

naturally-based

LAWN CARE

**GUIDE IN A
MONTH-BY-MONTH
CALENDAR**



TREASURE VALLEY
ZAMZOWS LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU



BOISE

6313 Fairview Ave. 208-375-4231
6208 W. State St. 208-853-1616
3691 Federal Way 208-338-8404

EAGLE

435 S. Eagle Rd. 208-939-1231

KUNA

256 W. 3rd Ave. 208-922-5511

MERIDIAN

136 E. Watertower 208-884-8616
545 E. Chinden 208-846-7830
3650 E. Overland 208-695-2960

MIDDLETON

901 West Main St. 208-585-0041

NAMPA

1201 N. Franklin Blvd. 208-465-3626
1518 Caldwell Blvd. 208-466-0282

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naturally-based LAWN CARE GUIDE

IN A MONTH-BY-MONTH CALENDAR



APPLY FOR STEPS



This guide is the culmination of 84 years of our hands-on experience improving Treasure Valley lawns. Its purpose is to provide you with a month-by-month schedule to maintain a healthy, beautiful, and environmentally-friendly lawn. This guide will assist you in the application of the five lawn care products you purchased as part of the Zamzows Lawn Program. If you need advice or have questions about your lawn or landscape care, visit your nearest Zamzows store for our expert support and friendly advice. You can also visit zamzows.com for more information on a variety of subjects.

MARCH

PREVENT CRABGRASS, SPURGE & OTHER GRASSY WEEDS

Apply **Zamzows Defendz Crabgrass Preventer** to your lawn when the soil temperature reaches approximately 50 degrees (about the time forsythia bushes bloom).

CAUTION: Since crabgrass preventers stop all grass seed germination, don't apply crabgrass preventer to areas you will be seeding/repairing in the next 45 days. *Be careful of pet and human exposure to a lawn newly treated with any herbicide or insecticide product.*

PREVENT BILLBUG & INSECT DAMAGE

Apply **Zamzows Duration Grub Control** in early to mid-March to prevent spring season lawn insect damage. The most damaging lawn pest is the billbug in its larvae stage. The Treasure Valley has several billbug species that hatch at different times and must be controlled by two separate properly-timed applications. Re-apply Duration Grub Control in June to control summer billbug infestations.

If your ornamental trees, shrubs, or perennials have had bug problems in the past, consider applying **Zamzows Tree and Shrub Systemic Insect Control**. One application kills insects and prevents new infestations for an entire year. More than any other thing you do for your trees and shrubs, timely application of both **Zamzows Thrive** and Tree & Shrub Insect Control will save you effort and expense throughout the year.

APPLY LAWN FOOD

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Feed your lawn with a first application of **Zamzows Lawn Food**. Our slow-release, natural-based lawn food will bring back the deep green to your lawn.

Apply at a rate of one 25 lb. bag per 2,500 sq. ft. You will need a second application of Lawn Food in about six to eight weeks.

Fertilize your dormant perennials and trees with **Zamzows Thrive**. Thrive provides your perennials with the nutrients and minerals they will need to thrive in the season ahead.

CONTROL EXISTING WEEDS

Start controlling broadleaf weeds that may have overwintered in your lawn and new weeds such as dandelions, clover, thistle, etc. that show up as the temperature warms. Spot spray with **Zamzows Ultra Weed Control**. Most weed killers are only effective above 65 degrees. Ultra Weed Control starts working at 45 degrees, allowing you a head start on weed control. Whenever Ultra Weed Control or other liquid lawn/garden products are used, mix **Zamzows Stay Put** with the liquid product and water in a tank sprayer. Stay Put is a wetting, penetrating, and adhering agent that improves product performance by helping the sprayed mixture "stick" to the plant.

TREAT SOIL FOR HIGH ALKALINE PH

Many lawns in the treasure valley have a high alkaline pH. Apply **Fast Acting Soil Sulfur** to reduce soils high in pH. Reducing the pH releases minerals tied up in the soil and improves the effectiveness of insect and disease preventers.

APRIL

OVERSEED OR INSTALL LAWNS

April is a great time to overseed sparse or previously damaged lawns. Overseeding fills in the sparse areas and thickens the lawn. It's also the best month to lay sod or plant a new lawn from seed. Starting a new lawn from scratch is not a small task and could require more in-depth guidance. Visit your nearest Zamzows store and let us personally assist you with your new lawn.

PREVENT BILLBUG & INSECT DAMAGE

If you have not yet applied **Zamzows Duration** for grub control, apply it now to prevent insect damage in later months.

FEED ROSES

Give your roses a feeding of **Zamzows Thrive**. Repeat feedings monthly until mid-August.

TREAT HEAVY, CLAY SOIL

Apply soil conditioners to your lawn to break up the heavy, clay soil common to the Treasure Valley. We recommend **Zamzows PenaTurf**, an easy-to-apply, all-natural liquid soil conditioner; **Zamzows Pelleted Gypsum**; or **Zamzows Huma Green**. See June for more information on Huma Green.

SET WATERING SCHEDULES

Start watering your lawn an average of $\frac{1}{2}$ " every 4 to 6 days. Pay special attention to the corners of the lawn and other areas that may not be getting adequate water. Using a rain gauge, determine the amount of water that reaches the lawn from each sprinkler station, timing how long it takes to get $\frac{1}{2}$ " of water. Not all stations will deliver $\frac{1}{2}$ " in the same amount of time, so check each one and adjust the timing of each station

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accordingly. Adjustments to sprinkling schedules may be needed depending on weather, especially in the hot summer months.

MAY

Lawn pest damage can start to show up in May. Billbugs and similar pests attack lawns when temperatures rise into the 80s. Watch for small moth activity in or around your lawn. The larvae these moths produce become active very quickly and cause damage to your lawn.

APPLY LAWN FOOD & FEED ROSES

It's time for your second application of **Zamzows Lawn Food**. Allow approximately six to eight weeks from your first feeding. Apply at a rate of one 25 lb. bag per 5,000 sq. ft.

Apply a second application of **Zamzows Thrive** to your roses. It's unique, balanced, trace mineral formulas strengthen your roses, keeping them healthy, naturally.

JUNE | JULY | AUGUST

The stress of high heat, insects, and disease make lawn maintenance a challenge during the summer months. Here are some ways to ease those challenges, keeping your lawn green and healthy during high summer heat.

PREVENT INSECT DAMAGE

Apply **Zamzows Duration Grub Control** in June to control damaging insects above and below ground. Tug on the blades of grass in dead areas. Billbug-damaged grass pulls up easily and is yellow. (Drought-damaged grass does not pull up and appears more blue or gray.) The Bluegrass billbug lays its eggs in April and May, and their larvae usually begin to do serious damage during the heat of the summer. If you discover billbug damage, apply a contact kill grub control to immediately stop larvae that are feeding and be sure to apply Duration Grub Control, as previously mentioned, to prevent further damage for the rest of the season.

AVOID LAWN HEAT STRESS

Basic things you can do to help your lawn deal with summer heat stress:

MOW HIGHER & MULCH

Set your mower height to 4" during the heat of summer. The taller blades of grass will help shade the root zone.

Keep your mower blade sharp and mow often. Leave the small clippings on the lawn to decompose. This will replace needed organic matter in your soil.

BOOST GREEN WITHOUT FERTILIZER

Hot weather is not the time to stimulate grass with heavy fertilizer applications. The residual nutrients from your spring feedings will suffice during the slowed summer-growth period. Instead, apply **Zamzows Huma Green** in June and early July when lawns tend to lose color quality. This organic iron supplement will green your lawn without excessive growth. It's also a great soil conditioner that adds humus to the soil (the equivalent of 1,000 lbs of compost in every 25 lb bag), breaks down hard clay soil, and improves the soil's water holding capacity. Since

Huma Green improves the soil every time it is used, apply it more than once during the year in addition to this summer application.

WATER WISELY

The most important thing in maintaining your lawn is following proper summer watering procedures. Increase watering to 1" every 3 to 5 days as needed.

It's best to water your lawn in the early morning hours for two reasons:

It saves water. On a 100-degree day, almost 30% of the water from your sprinkler can evaporate before it even hits the ground!

Night watering can cause fungal problems. Brown patches, circles, semi-circles, or mushrooms in your lawn can indicate fungus. **Zamzows Defendz Systemic Disease Control** will cure and prevent most lawn fungal problems. Let the lawn care specialist at your nearest Zamzows help solve these problems.

SEPTEMBER

This month begins the rebuilding season for southern Idaho lawns. The cooler nights let the grass breathe a sigh of relief and recover from the heat.

FEED YOUR LAWN

This is the most important time of the year for fertilization—your lawn has not been fed since early summer and needs food to begin the recovery process from summer heat. Feed your lawn with a third application of **Zamzows Lawn Food**. Apply at a rate of one 25 lb. bag per 5,000 sq. ft. (The fourth and final feeding will be six weeks later in either October or November.)

FEED YOUR TREES & SHRUBS

Fall is the ideal time to also feed the trees and shrubs in your yard. Long before the leaves change color, they stop taking up nutrients and take in less water. Apply **Zamzows Thrive** in early September.

MOW LOWER & MULCH

Reduce mowing height to 3" for fall. Continue mowing frequently to recycle organic material back into the soil.

OCTOBER | NOVEMBER

FEED YOUR LAWN TO RECHARGE FOR SPRING

October or November is the time to apply **Zamzows Recharger** (apply approximately six weeks after the September Lawn Food application). Recharger encourages root growth, promotes grass to fill in thinner-growth areas, and feeds slowly over the winter. Apply at a rate of one bag per 2,500 sq. ft.

MOW ONE FINAL TIME

One final mowing in early November will help clean up all of the leaves in your yard. Mow turf to 3" for winter to help prevent some types of lawn fungus.

Relax! You've earned it!



ANSWERS

TO COMMON LAWN QUESTIONS



Q | How do I prevent crabgrass from re-appearing in my lawn every year?

Crabgrass grows from seed each spring and dies after the first fall frost. Apply **Zamzows Defendz Crabgrass Preventer** in spring to prevent crabgrass from germinating in your lawn.

Q | I applied Zamzows Defendz Crabgrass Preventer as recommended, and after several months, I have crabgrass coming up in my yard. Why?

The grass you are seeing may be goosegrass, not crabgrass. Goosegrass leaves a seedhead and looks like crabgrass, but is a different type of weedy grass. It germinates several months later than crabgrass at a time when your first application of Preventer is no longer effective. If you have a goosegrass problem, make a second application of Zamzows Crabgrass Preventer 60 to 90 days after the first application.

Q | How can I get rid of the weeds in my lawn?

Depending on what kind of weeds are growing, your lawn may have problems that you are not aware of. This could be hard, compact soil that is not allowing your turf to become thick and full. You may have a watering problem with not enough water or coverage. You could be mowing your turf too short, thereby allowing the sun to germinate the weed seeds. Even under-fertilized lawns will promote certain weed growth.

Q | When do I apply grub control?

Grub control is a matter of timing to match the hatching of the eggs that the adults have laid on turf blades. There are several different species of billbugs that cause damage. Early-hatching species are active in lawns from March/April to June. Northwest Bluegrass billbug is the most common, and is active from May/June through September. **Zamzows Duration Grub Control** is a season-long control for the "life cycle" of one type of billbug. Apply Duration twice during the year, beginning in early to mid-March to take care of the early-feeding species of billbug, then a second application in mid-June to control the Northwest Bluegrass billbug and other late season feeding billbugs.

Q | What can I use that works against billbug damage?

A lot of products have billbug control listed on the label; however, many products will only control adult billbugs that are above ground. To penetrate the soil and kill the larvae, apply **Zamzows Duration Grub Control** to prevent any future problems.

Q | I have brown spots in my lawn, which are not caused by insects or my pets. What are they?

In many cases the brown spots will be a type of turf fungus. There are more than 10 types of turf fungus in our area. Bring a turf sample in to Zamzows for fungus identification and treatment recommendations. To help reduce the chance of fungus, don't over water your lawn; instead, try to water in the mornings and supplement your grass with a well-balanced lawn food.

Q | How much and how often do I need to water my lawn?

MAR - MAY: Apply ½" of water every 4 to 6 days. If spring weather is unusually dry, water more frequently and begin monitoring moisture levels in March as you may need to water earlier in the season.

JUN - AUG: Apply 1" of water every 3 to 5 days. Water every other day during the intense heat of July and August as needed.

SEPT - OCT: - Apply ¾" of water every 4 to 6 days, decreasing the amount and frequency as the weather cools.

A drought-stressed lawn is more prone to fungal and insect problems, so be sure to check soil conditions throughout the growing season. To make sure that your turf is getting the proper amount of water, use a rain gauge or an open container with a flat bottom to measure the amount of water your sprinklers are putting out and how long it takes to reach the right amount. Also, make sure the coverage pattern is soaking *all* of your turf evenly. Perform these coverage checks when all of your neighbors are watering their lawns; this will allow for pressure drop and water volume (extremely important for gear-drive sprinkler systems).

Q | How often and how long should I mow my lawn?

During slower-growth periods, mow once a week. During peak growth, mow once every five days. Mowing more than third of the blade length is harmful to grasses. Taller turf will help choke out weeds, reduce water evaporation, and generate a healthier root system. Mow grass 3" high during the cooler spring and fall seasons, but raise your mower to 4" during the heat of summer. Maintaining a sharp blade will promote better turf health.

Q | Does the use of a mulching mower create thatch in my lawn?

A mulching mower is one of the best ways to build your lawn's organic content. The mulched lawn clippings will help feed your turf during the growing season. Mulch is totally different than thatch. Thatch is comprised of fibrous root and stems growing just above the soil. This material is high in lignin, a compound resistant to decay by microorganisms. If the thatch layer is more than ¾" thick, removal is a must. Power rake in the spring (late March to April) before the soil temperature becomes too warm, or in the fall (late Sept to early Oct) after the soil cools down. It's important to rake before lawn growth becomes too slow to repair itself. Using a natural-based lawn food will help promote soil microbes that break down thatch, eliminating the need for power raking.

Q | I've heard about Zamzows Huma Green and how green it makes lawns. When should I use it, and can I use it instead of fertilizer?

Zamzows Huma Green is a natural source of humus and a nonstaining, natural source of iron. Hot weather is no time to stimulate grass growth with heavy fertilizer applications. Since Huma Green is a natural source of iron, it greens a lawn without stimulating excessive growth during summer heat. Regular use of a chemical fertilizer burns up the humus, and unless the humus is replaced, the soil becomes compacted and unhealthy. Huma Green is a great soil conditioner because it adds organic matter to the soil—one 25 lb. bag is equivalent to 1,000 lbs. of compost. The humus breaks down hard clay soil, allowing air, water, and nutrients to penetrate the soil and reach the roots of the grass. In addition, Huma Green increases the soil's water holding capacity. This allows you to water more deeply and less frequently, trimming your water expense. Huma Green is recommended for use in hot weather. However, since it improves the soil with each use, it can be used anytime and more than once a season for maximum benefit. *It is not a replacement for fertilizer.* Lawns should still be fed a lawn food in the spring and fall. Huma Green works better and more quickly if there is still nitrogen present in the soil from feeding with lawn food earlier in the spring.

Still have questions? Please call or drop by your nearest Zamzows store.

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