

ORGANIC LAWN CARE CALENDAR

Suggestions for a naturally healthy lawn

Late winter: February - March

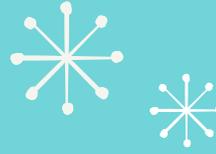
Grass is dormant.

Maintenance

1. Sharpen mower blades
2. Do a soil test to determine organic matter levels

Soil care

Do not apply nutrients or organic matter during this period.



Early spring: March - April

Early root activity begins.

Maintenance

1. Remove winter debris
2. De-thatch if thatch is greater than 1/2 inch

Weed control

1. Overseed any bare spots to prevent weeds from germinating in your lawn.
2. Identify weeds in your lawn: They are indicators of your soil's conditions and provide insights for maintenance.

Soil

Begin to apply soil amendments as indicated by your soil test results so that your soil will be able to support healthy grass.

Mid/late spring: April - June

Rapid shoot growth and slowing of root growth.

Maintenance

1. Overseed weedy or thin areas with Perennial Rye Grass
2. Aerate
3. Continue to add soil amendments
4. First mowing with blade at 2 or 2.5"
5. Never cut off more than 1/3 of the grass blade

Weed control

1. Don't mow too short: Long grass blades will shade out weed seeds.
2. Leave the clippings - they prevent the annual weeds from germinating
3. Pull out dandelions and other weeds when they are blooming to prevent them from maturing seeds and spreading further

Soil

If soil has less than 5% organic matter, is damaged by chemicals and is compacted, then add 1/4"-1/2" of mature compost. Be sure to use tested compost that is clean of weeds and seeds!

Summer: June - August

Shoot and root growth slows.

Maintenance

1. Continue mowing with blade height adjusted to 3.5"

Weed control

1. Pests can be controlled with beneficial nematodes
2. For white grubs, which feed on the grass roots, check their numbers: Only if you have more than 8-12 per sq. ft., can they damage your lawn. Use biological controls such as *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Btg)

Soil

Apply compost tea every 2 weeks to give soil microbes a boost

Late summer: August - September

Shoot and root growth both resume as temperatures decrease.

Maintenance

1. Continue mowing but switch to a height of 2.5"
2. Seed new or renovated lawn
3. Reseed thin spots with Fescue and/or Kentucky Bluegrass

Soil

Apply organic fertilizer if recommended on the soil test taken in the spring.

Early/mid fall: September - November

Shoot growth slows but root growth continues to active.

Maintenance

1. Aerate soil
2. Remove most of the leaves from your lawn and use in your planting beds as protection for overwintering pollinators
3. Time your last mowing (2" height) so that you can shred the last leaves finely and leave them on your lawn.

Soil

1. Apply lime as indicated by soil test.
2. Leaving shredded leaves on the lawn add vital nutrients to the soil.

Winter: November - February

Grass is dormant. Do not apply nutrients or organic matter during this period. **Enjoy a rest and start planning for next year.**

