

Wait, I see another one! No, there's just one. Yes, There are definitely two!

April Lawn Care Tips

By Eric Marble of Chanshare Farms

Recently we went into the doctor for a visit because my wife is pregnant. The excitement was there, but under control, because this is the fifth pregnancy and so we felt like we had been through this before and had nothing to worry about. The doctor was finishing up the ultrasound and ready to pack up the equipment and as he moved across the belly he did a double take and stated, "Wait, I see another one! No....there's just one." Long Pause..... "Yes, there are definitely two in there!" The next comment from him lets you know my reaction. He looked at me and stated, "There is a chair right over there. I think you may need to sit down!" We left the doctor's office discussing the implications of having twins. I put the car in drive and, after running over a couple curbs, ended up in a store parking lot. My wife asked what we were doing there. I told her I didn't know and we just looked at each other and laughed. A great feeling of excitement, fear, and confusion combined and bubbled out of us with joy.

Sometimes Spring gives us the same reaction. We see the first signs of flowers and the green sprigs poking out in the lawn and the excitement is almost too much for us to handle. The time to groom the lawn and prepare and plant a garden can't come soon enough. My thought in ending up in the store parking lot was that we needed to start doing something right away, like buying diapers, but the same principle doesn't apply in the yard this month. Too much work, too early in the year, can be detrimental to the health of your lawn. Use April to prepare your lawn for the more difficult summer months by doing the following:

- **Aeration** – After a strong winter like we have had it is good to aerate so that air, water and nutrients have an easier path to the roots. Leave the plugs on the lawn so that you don't steal nutrients from your lawn.
- **Fertilizer** – If you didn't fertilize in the late fall last year it is OK to do a light application of fertilizer with a pre-emergent weed control. Make absolutely sure you do it in the first week of the month though. Otherwise you may lose some of the root growth benefits that come with cool temperatures.
- **Mowing** – Do your first mowing as late in the Spring as you can stand. Cutting blades will signal to the grass that they need to focus energy on regrowing those blades and thereby steal that energy from the roots.
- **Watering** – Use this month to check your irrigation system, but **DO NOT start a regular watering schedule this month**. Check to make sure that heads are spraying properly, coverage is adequate, pressure is sufficient and watering times are accurate. You will probably not need to start watering until sometime in May.

Following these tips will allow your lawn to survive on less water during the hot summer months. Mother Nature is still providing a great amount of moisture and care for your lawn. You don't need to double up. Wish I could say the same about buying diapers.

If you have specific yard care questions please email them to customerservice@chanshare.com. I will either answer the questions directly or address them in a future newsletter.

As always, Happy Gardening!

