

# What's New with Pure Prairie



Pure Prairie Organics

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## Greetings Gardeners!

Hi everyone, this is the fourth and last application for the year ... wow, it has gone so fast! In my usual way, I custom blended a dry winterizer for our lawns that includes a substantial amount of gypsum, mixed with high calcium lime, alfalfa (my favorite), meat and bone meal, dry molasses (to feed them little buggies) yeast, dry kelp meal, and ammonia sulfate to kick things off. This mix has a little food for the grass but mostly it is a nice soil conditioner that will digest and become available for next spring. Gypsum is a natural aerator for the soil and the extra calcium creates a friendly environment for the microbes and earthwormies that work so hard to break down the old leaves and grass clippings. The #1 mineral needed by plants is calcium because it is used to strengthen cell walls. By adding lots of calcium to my mixes, we get a nutritionally healthier plant, which can fight off diseases on its own. Plants have an immune system just like we do and if the plants have the proper nutrition they can defend themselves and then we don't need so many chemicals. Neat, huh?

Remember! The food for grubs is fungus and by controlling the fungus we can control the grubs. 95% of the microbes in the soil are good and helping us and by feeding them they will easily crowd out the 5% bad guys that are feeding the grubs. Alfalfa and kelp meal will stimulate good microbes to become active and the molasses will feed them!

The weather forecaster I use says this pattern, with slightly cooler than normal temperatures with occasional rains, will continue well into November. A slight warm-up for the last ten days of Nov. (thanksgiving) and a real drop in temperatures

on Dec 1-2, maybe some flurries. This may be followed by possible heavy snow on Dec 9-10. I hope it works out like this. I will have enough time to fertilize everybody and a heavy snow early will protect all our plants. We all remember the dry weather last winter and the freeze burn that came as the wind dried out our unprotected plants.

Don't worry about aeration or thatch. The microbes will do those things for us so we don't need to have machines do it. And they do it for free, which is way cool!

If it doesn't rain each week make sure you get in and water. Now is a crucial time for plants as they get ready for winter and moisture at this time of year is essential. Trees need it the most and the lawn after that. Water at least an hour per week.

During the summer plants can go dormant but now they are storing food for winter and they need water to make their food. If we go into winter with good root reserves then the plants will be ok in the spring even if we have a hard winter. If the plants have low reserves in the roots then they will be weak in the springtime and diseases and insects will attack. Everything we do now will show up in spring.

That's it for now... as always call me if you have a question!

Thanks!  
Bill

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