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GardenWise

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How to Mix Gas and Oil for Your 2 Cycle Engine

By Craig Mauney, Extension Agent - Horticulture

You need gas for your weed eater, leaf blower or some other small piece of power equipment and it says some number like 30:1 or 50:1 as the requirement for mixing oil in your gas to fuel up the equipment. Just what does that mean? How much oil do you need to mix into the amount of gas you have. First you need “like” units such as gallons (gal.) or ounces (oz.) to be able to get the correct ratio. Normally gas is in gallons and 2 cycle oil is in ounces so we need to convert one to the other. The easiest is to just convert the gallons to ounces. There are 128 oz. in a gallon.

Example: You want a 50:1 mix. 128 oz. of gas mixed 50:1 - 128 oz./50 parts = 2.56 oz. (Yes when you add in the oil there will be 51 part and this is not a problem as you are mixing a ratio) The equation for those math folks would be as follows:

G = Gallon(s) of gas you have (128 oz. for each gallon)

M = Mix Constant (50 if you are using 50:1)

$$G/M = \text{oz.'s of oil to add} - 128/50 = 2.56$$

See the chart below where the math is already done for you for common amounts. Find your amount of gas on top row and your ratio on the side and meet the two to find out the amount of oil you will need in ounces.

Gal/mix	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5	3.0	5.0	10.0
20:1	3.20	6.40	9.60	12.80	16.00	22.40	32.00	64.00
25:1	2.56	5.12	7.68	10.24	12.80	15.36	25.60	51.20
30:1	2.13	4.26	6.39	8.53	10.66	12.80	21.33	42.66
35:1	1.82	3.65	5.48	7.31	9.14	10.97	18.28	36.57
40:1	1.60	3.20	4.80	6.40	8.00	9.60	16.00	32.00
50:1	1.28	2.56	3.84	5.12	6.40	7.68	12.80	25.60
100:1	0.64	1.28	1.92	2.56	3.20	3.84	6.4	12.8

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Rosemary - The Multipurpose Shrub *by Derek Morris, Horticulture Technician*

While rosemary is most associated with the herb garden, it makes an outstanding evergreen shrub in the landscape. As long as it is planted in full sun and well drained soil, it will thrive with relatively little care. Once rosemary is established, it is very drought tolerant. It is native to the Mediterranean and the name rosemary translates to “dew of the sea.” It has been said that sailors knew they were nearing the coast by the smell of rosemary in the air. There are many myths and legends associated with this herb. One legend has it that Mary covered a rosemary shrub with her blue cloak changing the flowers from white to blue, thus it is sometimes known as Mary’s rose. Many varieties of rosemary have been selected over the years varying in flower color as well as plant form. Most varieties have light or dark blue blossoms and an upright growth habit. However, others can be found with pink or white flowers and a low growing trailing habit. There is even one form that has yellowish foliage. Rosemary usually grows from 4 to 5 foot tall with a 3 to 4 foot spread. It’s very fragrant leaves, which are needle or pine-like, are normally a dark green but some forms have a more grayish cast.

There are likely at least fifty to a hundred varieties out there, but most are not reliably hardy in our zone 7. Cold wet winters are particularly damaging and especially if the soil is not well drained where the rosemary is planted. With the warmer winters we have experienced in recent times, many forms that would otherwise be too tender have survived. There are a handful of varieties that are more cold-hardy than typical. Two of the best of these hardier types are ‘Salem’ which has dark green leaves and ‘Arp’, selected by an herb grower in Texas for its cold hardiness, with more grayish/green foliage. Both of these upright growing forms are great in the landscape as well as used in the kitchen.

Rosemary, especially these two varieties, make an

outstanding evergreen shrub whether used in foundation plantings, as a hedge, or as an accent plant. While rosemary certainly has its place in the herb garden, it does not have to be relegated there. Rosemary will bloom most heavily in March or April but I have seen it sporadically bloom in other months. It is fantastic planted anywhere one can brush by on occasion to enjoy the fresh piney scent. On a steaming hot day, rosemary’s scent will sometimes waft through the air for a fair distance. Maybe those sailors really could smell it when nearing the coastline.



As already stated, make sure rosemary is planted in full sun. Think of it as a sun worshiper, as are so many other herb plants from the Mediterranean region. To make sure the site drains well, be sure and mix in lots of organic matter. You can also mix in small rocks, pebbles or even a little course sand but these

materials are not mandatory. Placing your rosemary on a slight mound that is only one to three inches higher than the surrounding ground and adding organic matter should be sufficient. Any organic mulch will help hold weeds in check. Rosemary is rarely troubled by any insect or disease problems in our area unless planted in the wrong location. Rosemary makes an outstanding container plant and is nice situated on a frequently used patio or near the kitchen door. Rosemary does not



require any pruning other than to occasionally remove a dead or dying branch. Cutting stems for use in the kitchen will encourage bushier growth. Rosemary stems and branches are nice cut and used for indoor Christmas decorating. The strong piney evergreen fragrance seems tailor-made for this use and it sometimes is known as the Christmas herb for this reason.

Adding a rosemary shrub to your landscape or as a potted plant on the patio is a smart thing to do – even smarter is adding several. You will be glad you did.

From the Master Gardener Hotline - Lawn Diseases

By Bert Lantz, Master Gardener Volunteer

Each year we receive calls from homeowners who are concerned about their lawn. There are hundreds of problems that can develop during the summer months, but this article will focus on a few lawn diseases that are prevalent in the Piedmont area.

One of the best ways to prevent turf problems is to keep your lawn healthy. Fertilize in the early spring, during the middle of September and toward the end of November. Set your mower blades at the correct height. For warm season grasses like Bermuda grass keep the height at 1 to 2 inches and 2-3/4 to 3 inches for cool season grass like Fescue. Do not cut grass when it is wet, and remove only 1/3 of the leaf at one time. Let the grass lay as it is rich in Nitrogen and is actually good for your lawn. Thatch is a build up of roots and the lower portion of the leaves that are below the mower blade, and is not caused by grass clippings. Water your lawn in the early morning and water deeply. As a general rule, grass requires 1 inch of water a week, but during periods of drought and high temperatures it may be necessary to water your lawn more often. Aerate your lawn in the fall and over-seed to replace any grasses that have died off. When lawns become too compacted, the soil becomes dense and limits the intake of nutrients. It is also a good idea to walk around your lawn each week and observe so you can correct problems in the early stages of their development.

If you notice blades of grass that are tan or bleached, and from a distance have a red haze, you probably have **Red Thread**. This usually occurs during prolonged periods of wet weather and when overnight temperatures are in the 68 to 75 degree range. In most cases, treatment is not necessary, but a light application of a nitrogen fertilizer may help to improve the appearance of your lawn.

Brown Patch is a more significant problem. It is a fungal disease that is most evident from May to September during extended periods of hot humid weather. The first symptom usually occurs in water-soaked areas. When the leaf blades dry, they then wither and turn brown. The disease appears in roughly circular patches that are light brown, tan or yellow and range from 6 inches to several feet in diameter. This condition may be exasperated by the excess use of nitrogen fertilizer, so don't apply more nitrogen than is necessary. Normally, 1 pound of nitrogen per 1,000 Sq. Ft. of lawn

is recommended. If you have an irrigation system, it may be necessary to monitor the amount of water you apply to your lawn during critical periods described above. Chemical treatment may be required. Chemicals such as Myclobutanil (Dow 20EW), which inhibits components of the fungal cell membrane, Benomyl (Bonide Benomyl Lawn Fungicide), or Chlorothalonil (Spectracide Immunox) to name a few. Others brand names can be found at your local nursery center. Generally speaking, fungicides are usually not needed on blue grass lawns.



Another problem that develops during periods of high overnight temperatures and high humidity is **Pythium Blight**. It can also appear to a lesser extent during cooler periods. It appears as orange or brown greasy like circular spots on the lawn which develop into a circular pattern with the center sections remaining green. This problem is also exasperated by the use of high nitrogen fertilizers, so be careful not to apply excess amounts of nitrogen to your lawn. Chemical treatment may be required to correct or control the problem. Be sure to use fungicides specifically formulated for this disease. It is expensive, and treatment by a certified outside company may be an option to consider.

Sometimes it is difficult to make an exact identification of lawn diseases. The internet is very helpful and illustrates a variety of lawn diseases and offers appropriate treatment. It is always best to rely on articles written by State Universities or Extension Centers. If you can't find the answer you are looking for, you can also take a photograph of your lawn problem and bring it to the Extension Center on Fairchild Road. The agent in charge may be able to recommend treatments for the problem.

LAWN RESTORATION

- It is best to restore lawns in the early spring or better yet, in the fall.
- Start by testing soil, cut existing grass low, spray for weeds, and use Tupersan to control crabgrass. If the lawn is very bad, consider spraying the lawn with roundup, waiting a week and spot spraying again, wait another two weeks, and reseed. Use a dethatcher to scratch the surface, fill in low spots with top soil as needed. Rent a slit seeder and reseed the lawn. Be sure to check the germination date on the seed package to make sure the seed is current.
- After seeding fertilize with starter fertilizer and cover with straw. Water daily to keep seed moist, trying not to let the soil dry out.
- Treat the newly seeded lawn like a baby, and give it care.



FREE Upcoming Program **Organic Pest Control** **in the Community Garden**

When: June 4

Time: 5:30pm - 7:30pm

Where: The Enterprise Center

1922 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Winston-Salem

Would you like to volunteer **in a community garden?**

We can make it happen!

Please contact::

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