

O2

TURN ON YOUR LAWN.™

EXPERT



ADVICE

7 Easy Steps to a Supercharged Lawn

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OK, let's get growing!

EXPERT



ADVICE

LAWN PREP - EARLY APRIL OR FALL

1. RAKE	In early April, start with a light raking. A leaf blower also works well.	Tip There is no need to remove all the dead organic matter from your lawn. What is important is to allow the air back to the root zone and loosen any matted grass.
2. TOP DRESS	If you have any thin areas you want to overseed or if your lawn is low in organic matter, lightly topdress your lawn with a good compost.	
3. AERATE	Aerating is also highly recommended in the spring or fall on heavier soils to increase water and air penetration.	Tip If you have a small traffic area that simply won't grow grass, try taking a garden fork and in the thin area, insert to about 6" and lightly fracture the soil about every 12".
4. OVER-SEED	Use a good quality grass seed containing 50% Kentucky Blue Grass, 50% perennial Turf-type Rye Grass for full sun areas of your lawn. In shady areas you can include seed containing Fine Fescues.	

GENERAL CARE - THROUGHOUT SEASON

5. WATER WEEKLY	Water once weekly with 1" of water, ideally before the heat of the day. Do not water in the evening or during the night if it can be avoided to reduce disease injury. It is also best on heavier soils to water deeply no more than once a week during the cooler weather, occasionally increasing to twice a week during periods of high heat. For those of you with sandy soils it is still important to water deeply, but never more than 2-3 times per week.	Tip If you don't own a rain gauge, simply use a can from your recycling. Place somewhere on your lawn where your sprinkler or irrigation system will hit it and see how long it takes to fill 1".
6. MOW EVERY 5 DAYS	Mow once every 5 days with the mower set at 3-4" (highest deck height). This is probably one of the most important things we can do for our lawn since the leaf of the plant is where everything happens. Also maintain a sharp mower and if possible always mow in the earlier part of the day so any mower injury can heal before the fall of darkness and the chance of disease increases.	Tip If you don't know how sharp your lawn mower is, simply look at the grass a few days after mowing and see if the blade ends are clean cut or torn.

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BOOSTING GROWTH - THROUGHOUT SEASON

7. FERTILIZE

MID-SPRING

Provide a light fertilizing around mid to end of April, with a fertilizer formulation higher in nitrogen with a bit of slow release to ensure your lawn continues to get the nutrients it needs to recover quickly from the long winter dormancy. It is also recommended to use a fertilizer without Phosphorus unless a soil test has indicated it is required since most soils in the area are high in phosphorus already. It's important to measure your lawn and use the prescribed amount on the package. If you are unsure feel free to give our office a call.

EARLY SUMMER

About six weeks later, fertilize again, this time with a fertilizer formulation that has a higher slow release component (50% or higher slow release) for overall strength and good colour.



If you prefer to buy all at once, keep in mind you'll need this fertilizer a total of 2-3 times this year. You may also find it helpful to note the application date on your fertilizer bag or calendar.

MID-SUMMER

Same as last time, about six weeks later again (mid- to late July) with a fertilizer that has again a high slow release content (50% or higher slow release).



In periods of drought, it may be best to reduce fertilization in line with reduced amount of watering.

EARLY FALL

Same as last time, about six weeks later again (early to mid-September) with the same high slow release formula as last time, though you can start to increase the amount of nitrogen the lawn is receiving now that the heat of summer has passed.

LATE FALL

This last fertilization should go on after your lawn has stopped growing for the season and will give a noticeable boost of growth for next spring. This application is one of the more important ones of the year since it encourages strong root development over the course of the winter and the following spring.



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