

# SPRING LAWN CARE

Steps to take in the spring.....

1. **Moss Control:** Apply now in March/early April to get rid of moss
  - Use Moss Max granules (Iron) or Moss Max natural Potassium Soap (liquid). Be careful – Iron sulfate will stain hard surfaces, Potassium will not.
  
2. **Weed Control:** Get weeds taken care of early for a weed free lawn in summer
  - Weed Beater Ultra, for cool season use, works on a broad spectrum of weeds
  - Weed Beater FE (aka Captain Jack's Lawnweed Brew) with iron is a natural option and helps with moss. Be careful, it will stain hard surfaces!
  - Weed Beater granules (chemical) is a good Pre and Post emergent option
  - Utilize brush killer (BK-32), Sedge Ender, or Weed Beater Plus Crabgrass for really tough lawn weeds.
  
3. **Thatching/Aerating:** Can help, if needed, to remove thatch build up and/or help with compacted soil. Thatching by rake or power thatcher (rental shop) will really help to remove all the debris at ground level and allow grass to flourish in spring. Aerating machine can be rented or you can hire a company to do it.
  
4. **Topdress/Overseed:** Top-dress if aerating to fill holes, use compost or Top Coat to cover seed if just over-seeding.
  - Cover seed with 1/8" to 1/4" of material, at most
  - Apply 2 to 3 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet – over-seed rate
  - Apply 5 to 6 pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet if bare ground/new lawn
  - One compressed 3 cu/ft bale of compost will cover about 400 square feet as seed cover
  - Top Coat seed cover - 1.5 cu/ft bag will cover about 200 square feet
  
5. **Fertilizer:** Use synthetic with moss control or organic for this time of year.
  - EB Stone Nature's Green is perfect 3 to 4 times a year to keep lawn a healthy green, cut down mowing and have healthier soil (I do 3 feedings each year).
  - Try to avoid the weed and feeds, use something organic like the Nature's Green or Espoma Organic Lawn Food
  
6. **Lime:** Use to help sweeten the soil in spring and fall. Grass grows better in higher pH soil, moss does not. Lightning Lime from Espoma is the best choice for turf! One of best things you can do for turf areas, for sure.

7. **Disease:** Watch for thatch diseases and take care of them early before they take over!
  - Use Revitalize for organic control, try every couple weeks in wet spring until problem is gone.
  - Infuse (systemic granular or liquid) for chemical control. Let liquid dry before letting kids/pets onto turf. Water the granules in to get them down into thatch layer.
  - A good feeding with organic lawn food with Humic Acid also helps it grow through these issues.
  
8. **Crane Fly Larvae:** Watch for adults laying eggs/larvae damage – use Bonide Insect Grub Control now in spring and again in fall if needed
  
9. **Mole Control:** They are there because you have something for them to eat!
  - Use Grub Control to control soil larvae, possibly eliminating their food source
  - Use Mole Max from Bonide to repel them naturally to the neighbors
  - Utilize the sonic spikes to keep them out of the yard
  - Try trap, gas or other options as a last result
  
- **Strive to go people/pet/wildlife safe and utilize organic/natural products on the lawn. This is an incredible help to our environment!**
  
- **Remember, the key to good lawns (and all gardens for that matter) is good soil, and having 6” to 8” (or even more) of good structure. Hard pan layers with 2” to 3” of decent soil on top will not thrive long term!**
  
- **Starting new? Seed is easy, or you can even hire a company to hydro-seed for you. Sod is instant gratification but expensive and it means you will have mesh in your turf!**
  
- **The Humic Acid that is in organic products is one key to soil health – it helps break down nutrients for the turf and helps fight thatch diseases as well!**
  
- **Try to eliminate the “weed and feed” from your property – if you are going with a chemical, try spot spraying the weeds and don’t broadcast the herbicide everywhere!**