

Nancy Szerlag

Try a little magic for your grass



Because I want my lawn to look good next spring, I make it a point to fertilize in fall. Whether choosing fertilizers for my lawn or garden, I look for top quality, organic-based slow-release products that enrich and feed the soil as well as the plants. Kelp, a processed seaweed, is a renewable soil amendment packed with more than 70 vitamins, amino acids and micro nutrients that help rebuild and restore depleted soil. Kelp also acts as a bio-stimulant that enhances plant growth and development when applied in small quantities.

Micronutrients found in kelp also boost a plant's natural immune system, helping the plant to resist attack from pests, disease and drought.

Humic acid, while not a fertilizer, improves plants' ability to take up nutrients, increases fertilizer retentions, helps break up compacted soils and stimulates beneficial microbial activity. Humic acid also acts as a bio-stimulant. Beneficial microbes, also called biological inoculums, perform a variety of tasks that enhance plant growth naturally. While it's not important to know or remember their names, here's a rundown on some of the tasks these good guys do. Beneficial microbes break down nutrients found in the soil into a form plants can use. Trichoderma strains solubilize phosphorous tied up in the soil, making it unnecessary to fertilize with chemical phosphorous that leaches into the ground water and fouls our lakes and streams. Nitrogen fixers pull this most needed nutrient into the soil straight from the air.

As these beneficial microbes colonize, live and die, their lifeless remains and excremental deposits also improve the structure of the soil.

the addition of a carbohydrate package made up of natural sugars feeds and stimulates the microbial activity until they become established in the soil.

My good news is I have found a new lawn fertilizer called Grass Magic that contains all of the above and more. Along with 53 strains of beneficial microbes, organic proteins, such as feather meal, while rich in nitrogen and calcium, also provide 20 amino acids. Also included in the mix is a complete micronutrient package. And unlike many organic fertilizers, Grass Magic is carefully pelletized and almost dust-free for clean and easy application.

Grass Magic is a premium slow-release, organic-based formula that contains all the ingredients needed to keep grass green, healthy and thatch-free. There is no mixing or messing with liquid sprays or other products. It's dynamite in a single bag. Grass Magic is available at English Gardens, Bordines and Plymouth Nursery. For a local source for Grass Magic call (877) 651-2049.

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