

Tips to care for Seattle area lawns

These pointers will help your lawn remain healthy and happy. Even if you can only get to a few steps each year, you will see a difference.

Remember you don't need a golf course; just a little love for your outdoor carpets.

Mulching, mowing, and watering

- ✓ Mulch mow your lawn 1.5"- 2" high. This saves water, smothers weeds, and provides nutrients.
- ✓ Mow every week during the growing season trying not to remove more than 1/3 of the height per mow. Spring may require twice a week mowing at times. Remember you won't have to mow in the winter!
- ✓ Water up to 1" a week. For clay soils water once a week for a deep soak. For sandy soils spread the 1" of water into two or three shorter waterings.

March

- Remove moss using a granular moss killer if it is not wanted. A couple of weeks later rake out any dead moss.
- Remove broadleaf weeds by hand.
- Aerate your lawn if soil is compacted. This should be done once a year, either in the spring or fall. Leave pellets on the lawn, they will quickly break down feeding the soil.

April/May

- Fertilize with an organic lawn food, it will naturally slow release.
- Seed your lawn using a mix developed for the Pacific NW. (JB Lawn Seed)
- Top dress your lawn with 1" of compost. Do not use Peat Moss.

July

- If you are watering your lawn, fertilize with an organic lawn food. It is okay if your a lawn goes dormant and yellow in the PNW. Do not fertilize a dormant lawn.

September

- Aerate if needed or not done in the Spring
- Fertilize your lawn with an organic lawn food, it is naturally slow release.
- Seed your lawn using a mix developed for the Pacific NW. (JB Lawn Seed)
- Top dress your lawn with 1" of compost. Do not use Peat Moss.

Fall and Winter

- Keep leaves off of the lawn — sunlight will help it survive the cold dark months.
- Avoid walking on the lawn when soggy, it compacts the soil.
- Frozen lawns will break if walked on.

Note: The lawn care products mentioned here can be found at your local nurseries (such as Swanson's, Sky, and City People's). Please try to use organic products: they will foster beneficial micro-organisms which build soil, feed roots, and give you a better lawn!

