



# Turf Talk

## *Potassium*

### *What is Potassium?*

Potassium is the third letter (K) listed in the analysis of fertilizer and is second only to nitrogen in importance, use and need. (The three components of fertilizer are NPK: Nitrogen, Phosphate and Potassium.) New Hampshire and Vermont lawns often test low in potassium, due mainly to the prevalence of sandy soils that have a difficult time retaining the highly soluble potassium.

Smaller doses are applied throughout the growing season via fertilization. However, a supplemental higher rate application is recommended in the fall so your lawn will absorb the extra potassium, preparing it to weather the winter and to thrive next spring. Chippers applies a granular or liquid treatment of Potash from September to November. Since potassium is salty by nature, this heavier application is restricted to the fall to prevent any chance for damage while allowing for maximum effect in the spring growing season. The liquid option is ideal for lawns with steep slopes. Potassium does not contain pesticides and as a pure mineral, is safe for family and pets.

### *Effects of a Potassium Treatment*

During the winter season, turf is put under a lot of additional stress. Potassium is an essential nutrient that improves winter hardiness by increasing your lawn's food reserves, enhancing its root system and reducing

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winter dehydration. It does this by concentrating in the cells of the leaf and root systems. This makes the plant more resistant to moisture loss and lets it keep more of the water it has stored for the winter. This gives the turf a head start in the spring and allows for quick green-up after your spring fertilization.

## *Benefits*

- Improved root development
- Improved carbohydrate (food) storage
- Improved stress tolerance
- Improved heat, drought and disease resistance
- Improved turf response to fertilization
- Improved cold hardiness

*If you are wondering how a potassium application may improve your lawn, please contact us for assistance.*

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