



Creat a great masterpiece garden

Your garden is an important part of your landscape design. The color scheme you are going for...the amount of sunlight needed for plants and flowers...all are factors you need to take to mind when deciding how to create the perfect garden.

When it comes to trees, shrubs, garden plants and flowers, quality matters! Charlene Kaus of Moonlight Gardens in Colby has such a great selection of EVERYTHING garden related. No matter what you have in mind, it's the perfect place to find what you are looking for. She has a Horticulture degree and has been in the business for 22 years. So when you're looking for great locally grown garden products or just some professional advice, stop in to Moonlight Gardens of Colby.

Mow, mow, mow your lawn

Whether you like to mow or not, it's a necessity to help keep your lawn looking great. Finding the right equipment is a major factor in helping keep your green grass beautiful.

Each grass type is different and has a height at which it thrives best. Shorter grass tends to have weak areas and needs more water, so a general rule of thumb is to cut grass taller in spring and summer when it's warmer, and shorter in the fall time when the weather cools and growing slows.

At Ag Power Equipment Co., the right equipment is at your fingertips. Try the great line of Dixon ZTR Mowers. Mowing has never been so fun! Just sit back, relax, and let the mower do all the work!



What better source to take information from than from Dana Belshe, Sherman County's K-State Research and Extension agent. With his abundance of handy information, it will be hard to go wrong with your lawn this year.

Nutrition your lawn will love



dana belshe

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May is an excellent time to fertilize cool-season lawns such as tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass if they will be irrigated through-out the summer. Non-irrigated lawns often go through a period of summer dormancy, because of drought and do not need this fertilization.

May is a good time to fertilize because, the springtime flush of growth characteristic of these grasses has tapered off. If you fertilize now rather than April your excessive shoot growth

would be less likely. Slow-release nitrogen sources are ideal. These nitrogen sources promote controlled growth, which is desirable as the stressful summer weather approaches.

Relatively few fertilizers available to the homeowner supply "ALL" of the nitrogen in the slowly available form. But one such product that is widely available is Milorganite. Other such products available in the retail market include cottonseed meal, alfalfa-based fertilizers, and any other products derived from plants or animals. (Bloodmeal is an exception, and contrary to popular belief, the nitrogen it supplies is quickly available.)

These products are all examples

of natural organic fertilizers. They typically contain less than 10 percent nitrogen by weight, so compared to most synthetic fertilizers, more product must be applied to get the same amount of nitrogen. Translation: they are more expensive! Apply enough to give the lawn one pound of nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. For example, if the fertilizer is 6 percent nitrogen by weight, you will need to apply almost 17 pounds of fertilizer product per 1,000 square feet.

Summer lawn fertilizers that contain at least a portion of the nitrogen as slow-release are fine to use as well. Be sure to follow label directions. If cost is prohibitive, you can use the less

expensive quick-release (i.e., soluble) sources, but split the application into two doses as follows: In May, apply enough to give the lawn 0.5 pound nitrogen per 1,000 square feet. Follow with another application in early June.

