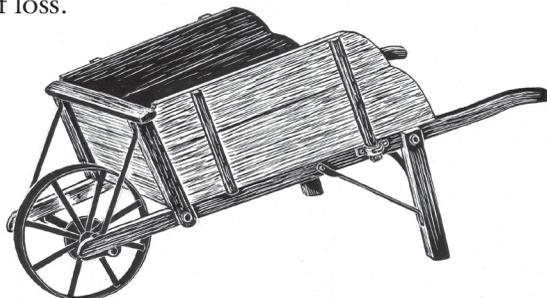
### Q: Is liquid fertilizer better than dry or granular products?

Great question! To any plant, fertilizer is fertilizer because the building blocks are all derived from carbon. However, the mode of delivery can vary based on liquid or dry formulations. Any type of fertilizer can be manufactured to be slow release, an often desirable characteristic. However, liquid fertilizer can also be formulated with the same ingredients and release at the same rate (slow vs. fast). Formulation is simply the way to apply the fertilizer such as spraying liquid versus spreading dry material. So, if we apply 1lb. of nitrogen (N) to a lawn in quick release formulation in both liquid and dry, which would last longer? Neither, the liquid would initially react faster because it was in solution (dissolved), but both products would provide the same overall length of greening. It is like starting a race where someone starts first, and the next runner starts a few minutes later. Both travel the same distance, just one finishes sooner.

### Q: How do I know if my lawn has insect problems?

Most insects prefer heat, which generally means open, sunny locations in your lawn. The weather also plays a big role in what pest is a problem in a given year. Some years, similar to this past summer, chinch bugs were a nuisance. In other years, grubs will destroy turf roots from small patches to large expanses. The best defense is to have your lawn checked periodically by a professional, especially if you are having the lawn treated. Applying products is not always necessary or needed. Some applications can prevent the problem, while others can cure the situation once it is noticed or becomes a threat to turf loss.

[Please email your turf-related questions to: [turf@chippersinc.com](mailto:turf@chippersinc.com).]



## MEET A CHIPPER



Talk about an Upper Valley kid: our new Essential Turf Care Manager, **Theron Peck**, was born in Randolph, VT and grew up in Lebanon, NH. After he graduated from Lebanon High School he attended UNH and graduated with a BS in Plant Science and a minor in Business. Each summer during his college years Theron worked the university research farm monitoring experiments, spraying crops, and driving tractors to help pay his way through college.

Before joining us last January, Theron spent over 20 years living in the Concord area and working his way up from field turf specialist to operational management for TruGreen (formerly Chemlawn), the nation’s largest provider of turf care. His list of green industry credentials is very impressive: ISA Certified Arborist, VT Certified Pesticide Applicator Turf & Ornamentals, NH Senior Supervisory Level Commercial Applicator Turf & Fruit Crops, NH Ornamentals Applicator License and NH Worker Protection Standard Accreditation.

Theron is married to Cindy Peck, whom he met while still at UNH, and she works for Lake Sunapee bank in Hanover, NH. They have two daughters Janell and Kendallyn, both attending school in Lebanon, and three Dutch rabbits named Dexter, Poot, and Muffy.

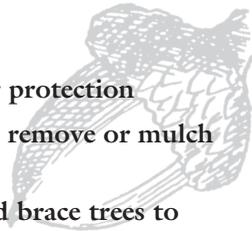
Theron’s hobbies include hiking (he’s a member of the AMC 4,000 footer club, having hiked the 46 mountains in NH over four thousand feet high), reading, writing, listening to music, taking drives in the Mustang GT, and spending time at the ocean.

## Fall/Winter Check List

- Seed, aerate and over seed bare spots in lawn
- Schedule fall/winter tree service
- Arrange for a storm prevention audit
- Schedule potassium application to reduce winter lawn stress
- Plant and/or transplant trees and shrubs



- Plan deer protection
- Rake and remove or mulch leaves
- Cable and brace trees to minimize storm damage
- Schedule anti-desiccant applications for injury susceptible evergreens
- Prune evergreen branches for indoor winter decoration

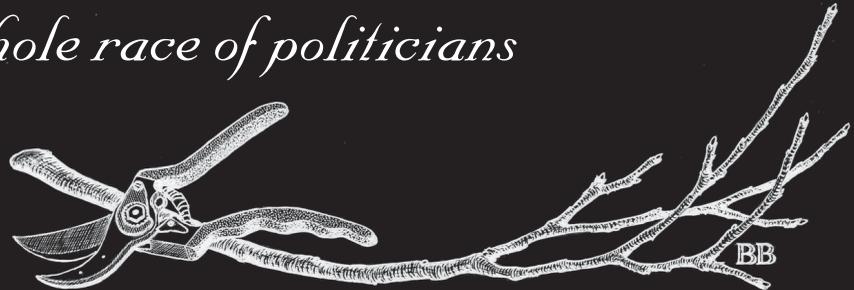


- Remove dead and damaged limbs from trees with maintenance pruning
- Protect roses and other sensitive shrubs with burlap screens
- Remove heavy snow from trees and shrubs after storms
- Prune fruit trees in late winter



*“Whoever makes two ears of corn, or two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before, deserves better of mankind, and does more essential service to his country than the whole race of politicians put together.”*

—“GULLIVER’S TRAVEL’S”,  
JONATHAN SWIFT, 1726



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