

# Stick to right 'recipe' for good lawn care

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SPECIAL WRITER

The questions "When do I fertilize my lawn, when and what do I do to control insects and weeds, and how much water does my lawn really need?" are on the minds of many homeowners now, as the grass begins to green up as warm weather again arrives to our area.

Healthy grass will be less likely to harbor insects or allow weeds to grow. Proper mowing, fertilizing and watering is necessary.

I like to compare fertilization with cooking. If a recipe calls for a particular ingredient and the amount is specified, then the dish could be ruined if "just a little touch more" is added. Think of salt, pepper or other seasonings such as herbs, and how they affect a dish. If too much baking powder or too little yeast is used in a baked product, the

results can be disastrous. Another way to think of fertilizer is like medicine or vitamins — too much can be dangerous.

The labels on fertilizers, pesticides and insecticides are there for a specific reason: to assure that the correct amount of product is used — no more, no less. Reading and following instructions is the first step to responsible care of your property.

## Instructions

Michigan lawns are planted with cool season grasses such as bentgrass, bluegrass, fescue and ryegrass. They will tell you when they need to be fertilized, so watch for indications such as wilting and color change. Use a balanced general purpose plant food (10-10-10). For optimum results, experts recommend the following:

See **LAWN, 12D**

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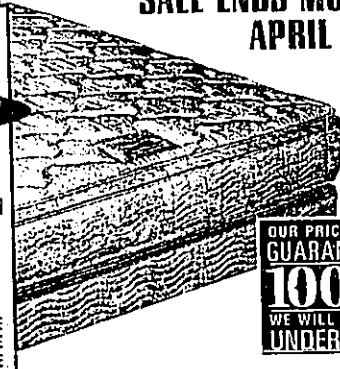
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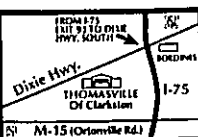
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