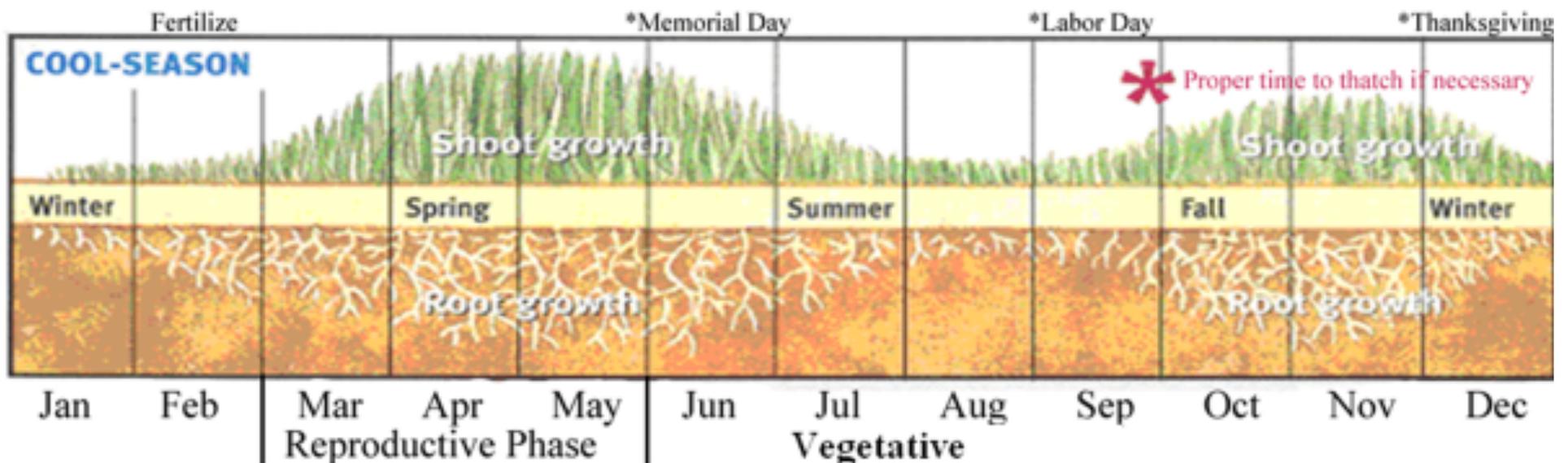


# The Seasonal Life Cycle of Cool Season Turf

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\*Ideal times to fertilize

Please see the handout ***“The Holiday Fertilization Schedule”***



## The Leading Producer of Water Efficient Turf Grass

### “HOLIDAY” LAWN FERTILIZING SCHEDULE

Successful turfgrass management involves creating a healthy, esthetically pleasing stand of grass. Doing this in the spring is relatively easy. Carrying it through into summer can be challenging but getting through late fall and winter can be a real challenge with unsightly fungus and disease problems likely during these long periods of cool weather. The fall is also the season that the turfgrass uses to recover from the stress of summer heat and drought by building up food reserves and building root mass. The temperatures are cool enough to minimize leaf and shoot growth but are still ideal for root activity. Significant research has shown that the ideal fertilization period is during this late summer time period.

Washington State University research conducted in 1998 and 1999 show the benefits of “late season” fertilization improved winter color and quality, as well as better spring color and vigor. Generally, the late season application should be made after the temperature has remained under 57 degrees F - for a week. Usually the soil temperatures will be about 54 degrees – ideal for root activity, but the air temperatures will be below 65 degrees – the ideal temperature for leaf and shoot growth. This natural suppression of shoot growth allows the plant to store food and develop roots. Then, when spring comes, the grass is thicker, full of nutrient reserves and will green up faster and fight off potential health problems better. This allows for later fertilization in the spring – which translates into a healthy green lawn without the extra growth and subsequent mowing.

Plant physiologists recommend a ratio of Nitrogen to Phosphate to Potash of 3 to 1 to 2 with additional sulfur and iron to enhance green color. We carry fertilizer tailored to these plant needs. Our maintenance fertilizer is a 21-7-14 with sulfur at 5.6% and iron at 5.0%

Please be familiar with the directions on proper application, storage of unused fertilizer, and cleanup of equipment to prevent unnecessary damage to your lawn, home and equipment.

When the “Holiday” schedule is followed, you should observe the following in your turf grass:

1. Healthy, well developed root systems.
2. Enhanced color retention in the fall plus early spring green-up.
3. Dense, slower growing turf grass in the spring which promotes:
  - A. Less weed pressures
  - B. Less mowing
  - C. Less disease and insect problems
  - D. Overall healthier lawn at lower maintenance costs

So, remember to invest in your lawn by Memorial Day, Around Labor Day and again around Thanksgiving Day!

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