

# Time for step 2



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What a Wacky Wet Spring, can we get 2 days in a row with no rain and Sun? Doesn't seem like it. I am seeing **YELLOW**, and with the colder than normal spring that would never go away the dandelions are just waiting for some warm weather, which is predicted for this week end. Great time for Step 2 just before they get a chance to get going. With many just applying Step 1 or still haven't applied Step 1 what do we do now? Read on for your answers.....

**I haven't applied Step 1 yet**, and crabgrass is a problem, it is not too late to apply Step 1, but don't wait too long. Crabgrass germinates when soil temps are 60 degrees or more for 3 consecutive days which has not happened yet, we have been hovering between 48 and 54 degrees for the last 10 days. Check with me in 3 weeks to see if we can apply a Step 2 yet. If this cooler and wetter cycle continues, we can, if it turns hot and dry we are done. The fertilizer can do more damage than good.

**For those who applied Step 1 at least three weeks ago**, you can apply Step 2 now. If you applied Step 1 within the last three weeks you will need to wait on Step 2 until we have at least 3-4 weeks between the steps. If you are experiencing weed issues and have to wait to apply Step 2, apply a liquid weed killer on those weeds that are up now. We have many forms, Ready To Use, Ready To Spray and Concentrates, from 100 sq ft to 6.25 acres to choose from.

**If you just applied Step 2**, which was fine. If this was your first fertilizer step for the year you should apply another Step 2 in 3-4 week but check with me in 3 weeks to see if we can apply a Step 2 yet. I know this gets quite confusing, so contact me, I will help you make sense of it.

Step 2 is what the industry calls Weed & Feed. It kills the broadleaf weeds by contact, so the impregnated fertilizer must stay in contact with the leaf tissue for a couple of days to get a complete kill. It will also fertilize for 6-8 weeks (depending on the weather). Step 2 is a little tricky to apply correctly, so please follow the directions below that fit your lawn and your situation. Remember we want at least 3-4 weeks between applications of Steps.

**Established lawn with few to no weeds.** This is the easy one, apply the Step 2 at any time in almost any weather, except in excess heat (80 plus degrees), high winds, or just prior to heavy rain.

**Established lawn with weeds.** This one is tricky to get the best results. Apply Step 2 a couple days after you have mowed and when the weeds are damp or wet (after heavy dew works well). We need to have the weeds wet so that the leafy tissue of the weed will absorb the fertilizer with the weed killer. Make sure that you do not mow or have the possibility of rain for a couple days after you apply Step 2, as this will knock the weed killer off the weeds. For the few broadleaf weeds that may not be killed with Step 2, you should use a liquid broadleaf weed killer, but only on those weeds.

We have many liquid broadleaf weed killers to choose from, some are ready to use, others need to be mixed with water and applied with a hose end, tank type or pull type sprayer, and some have their own sprayer that hooks up to your garden hose. Just remember to spray on a calm day with temperatures between 60 and 80 degrees.

**Caution.** Remember not to get Step 2 or the liquid weed killer on or near your gardens, flowers, trees or ornamentals. They could be damaged, so avoid these. Also if you will be reseeding your lawn, do not apply Step 2 to that area for at least 3 mows of the new seed.

Here are some of the weeds that I am currently seeing and can be taken care of with either the liquid broadleaf weed killers or Step 2.



Henbit (note square stem)



Chickweed



Clover



Dandelion



Wild Violet

Of these, henbit, chickweed, and clover are hard ones to kill, use a triclopyr type product and, it needs almost ideal conditions to get a complete kill. Dandelions I can scare to death, just by showing it the bottle. I am also seeing a lot of Wild Violets; this is the hardest one to kill and must use a Triclopyr & Trimec combination (Spurge Power). This will take multiple applications to get this one under control.



One last thing ... some have been telling me that they have Crabgrass already. This is not true, crabgrass won't germinate till soils reach 55-60 degrees. It is probably a different grassy weed, like Common Ryegrass, K31 Tall Fescue (see picture) or one of the many other grassy weeds that will find their way into our yards. The worst is the K31, it is a wider coarse blade that grows in clumps and will continue to spread and take over if allowed. If you are not sure what you have just bring me in a sample to analyze.

Going to be reseeding or a new lawn and don't know how to start, what tools to use, or what seed to sow? Dig me up a sample of the dead area as well as the good grass. I will analyze it, determine the best way to reseed and what seed mixture will be the best for your soil, maintenance, and conditions. One of our 11 custom grass seed mixes is sure to match your needs. While in the store be sure to pick up our "Secrets for a Green and Lush New Lawn", it is packed full of helpful hints and other information in starting a new lawn. Remember that we can't reseed till 3 weeks AFTER applying Step 2. The chemical (trimec) will harm the germination of the seed. Soil temps need be a consistent 55 degrees for seed to germinate so don't get too excited if you don't see germination right away. Remember if you applied Step 1 to this area, see ya in the fall to reseed.

In our rental department, we have three different machines, comber, slit seeder, or the core aerator, which can make easy work for reseeding into an existing yard. Speaking of seeding into an existing yard, the soil must come in contact with mud making dirt, so sowing on top of the thatch will not work. Not sure what is thatch, or how much you have? Again, bring me in a sample to analyze.

If you have any questions please call us. We also carry the tools, chemicals and the expertise you need to create that lawn of your dreams. Need mulch? Landscaping Stone? We currently stock 10 types of bagged mulch and 6 types in bulk. Multiple bagged landscaping stone and bulk hardscapes. Don't see what you want? No problem let us know what you are looking for.

Now I need **YOUR HELP**, many people do not know who we are or what we can do for them. If you feel so moved we would appreciate anything you can do to spread our story. Review us on all of the social platforms and be sure to BRAG to your friends, neighbors even your enemies about how well your lawn is doing while saving you some big bucks.

*"Did you know, when you spend \$100 at an independent business, \$68 returns to the local community. Spend that same \$100 at a national chain and it drops to \$43. Source Civic Economics – Andersonville Study of Retail Economics."*

So please consider our great local shops and eateries.

**THANKS FOR KEEPING IT LOCAL !!!! & INDEPENDENT !!!!!**

**REMEMBER: If there is something that you *dislike* about our program, please *tell me*.  
If there is something that you *like* about our program please *tell a friend***