



PJC Organic Products & Programs

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PJC Organic

*is the manufacturer of
ProHealthy Turf Organic
Products & distributor of
soil amendments.*

*We provide product, and
support to landscapers,
schools & municipalities
that want to transition
from a conventional
approach to an all
natural organic turf care
program for the
maintenance of their
lawns and athletic fields.*

Practical Approach Proven Products

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In the News: CARES Act

Fred Newcombe

Hopefully as “Essential Services” many of you will not feel the full brunt of the unprecedented economic impact around the coronavirus disease.

There is some help available to small businesses, sole proprietorships, the self-employed, independent contractors, and 501 (c)(3) organizations through the **Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act** that was passed by the Senate on March 25th.

On March 30th, I participated on a conference call with David Solomon, CEO and Chairman of Goldman Sachs, Senators Marco Rubio (Chair) and Ben Cardin (Ranking Member) of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business & Entrepreneurship.

The Senators recognize that we may get through the health effects of this crisis but without an economy to come back to it will mean very little and that it is through the impact of small businesses that our economy may remain afloat. The economic repercussions of this disaster are unprecedented; it appears that Senators Rubio and Cardin and the rest of the committee members had the foresight to begin to craft

programs to address the needs of Small Businesses before the crisis got into full swing.

While the CARES Act may not be perfect it's a start and there will likely be several iterations over the coming months. Many banks are at capacity so the sooner you are able to participate the more likely you are of getting assistance. Unlike the financial crisis of 2008, this is certainly more helpful than anything available to Small Business at that time.

Small business and sole-proprietorships could apply for the PPP program starting April 3rd; self-employed and independent contractors April 10th. PPP loans are available first come first served.

Having already been through the application process for the PPP and EIDL/EEIG programs I would be happy to share our experience. Hopefully, we can help you avoid some of the frustrations, assist you in what documentation is necessary and minimize the time necessary to complete the application process.

Contact us to learn more!

Spring: What a Difference a Year Makes!

Last year at this time we were wondering if we were going to get to experience spring. This year we're wondering when we are going to experience “normal” life again.

At least the lawns we care for are not under the stress they've experienced the last two seasons. It's been a relatively mild winter in the Northeast, with Boston reporting less than 3.6” of snow since January. While air temperatures are not consistently in the 50s, with the increase in daylight it will only be a matter of time and soil temperatures will soon follow.

We've taken a number of soil tests this spring on turf that has been managed organically for several years. I am amazed at the level of earthworm activity so early in the season in

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Weed Spotlight: Common Chickweed

Common Chickweed is a winter annual. Given the mild winter I expect we will see more of it this spring. Winter annuals germinate from seed in the late summer or early fall, live through the winter then flower, set seed and die out the following summer. Winter annuals generally cannot survive the hot summer months.

Chickweed is prolific in its seed production. Common chickweed seed production ranges from 750 to 30,400 seeds per plant, with an average of 25,000 seed per plant.

Preferred Soil / Field Conditions:

This weed likes high fertility soils and thrives in moist soils rich in nitrogen. Common chickweed is an efficient nitrogen scavenger- if leftover nitrogen is available, there will be

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All Natural Fertilizer
+
Soil Amendments
+
Cultural Practices
=
Healthy Turf



Common Chickweed
Stellaria media

Photo credit:
UMASS Weed Herbarium

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Providers of premium
organic fertilizers
& soil amendments.
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What a Difference - continued

soils that I expected to be much cooler. I attribute this to building rich, healthy soil.

Take advantage of this spring!

- ✓ Soil Test to determine soil amendment needs for the season (i.e. lime, organic matter, CEC etc.). Apply as soon as practical in the season; lime can take up to 6 months to have an effect.
- ✓ Spring fertilizer application by the 1st week of May and a second application by the end of June
- ✓ Bare soil is the first-place weeds take hold. Once soil temp's are over 50° slice seed or top dress and over seed thin areas that need a thicker stand of turf.
I recommend perennial rye, fescues, and Bluegrass for spring. Turf Type Tall Fescue has become popular for its drought and wear tolerance; however, I don't recommend it for spring. TTFF likes soils in the 60° - 65° range to germinate so without irrigation it can be difficult to establish before summer.
- ✓ Refrain from aggressive raking which damages the crowns of grass and new growth, removes organic matter & thins turf. Dormant grass isn't thatch!
- ✓ Sharpen mower blades. Mow at 2 ½ for the first couple of cuts to push lateral growth raising height of cut to 3 ½" mid-end of May.
- ✓ If you have an irrigation system check for damage over the winter. Replace any heads that may have been broken. Check your watering schedule. Water deep, 1" week and in the morning.

Soil Testing



Take any course on organic lawn care, view an article on the internet or read a book, the first thing you are told to do is take a soil test. So, you dutifully take a soil sample, send it off to a lab; get the results back – **then what?** If it's not Greek to you, it may be to your clients.

PJC Organic can provide you with soil sampling supplies, the report and product recommendations in easy to understand format.

Contact us to learn more!

Weed Spotlight – continued

more chickweed growth in the fall. This weed prefers neutral soils and dislikes acidic soil conditions.

Annual weeds tend to germinate after a soil is disturbed. For this reason, they can be a serious problem in new turf or landscape plantings and in established plantings if the soil has been cultivated. *Think fall lawn renovation; starting from seed.*

Action:

The desirable cool season grasses we are trying to grow also like high fertility soils with pH near neutral making eradicating this week a challenge.

Cultural Practices will have the biggest impact on weed control. Maintaining a dense, vigorous, and tall lawn (3-3 ½") will help reduce its spread, and conceal its spring growth until it dies back in the summer. In the spring, seed slicing will help thicken the lawn if the weather cooperates.

Organic Turf Care Products from PJC Organic

PJC ProHealthy Turf All-Natural Organic Fertilizers

PJC ProHealthy Turf CHARGE-S3, Soil Conditioner

High CAL and MAG Lime, Gypsum & Humic+Plus



Diamond Grow Humi[K] Liquid, Ful-Grow Liquid
Organic Nitrogen 14-0-0 WSP, Solu-Sea WSP

Coast of Maine

Liquid Crab
Squid, Kelp



30% & 20% Vinegar
Non-Selective Weed Control

Practical Approach + Proven Products