

## Fertilization

- Don't over fertilize the first year- most plants already have adequate fertilizer from the container (apply ½ rate at most)
- March or early April and again in June or July
- Determining fertilization needs/ amounts
  - Use soil test
    - Provides pH
      - pH controls nutrient availability-most nutrients are available at pH of 6.2
        - Lime used to increase pH (more alkaline)
        - Sulfur used to decrease pH (more acidic)
    - Provides soil type including CEC
      - Soils with **high CEC** (organic/clay) hold on to nutrients more and **require less fertilizer** than those with low CEC (sand)
    - Nutrient status
  - Inspect the plant
    - Stress –abiotic or biotic and age will affect requirements as these impact the plants growth and needs
- Can apply 2 -3 ounces of nitrogen per 100 square feet
- Application area and rate

1) Calculate area to be fertilized

2) Calculate the amount of fertilizer needed for a given area to be fertilized

$$\frac{\text{amount } N \text{ recommended}}{\text{percent } N \text{ in } f \text{ fertilizer}} = \text{fertilizer recommended area}$$

3) Calculate total fertilizer needed for job

$$\text{fertilizer recommended area} \times \frac{\text{area to be fertilized}}{\text{recommended area}}$$