

# notes from the garden

## ORGANIC LANDSCAPE FERTILIZATION SERVICE

If you want to maintain your landscape organically but do not have the time or the inclination, Redenta's has a service designed for you. A Redenta's organic lawn fertilization crew will come out five times per year, beginning with a service in late February/early March and continuing every other month with the last service in October.



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### February Treatment

On our first visit we will apply *Redenta's Organic Fertilizer* at a rate of 20-25 pounds per 1000 square feet. Organic granular fertilizers slowly release a mixture of organic nutrients into the ground that continuously work to build a healthy soil. Some gardeners prefer corn gluten meal on the first visit. It is an organic fertilizer and also discourages the germination of any weed seeds that are present. We will give you a choice before the first round begins.

### April Treatment

The second treatment of the year consists of liquid fertilizers (typically *Garrett Juice* or *Bioform*) that are sprayed on the lawn and on all plants, shrubs and ornamental trees. *Garrett Juice* is a liquid mixture of compost tea, molasses, apple cider vinegar and liquid seaweed. *Bioform* is a liquid fertilizer made from fish emulsion, seaweed and molasses. Foliar spraying with these products encourages plant growth and health, reduces stress, and helps build up tolerance to extremes in weather.

### June Treatment

The middle treatment also includes the foliar spray as in the April treatment but on this visit we also apply *Redenta's Organic Fertilizer* as we did on the February visit.

### August Treatment

We will alternate years between humate and dry molasses. Humate is an ancient and concentrated compost, formed naturally over the centuries. Microbes love sugar and dry molasses jump-starts life in the soil.

### October Treatment

Same as June treatment.

The fee for our foliar and granular fertilization service is based on the square footage of the property. Prices start at \$98 per visit for any property up to 5000 square feet (including lawn and beds). Call us and we will be happy to come out and give you a free estimate for your property. Keep in mind that we treat all plants and ornamental trees as well as the lawn on each and every visit.

P.S. If you decide to "do it yourself", the friendly folks in our retail stores would love to talk your ear off about how to start and maintain a program

of organic gardening. Ask them for a free copy of our basic organic program or download it from [www.redentas.com](http://www.redentas.com). We all practice what we preach.

Call the main office at (metro) 817.469.6786 for more information or to arrange for a measure.

## Fertilization Schedule

**Feb/Mar - Granular Fertilizer (or Corn Gluten Meal)**

**April - Foliar Spray**

**June - Granular Fertilizer and Foliar Spray**

**August - Dry Molasses or Humate**

**October - Granular Fertilizer and Foliar Spray**

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# Frequently Asked Questions

## **How do I get rid of these weeds?!**

There is no “magic formula” for removing weeds organically. Since weeds love poor soil, the philosophy of the organic approach is to **build up the soil over the course of time** so that the turf will become thick enough to choke out most of the weeds.

However, seasonal weeds, particularly in the early spring, are a fact of life. Pull them out or spot treat with a vinegar solution (be careful not to spray any on the grass). **Do not use “weed and feed” or other herbicides!** Mow once a week even though the grass is not growing to prevent the weeds from going to seed.

You can substitute corn gluten meal on the February round. Corn gluten meal also can act as an organic pre-emergent weed control. It works by discouraging the germination of any seeds present in the yard when it is applied. However, it doesn't do anything about the weeds that have already germinated and its effectiveness for weed control depends a lot on our spring weather.

## **How will I know when you are coming out to fertilize?**

We come out 5 times, every other month, beginning in February and ending in October. On any given day the crew is in a small geographic area so that we can get to everyone on the schedule for that day. Someone will call you

the day before to let you know we will be out the next day so you can unlock gates or put the man-eating dog away. **We will leave a card on your front door** stating what we have done. We do not know ahead of time exactly what day we will be in a particular area because of weather and crew availability.

## **Am I supposed to water, or not water, after you come?**

Follow the instructions on the card we will leave. It is always a good idea to water in the granular fertilizer within a couple of days. **You must water the corn gluten meal well as soon as possible**, and then try to withhold water for a week or two. If we are applying a foliar spray, even though the plant absorbs the foliar fertilizer within a few minutes, we would like for you not to water within an hour of that application.

## **What areas of the landscape do you fertilize?**

We spread all dry material **on all lawn surfaces and in all planting beds**. We spray foliar fertilizer on all turf areas and on all shrubs, small trees, and plants. We will not spray large native trees since generally they like to be left alone.

## **What if I'm not satisfied with the way my lawn looks?**

Give us a call. Included in your service is one inspection visit by an organic specialist should you need it. Please remember however that we depend upon you to water properly.

## **How do I water properly?**

Most landscapes need a deep watering 2-3 times a week during the warm months so that a full inch of water is applied each week. Use tuna cans or rain gauges to check—don't depend on your automatic sprinkler system to be covering all areas equally. Sandy soils may need watering more often when starting an organic program. During dry spells in the winter, water once a week.

## **What if it rains the day you come out?**

It doesn't matter with the granular fertilizer or any other granular material. Even though the foliar fertilizer is absorbed into the plant almost immediately, we will not spray unless we have a reasonable expectation that it won't rain within the hour. If the weather is misty or drizzly, we will go ahead because those very damp conditions are actually conducive to foliar absorption. We keep a “weather eye” on conditions and will redo a property if it rains before the hour is up.

## **What if I'm scheduled to mow on the day you come out?**

Not a problem as long as you're not catching and removing the grass when it is cut (and, you shouldn't if you're an organic gardener). The granular fertilizer is not affected at all and the plant or turf takes in the foliar fertilizer almost immediately after it is sprayed. If your mowing crew is there when we arrive, we will either wait for them to finish or double back later in the day.

**If you are just starting an organic program, or if you want to “jump start” areas that do not do well, we can introduce microbes into the soil with an application of *Bio-Inoculant* (a liquid that contains microbes). An application of lava sand and greensand or *Redenta's Minerals Plus* will help growth and a half-inch of compost does wonders for poor soil.**