

## GARDENING BY THE MOON - SPRING GARDENING

Submitted by  
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This is the time of the year that you need to start paying attention to your yard. If you do the following 4 things, you will set your landscape up for success through the remainder of the year and avoid most weeds and sprinting away from fire ants.

1. **Remove Freeze Damage** - Now is a good time to trim all the freeze damage off all of your plant materials. This will allow the plants to grow back without any dead or discolored branches or leaves. If plants are putting out at the base of the plant, trim back to where plant is putting out.



2. **Summer Weed Prevention** - Apply a pre-emergent weed control to all turf and beds now to avoid summer weeds. Treatment times for the year are February 15, May 15 and September 15. **Even though it is mid-April, apply now if you did not do so in February or March. It is not too late. It will control weeds that have not germinated. Apply again September 15. Then next year, get back on the three times per year schedule for best results.** Apply Halts, Preen or Pre-M. Selective pre-emergent herbicides are mild materials that effectively control weeds without endangering turf and landscape plants that already have existing roots. They kill only germinating weed seeds.



3. **Post-Emergent Weed Control** – For those weeds that have already germinated, apply a weed control for southern grasses. Make sure the product you purchase is safe for your lawn type.



To control nutgrass and grassy weeds, you can use Image. Always apply any product according to label instructions.



**Note: Do not apply any product that has pre-emergent, post-emergent and fertilizer mixed together. You can easily damage your yard if over-applied.**

4. **Spring Fertilization** - Fertilize your turf and shrub beds now with a 3-1-2 or 4-1-2 ratio fertilizer such as 15-5-10 or 16-4-8 with 40 to 60 percent slow release nitrogen. Use a spreader with edge guard to keep fertilizer off hard surfaces. Fertilize as per the label on the bag. Water fertilizer in after applying.
5. **Fire Ant Control** - Treat your whole landscape (turf and beds) with fire ant control such as Over'n Out in April for 6 month long fire ant control. Apply per label instructions.

Enjoy your landscape!!