

“Ask The Plant Groom”™ by Dale Groom, The Plant Groom™

For: QA1031

Is it OK to prune a live oak now? – D. C.

Shade trees are successfully pruned in Texas year round including live oak.

One of the best times to prune is just as new growth begins to emerge.

How do I get a soil test done? - G. K.

Send you request for a Soil Test Kit to Dale Groom, 10056 Marsh Lane, Suite B-101, Dallas, TX 75229 and include a long, self-addressed envelope. My office will send you a soil test kit ... FREE. Complete the instructions on the information we will mail you, send your sample to the address on the containers with the appropriate fee and the results will be sent directly to you.

Conducting soil testing for nutrients and soil pH every two – three years is appropriate. This activity will let you know what plant nutrients are available as well as the pH.

NOTE: The best source for information regarding turfgrass in Texas is <http://aggie-turf.edu>. One specific service provided is the “fertilizer calculator”.

Here’s how it works and the steps.

1. Enter the website at <http://aggie-turf.edu> or enter aggie turf at Google and then click on the aggie turf website.
2. Click on **Answers 4 You**. It’s on the left hand side, 1st button.
3. Click on **Fertilization**. It’s the 1st button right of center.
4. Scroll down to **Go to Fertilizer Calculator** and click.
5. Follow the steps.

Determining Your fertilizer Need

Step 1. Measure your yard by tape, line, pacing or any other method that works for you to determine how many square feet of actual lawn you have. You may measure

the length and width of your lot and subtract – home, walks, drives and any other areas that will not be fertilized or actually measure the area(s) to be fertilized.

This number will usually be in 1,000. Example – the average Texas lawn is 5,000 sq. ft. Enter your total in the box provided.

Step 2. Determine what rate of (N) nitrogen you want to apply to your lawn. Texas cooperative turfgrass experts recommend 1lb of (N) per 1,000 sq ft. of lawn per application. Enter your number in the box provided.

Step 3. What's the 1st number on the container of the fertilizer you will be applying? Enter this number in the box provided. 15-5-10, 21-7-14 and 19-5-9 are examples.

If you have the average 5,000 sq. ft. Texas lawn and wish to apply 1lb of (N) per 1,000 sq. ft. and the fertilizer used is 15-5-10 the total fertilizer needed for your lawn is 33.3lbs or 6.6 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. For 21-7-14 analysis – 4.7 lbs per 1000 sq. ft. or 23.8 lbs per 5,000 sq. ft and for 19-5-9 analysis – 5.2 lbs per 1,000 sq. ft. or 26.3 lbs per 5,000 sq. ft.

Visit this site. It will answer your question on ... how much fertilizer should I apply?

Remember. (N) or nitrogen is always the 1st number on any brand of lawn fertilizer container. Premium quality long lasting lawn fertilizers has 50% or more of their total (N) in a slow release form or forms. Read the label. If you remain unsure of the slow release (N) content percent ask the manager.

The edges of some leaves on a shade tree in my yard are turning brown. Should I be concerned? - B. C.

The problem most often occurs throughout Texas during our typical July and August “blast furnace” heat. Some trees have more difficulty than others during this time.

Water as needed in the tree's drip line. The drip line is located at the outer most reach of a tree's spread.

Dale Groom, Extension Horticulturist -Dallas County, Author, Radio/TV Host, Columnist is also known state wide as The Plant Groom™. Send your law, garden and landscape questions to dale at dalegroom@mycvc.net

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