

SOIL BIOLOGY

In healthy organic soil (below left), earthworms and other soil organisms quickly break down thatch and clippings to allow deep moisture penetration and deliver nutrients to roots. Lawns managed with traditional chemicals (below right), can quickly reduce soil microbiology resulting in a buildup of thatch. Roots stay near the surface for nutrients and moisture.



Text and illustration from *The Organic Lawn Care Manual* by Paul Tukey

Available for purchase at safelawns.org

SOIL TESTING

It is best to first identify soil deficiencies before applying fertilizer or lime to new or established lawns. This can be achieved by a routine soil fertility test, which identifies levels of calcium, magnesium, pH, neutralizable acidity, phosphorus, potassium, organic matter and cation exchange capacity. Soil testing is highly recommended when establishing a new lawn from seed or sod. Once the lawn is established a follow-up test every three years in spring or fall will aid in designing a management program to ensure a healthy lawn.

WHAT DO THE NUMBERS MEAN?

The three numbers in the product name refer to the Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Potassium levels in each product; however they do not tell the full story. Plants need over 17 different minerals to thrive.

Nitrogen (N)

Nitrogen is a nonmetallic chemical element that is absolutely critical to plants for normal growth and function. Nitrogen deficiency results in a sickly, yellow-tinged lawn with little resistance to disease or weedy invaders.

Phosphorus (P, provided as Phosphate)

Phosphorus is extremely important in plants for its role in capturing and converting the sun's energy in a reaction called photosynthesis. Turf plants rely on soil organisms to help absorb Phosphorus through their roots.

Potassium (K)

Potassium is a very reactive element of the alkali metal group. It's commonly found combined in minerals and is an essential nutrient for turf, especially when it comes to disease resistance. Potassium also gives plants the ability to withstand the stresses of extreme weather conditions and the strength to stand upright in highly-trafficked areas.

Bradfield Organics® offers a broad range of organic solutions for lawn and garden management. Visit our web site at www.bradfieldorganics.com



GUARANTEE

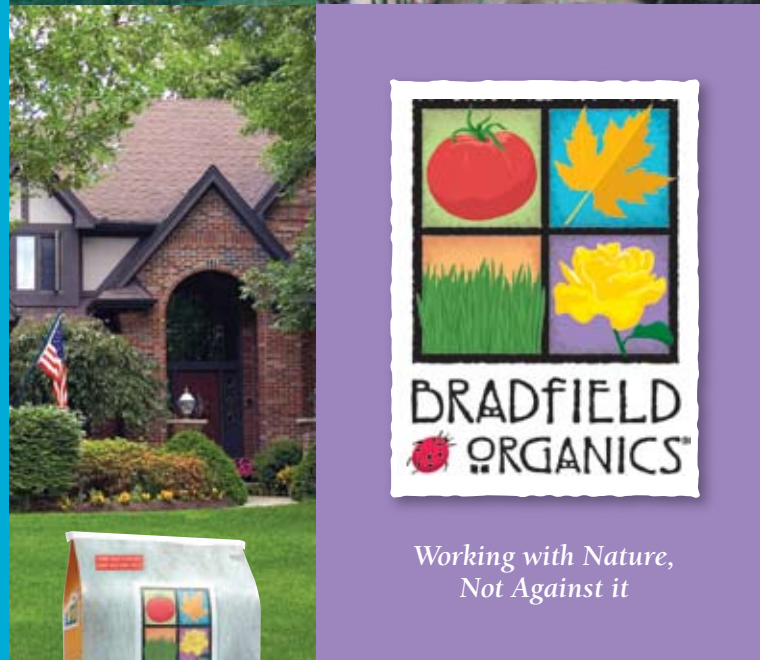
Bradfield Organics® appreciates your business. If you are not satisfied with our product, please return it to the place of purchase for replacement or a full refund.



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Working with Nature,
Not Against it

organic
lawn care
guide



BRADFIELD ORGANICS® PREMIUM LAWN CARE FERTILIZERS ARE:

- Safe for people and pets
- Excellent for developing a rich, green lawn
- Clean, convenient and easy to use
- Non-polluting, safe to use around lakes and streams
- Perfect for lawns and a host of other plants like trees, shrubs, pastures, vegetables, fruits, herbs, flowers and just about anything that grows in soil
- Designed for long-lasting results
- Pleasant-smelling and manufactured from natural ingredients such as alfalfa, molasses, potash, humate and other ingredients which result in wholesome products

Homeowners, landscapers, botanical gardens, sports fields, schools, theme parks and small farms have all successfully used Bradfield Organics® lawn care fertilizers.

WATERING, AERATION & THATCH

In general, early-morning watering is best for grass. Unhealthy buildup of dying grass can compact the soil and restrict growth. If this occurs, it may be necessary to aerate and dethatch your lawn. Over time, Bradfield Organics-fed soil rich in active microbes will incorporate thatch back into the soil and recycle nutrients.

COMPOSTING

Early spring is a good time to add Bradfield Organics® natural fertilizer and some compost to garden beds you'll soon be planting. The fertilizer, compost and soil microbes will interact to make soil nutrients available for seeds and transplants you will soon be putting in the garden. Wait a week to plant, and you will be setting those seedlings into a bed full of readily available nutrients.

CALCIUM AND LAWN CARE

Calcium is also an important but often forgotten nutrient in the plant system and should be present at a minimum of two thousand pounds per acre. For application rates follow guidelines from a soil test. For more information, please visit www.bradfieldorganics.com/science.html

To learn more about the benefits of organic lawn care and gardening, visit www.safelawns.org.



