

# Emerald Cut News

972-291-8216

## Pre-emergent Herbicide Application Scheduled for February A Crucial Application For Your Lawns Health

Pre-emergent Fertilizer is a weed killer. It is applied prior to the germination of weed seeds, and they're most effective on annual grassy weeds. Three applications are recommended. One in January, second in March and the third in early fall. Pre-emergent will prevent warm-season annual grassy weeds such as crabgrass and grass burs from materializing in your lawn. The very early fall treatment will usually prevent cool-season grassy weeds such as annual bluegrass, fescue grass, and annual rye. Pre-emergent is safe on any kind of lawn grass, and around trees and shrubs. It should not be applied, however on new lawns until after its' first winter, nor should it be used where you will be planting seeds within the following several months.

The pre-emergent will be applied to all customers on the fertilization program however if you are not on this program and would like pre-emergent applied to your lawn please call Carol to schedule your application visit.

## Stop! Don't Chop!

Crape myrtles can be either a shrub or tree. The primary distinction between a tree and a shrub isn't height— it's the number of trunks. Trees usually have one. Shrubs have many. So by removing most shrub's trunks and lower branches, you can train it into a treelike form.

The beauty of the crape myrtle is that in its tree form it contains several trunks. Keep crape myrtles regularly trimmed or they can revert to their natural shrub form. This includes removing any suckers that sprout near the base of the trunk. Deadheading the dried up buds will also promote more blooms.

It is VERY important however, if you take on the task of pruning your own Crape Myrtle not to chop the branches into big, ugly stumps. Our constant message all winter every year (help us spread it): is never chop any crape myrtle at any time for any purpose. Chopping ruins a crape myrtle more permanently and more quickly than anything else you could do short of driving a tank over it. Never use pruning as a means of reducing height of crape myrtles (there are plenty of shorter varieties), and don't think that heavy winter pruning will do anything to help blooming. It actually lessens it.

Call the office to schedule your professional crape myrtle trimming.

## LATE WINTER

In favorable areas like Texas, late winter can be almost spring-like, especially in a mild winter, but don't be lulled into sowing and planting outdoors

too soon. If the weather turns very cold, seeds won't germinate, and seedlings and plants may not do as well as those sown or planted later. Concentrate your efforts on indoor sowing.

This is an excellent time of year to plant trees in your garden. Before you plant, think about where you want to have shade in your landscape, and then select a tree that fits your needs. Keep in mind that it's a good idea to have shade tree near the house to keep out the sun so that you'll save on electricity during the hot summer months.

## FEBRUARY TO DO LIST

- ☞ Apply pre-emergent fertilizer
- ☞ Trim Crape Myrtles
- ☞ Treat Ants— they move around with more rainfall
- ☞ Treat winter weeds in Lawn
- ☞ Re-apply mulch in beds if needed
- ☞ Pansies, dianthus, and snapdragons can still be planted before hot weather arrives
- ☞ Sprinkler System check and evaluation
- ☞ Lawn Aeration now thru March
- ☞ Spring clean-up
- ☞ Hire Emerald Cut Lawns, Inc.

We are available to do any of the above details. Please call the office to schedule work required on your property



## How to refresh Topsoil

Even a plant that doesn't need re-potting should have its soil replenished yearly.

Remove top 2-4 inches of soil with a fork; avoid harming fragile feeder roots. Refill with fresh soil mixed with slow release fertilizer, and if desired, top with grit.