

LAWN CARE

CALENDAR



Spring (March, April, May)

- ✓ Clean up your yard by raking leaves and dead grass & removing sticks and debris.
- ✓ Test your soil nutrient and pH levels with an at-home kit or a professional analysis.
- ✓ Sharpen mower blades, get a tune-up with a new air filter, spark plug, and fresh gas.
- ✓ Aerate your lawn to open up pathways for air, water, and nutrients to reach the roots. Break up the cores of dirt and leave them on the surface to decompose back into the soil.
- ✓ Dethatch any lawn thicker than a half-inch to avoid suffocating your lawn with a rake.
- ✓ Fertilize. If you live in cooler climates, fertilize in early spring. Warmer climates can wait until mid to late spring. Use a slow-release fertilizer for best long-term results.
- ✓ Apply herbicides for pre-emergent weed control. Consider a pet-friendly herbicide.
- ✓ Mow your lawn slightly lower than usual for the first few times. Then, mow as usual, and leave the clippings to decompose to add nutrients to the soil.
- ✓ Water your lawn so that it gets 1 to 1-1/4 inches of weekly moisture, including rain.

Summer (June, July, August)

- ✓ Keep grass tall. This helps shade the soil, reduce evaporation, and invasive weeds.
- ✓ Treat grubs. These pests are the larvae of Japanese beetles. Dig up a square foot section of sod. Less than 10 grubs is fine. If you find more, you will want to apply treatment.
- ✓ Control weeds. Choose from selective herbicides which will target the weed.
- ✓ Fertilize to increase energy stores for winter. Apply 6-8 weeks before expected frost.
- ✓ Water your lawn. Use a water calculator to give your lawn the ideal amount for your region.

Fall (September, October, November)

- ✓ Keep grass short. Set your mower 1.5-2 inches shorter than in the summer to prevent snow mold and leaves matting into the grass.
- ✓ Test your soil. Make any recommended corrections before winter sets in.
- ✓ Fertilize. Feed cool season grass to encourage strong root growth.
- ✓ Treat with pre-emergent herbicides to prevent winter weeds from germinating.
- ✓ Reduce watering. Your lawn's need for water will decrease as rainy season sets in.
- ✓ Patch & seed. Spread the seed, work it in with a rake, and add a thin layer of straw on top. This will help protect it from the birds and the weather. Water until the grass is an inch tall.
- ✓ Remove or mulch leaves to improve air flow to the grass roots & reduce risk of disease.

Winter (December, January, February)

- ✓ Melt ice carefully. Use ice melts that are designed to be used on grass. Not rock salt.
- ✓ Consider a midwinter edging and trimming to keep your lawn neat.
- ✓ Trouble areas? Take soil samples. Make sure to thaw them out before you test them.
- ✓ Fight winter weeds and apply herbicide as needed.

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