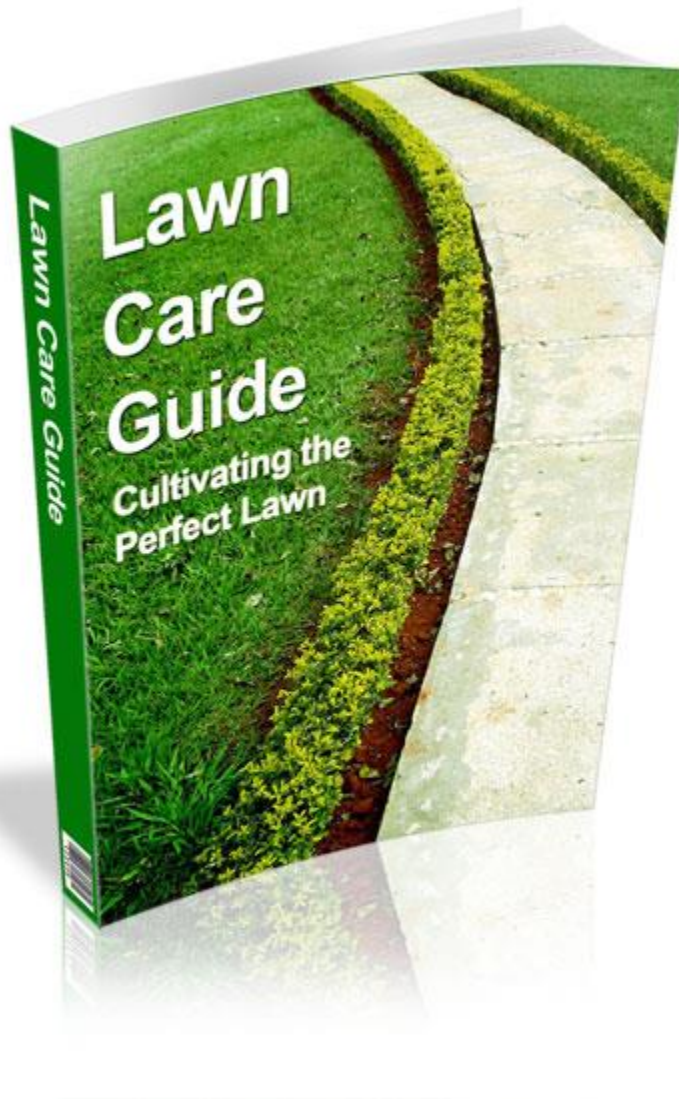


# Lawn Care – The Perfect Lawn

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JB

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## Basics Of Lawn Maintenance

There was once a time when it was a very fashionable to have stately homes and gardens, with a number of gardeners taking care of the garden grounds and lawns. But technological methods have improved drastically since then and one does not have to resort to just a scythe to maintain a well-kept lawn. Nowadays you have a number of gardening implements which can be used for making sure that your lawn is kept in the perfect green velvety form with never a weed daring to raise its impertinent head.

First of all, one has to remember that the basics of lawn maintenance start with the necessary implements. One has to invest in an excellent lawnmower, for example you can buy a good Deere model. It depends upon how large your lawn is. A grass lawn positively enjoys being trimmed drastically, and mowing your lawn is going to be extremely good therapeutic exercise for you when you have nothing else or constructive to do.

And if you happen to be behind a good lawnmower, lawn mowing becomes a positive pleasure. The end result of an excellently well groomed lawn is going to be worth the hassle of lawn mowing. After that, you can always invest in an edger and a trimmer. These can either be manual or even gas and electric models. These can be used for trimming the grass in inaccessible places where no lawnmower has ever gone before.

Along with these tools, you need an implement to spread weed killer as well as fertilizer on your lawn. This is known as a spreader and is basically a tub, which is pushed all over the lawn, spreading the fertilizer or the weed killer evenly over the surface of the grass. The spreaders last a pretty long time, and if you want to add seeds to some areas of on your own, you can buy a spreader which has a rotating handle and can be held in the hand.

It is a necessary fact of gardening that autumn leaves fall and drift down your window every year. However, if they manage to spread a blanket all over the lawn, they are going to dehydrate the grass by not allowing it to get water. That is the reason why it is necessary for you to have a good rake. The collected leaves can be used as compost. The rake can also be used in the winter to remove the snow thatch from the surface of the grass and giving your lawn air to breathe.

It is also necessary to have a shovel with a blade, which is narrow, and the handle, which is long. Rounded blades are good for digging, and doing other gardening tasks. Getting these basic implements organized means you are now prepared to take on the task of caring for your lawn.

## Types Of Lawn Care Equipment

If you are fond of gardens and lawns then it is very important that you use essential lawn care equipment. A garden and lawn can be maintained properly by devoting considerable time to it. You can spend about 20-30 minutes every day in your lawn to keep it green and colorful. There are several types of equipment present today in the market that can help you maintain your lawn entirely.

Lawn mowers are used in the garden to chop the elongated grass. Lawn mowers are available in the market in large variety. You can choose the lawn mower according to the size of your garden and kind of blades that you require. The electric mowers are the recent one and work on two or four stroke engines. They are also available with cord and without cord designs.

Some other equipment that is used in the gardening field is sprayers. Sprayers are used to spray water in the entire garden. There are different types and shapes of sprayers available in the garden. The next in the lawn care equipment category are the tillers. Tilling is very essential to allow the penetration of new seeds in the garden. Tilling cracks the top soil and lets it mix with the seeds. By the process of tilling most of the nutrients are absorbed by the soil and therefore it allows it to be absorbed by the plants and promotes a quality yield.

Carts are used in lawns and gardens to carry heavy objects and waste grass from one place to another. Carts are little expensive than other equipment that are used on lawns. String trimmers are also used as major equipment in gardens that are very sleek in design and are quite long. Blowers are used to maintain the lawns and remove all the dust and non-required particles in it. Blowers do the same work in a lawn as they do in drawing room. They clean up all the unwanted dust and filth and help in making the lawn and rooms more presentable.

Lawn spreaders are used for small lawns whereas the sprayers are used to spray water at larger areas. Most of the people who have private gardens and lawns prefer to use the lawn spreaders to water. The sprayers are used in gardens and various public parks.

Some of the other heavier equipment that also account for making your lawn look beautiful and attractive is the shredder and the aerators.

There are many different kinds of equipment apart from those mentioned above available today in the market worldwide. You can choose between the small and big tools, the simple and the more complex, the manual or motorized according to your gardening needs and requirements.

## The List Of Must Haves In Garden Equipment

If you are a new gardener, you are going to need new lawn garden products. Some people think if they have their bulbs, plants and seeds that they are ready to go. We know you are excited to get started on developing your green thumb, but there are a few products that are necessary purchases. These new lawn garden products will come to your aid countless times as you begin your planting and sowing.

We know that it can be overwhelming to visit a home and garden center. There are so many products that you may be wondering which ones you will need. We have comprised a list of necessary tools for you to take the guesswork out of it.

The proper shovel is important to gardening. If you are going to be digging, you should purchase a shovel that is shaped like a spade. If you are going to be picking up clutter and debris from your soil, you will want to have a shovel that has a flat head. When purchasing a shovel, keep in mind the length of the handle. The longer the handle, the easier it will be to lift when it is full of dirt.

The next thing you should purchase is a rake. The best rakes are made of metal. They last longer and they make raking much easier because the tines will not bend.

Shears are a must for any gardener. Pruning shears come in handy to cut small limbs and for trimming shrubs and bushes. You do not have to spend a fortune on shears, either. Just do not buy the cheapest pair that you find. You want them to last forever.

Loppers, a cutting tool that has a long handle, are good for cutting branches that are up to an inch in diameter. Loppers are good for reaching into sticky areas where pruning shears cannot go.

Hedge shears are a must for any gardener that has shrubs. You can purchase hand shears or electric shears. However, if you have a lot of shrubs, you may want to opt for electric shears.

Please don't forget the garden hose! Many gardeners make a major mistake when they buy a garden hose. They buy one that is too short. Make sure the garden hose you purchase will stretch to all the others you want to water. You should probably invest in a rack or reel for your hose. It will just eliminate a lot of tangles when it comes time to wind up your garden hose.

Every gardener needs a wheelbarrow. You can use a wheelbarrow for many different things around your house. You can move dirt in it, haul wood, plants, or bags of fertilizer in it -- as well as take your children for a ride around the yard!

Lastly, while this is optional, you may want to invest in a tank sprayer. It is a good investment when you are purchasing new lawn garden products. Tank sprayers can be used to apply

fertilizer to your lawn and garden and they can also be used to kill weeds and pests. Sprayers can be purchased in most any size from a small one gallon tank to a large sprayer that is on wheels.

## An Introduction To Lawn Mowers

Lawn mowers are widely used in different countries to clean the gardens and cut the grass short. There are many different kinds of mowers available on the market that are made up of revolving blades at an equal length. Lawn mowers use a blade that is rotating all the time when the motor is turned on and this chops the grass short. The mowers whose blades move in circular manner are known as rotator mowers and have blades around the circular axis. There are different types and kinds of mowers present in the market today.

The traditional mowers used are pushed manually by a person throughout the garden to chop down the grass. The mowers were small and had a long handle that helped in pulling them. But today many new latest designs and technology has been incorporated in mowers that are available in the markets.

The designs and technology has been applied to meet specific purposes. The smallest lawn mower is the traditional form of mower and is used on small lawns and gardens. The large and self contained mowers allow the person to ride on it throughout the garden and chop the grass as well. The mowers today are produced according to the size, shape and angles of the blades used in it. The reel mower is the mechanical kind of mower and the mechanism on which it runs has been altered from time to time.

It has a horizontal cutting blade at the bottom that falls close to the ground and cuts the grass that is long. Such mowers create a helix at the reel axis and there is a set of spinning blades that looks like a cylinder. The spinning blades push the grass out of the cutting bar. Most of such mowers are used on golf grounds and municipal parks. Today there are gasoline powered and electric powered blades also available in the market. They have two stroke or four stroke engine like those in other vehicles that run on roads. They basically have a 2-7 HP engine. Every month new models and versions of such mowers is introduced in the market.

Electric mowers are divided into cordless electric mowers and corded electric mowers. The corded electric mowers have as little noise as a washing machine. They are less heavy and noisy than the mowers that run on fuels and gasoline. They are easily available in the market and can also be purchased online.

Hover mowers are the kind of mowers that are powered by rotary push mowers and use a turbine over the spinning blade and drive the air in the downward direction and hence create a cushion of air that lifts it above the ground as in hovercraft.

## Understanding a Lawn Soil's pH

Before you lay sod or sow any lawn grasses, you should test the soil to determine its pH. The pH scale will range from zero to 14. A neutral soil has a pH of 7. Most lawn grasses prefer to grow in a soil that has a pH between 6.5 and 6.8.

If your soil test shows that the pH of your soil is 5.5 or lower, your soil is acidic. This means that magnesium, calcium and phosphorous are not readily available for your grass like they would be in a neutral soil. Acidic soil is commonly called "sour soil" because the soil's organisms cease to work when the pH dips below 5.0.

If you sow your lawn grasses in this soil, they may grow very slow. The stems of your grass blades may be very pale and they may become diseased. Simply adding fertilizer will not repair the soil levels. You will have to neutralize the soil by adding limestone. The amount of limestone you add will be incumbent upon your soil's pH level.

If your soil has a pH level above 8.0, your soil is alkaline. Alkaline soil is sometimes referred to as "sweet soil." When your lawn soil has a level of 8.0 or higher your lawn grasses will turn pale and yellow because no iron or manganese is available. You will have to correct this condition by spading in iron and sulfate compounds.

Generally speaking, most acidic soils are high in organic material while alkaline soils are high in calcium. Acidic soils generally occur in areas where there is high rainfall, while alkaline soils seem to be more prevalent in areas where there is minimal rainfall.

To ensure that you are getting a proper soil test, you should take it to a professional. Most soil testing rates start at around \$25 and they are well worth it. It can save you much money in the long run and keep you from having to spend the time and money that is involved in sowing new lawn grasses.

When taking your soil sample, you should take samples from 10 to 15 different areas of your lawn. Take a tablespoon of each and mix them together thoroughly. If there is not a soil testing service in your area, you can purchase a home soil testing kit at most any plant nursery. While these tests are not as accurate as the ones completed by professionals, you will have a general idea of what is going on in your lawn's soil.

No one wants to put the time in to sowing or sodding a new lawn only to see it die. The soil that is in your yard is the foundation of your grass. If it is not within its proper pH levels, you will have a problem growing and maintaining the health of your lawn grasses. In fact, if you have any lawn grass problems, checking the soil should be the first thing on your list.



## The Different Types of Grass

Gone are the days when lawns used to stretch up hill and down dale, and could be seen from any window of the stately homes they graced. Even today, you have lawns, which are more than 5 to 10 acres, but they are quite rare. The average lawn is just the pint-sized square in an average white fenced backyard. Nevertheless, a lawn is a must for a person who is a dedicated gardener, because a well-kept lawn seems to be a matter of owner's pride, neighbor's prejudice. There are different types of lawns which can be found in gardens, for example sod lawns and turf lawns and they depend upon the grass, which is used to make them.

First of all, you have to make sure that before you go in for selecting the best grass for your lawn, you have to see whether it suits the soil and the atmosphere. It is of no use planting a drought resistant grass in an area where you can get plenty of water. Fescue is an excellent grass, which makes really good lawns. On the other hand, you can also choose between Kentucky bluegrass, Ryegrass, and even grasses, which can make excellent turf. Fine Fescue comes in a number of varieties, especially Red Fescue. If you happen to be living in a dry area, you would want to look for draught tolerant grasses.

Many grasses are often used in a mixture; for example, Kentucky bluegrass is often mixed with Chewing Fescue, Fine Fescue and Red Fescue. There are some grasses, which are considered warm season grasses and cold season grasses, which are quite suitable for the climate of North America. One has to remember that if there is some rain during the summer months, the grass is going to be dormant. The grass types which are good for cold climates which mean the winters are cold and the summers are hot, are Kentucky bluegrass, Red Fescue, Ryegrass and Bent grass.

If you happen to be living in an area where both the winter and the summer is quite mild you are going to make sure that your lawns, whether they be sod lawns or turf lawns are seeded with grass, which might belong to these different varieties, like St. Augustine Carpet Bermuda, Bahia, and Centipede etc. Many of these varieties grow much better if they are started from sod or plugs instead of seed.

That is the reason why you can get long expansions of sod and turf lawns in such mild climates. There is another different climate zone, which comes under the name of a transition zone. You can consider this to be in a lower elevation area, and the grasses, which grow, here are Ryegrass, Red and Tall Fescue, Kentucky bluegrass, as well as a number of combinations of other grasses with Kentucky bluegrass. Other grasses that grow here are Zoysia and Thermal Blue.

## Enhance The Beauty Of Your Garden Using Lawn Aeration

If you are a proud owner of a beautifully landscaped lawn and love to throw outdoor parties, then regular lawn aeration is a must to maintain the ravishing look of your lawn. Don't panic if the term lawn aeration sounds Greek to you for this is just a simple procedure of removing plugs and cores from the your lawn soil thereby making it more porous and healthier for plant growth.

The soil of our lawns loses its porosity and becomes compacted due to heavy usage while walking, running or even during the rainy seasons. The trampled soil is able to hold less oxygen and neither the water nor the nutrients are able to seep deep inside the earth to the plants roots that results in slower plant growth marring the look of your lawn.

Lawn aeration can be done using mechanical lawn aerators, the device having a drum like structure with spoons or tines attached at its base to remove soil cores. Lawn aerators can be hired from any landscaping firm. The following steps will help you in getting your lawn properly aerated:

The first important step before starting with your lawn aeration routine is to moisten the lawn by watering it thoroughly for a couple of days. For lawn aeration we need moist and not wet soil which may otherwise cling to the aerator's tines.

If you live in an area experiencing heavy rainfall then wait till the soil has dried sufficiently before starting on the aeration procedure.

Once the soil reaches a properly moist state you should use lawn aerator to plough out the soil cores. Aerator should be moved in two different directions for better coverage.

Another important point to be kept in mind before using an aerator is to mark your garden sprinklers, cable and underground wiring lines carefully so that the aerator tines do not damage them. After taking out soil cores use manure and fertilizers on the lawn surface which will replenish the soil.

The best time to carry out lawn aeration in the places experiencing warm climate is in the months of June and July whereas places near the east coast should use land aerators in months of August and September to promote good garden growth

Lawn aeration helps in increasing microbial activity in soil that helps in thatch decomposition. Also the airy soil helps in better penetration of water and other nutrients to the plant roots thereby promoting their faster growth. The other benefits of lawn aeration include increase in the underground water table due to incursion of more rainwater in the soil.

Aerate your lawn at least once every year to enjoy and lush and green lawn forever.

## Fertilizers For Lawns

The feeling of soft lush green grass under your feet, gentle breeze brushing your face while taking a lovely morning stroll in your lawn is surely an endearing thought. To maintain a healthy body we need a balanced diet in a similar manner to enjoy the goodness of a great garden you need fertilizers.

It has been scientifically proven that plants have life so instead of taking our lawn for granted we need to provide it with a nourishing diet to make it grow and glow. Fertilizers for lawns has multiple benefits like promoting the growth of new leaves and the plant roots, they help in controlling and reducing the lawn weeds , in replenishing the soil with the lost nutrients and last but not the least fertilizers help in pest control.

**There are two different types of fertilizers for lawns available on the market:**

**Liquid based fertilizers:** These fertilizers are easy to use and have a faster effect as the soil rapidly absorbs them. All you need to do is to mix liquid fertilizers with water and sprinkle it over the plants. Liquid fertilizers should be used bi weekly or once every 21 days for greater impact.

**Granular fertilizers:** These fertilizers are added to the garden by using a spreader followed by the sprinkling of water. The advantage of using granular fertilizers is that you are well aware of the quantity of fertilizer that is being added to the lawn. They are further available in two varieties: quick release fertilizers which have an impact for a month and slow release fertilizers that last for up to 3 months.

There are few factors to be kept in mind before applying fertilizers on your lawn. Determine the type of lawn grass, find out the soil type and measure the size of your lawn. This information will help you in selecting the right fertilizers for your lawn. Also follow the instructions available on the fertilizer pack about the quantity to be used and how frequently they have to be applied before adding them to your soil.

**Here are some important tips to be kept in mind before applying fertilizers on lawns:**

Mow the lawn and moisten the soil before using fertilizers as a dry lawn can get burnt while sprinkling fertilizers.

Remember, application of fertilizer is not same as the weed control. Hence both the products should not be used simultaneously or in combination.

You should be very cautious while handling fertilizers as they can be poisonous. Always cover your hands with gloves and also wear dust mask while handling fertilizers for your own safety.

The right kind of fertilizers can help you get that lush green garden cover that you so desire.

## How to Choose Fertilizers for New Lawns

Have you ever been to the lawn and garden center and been confused about which fertilizer you need? There are many different formulations and brands of fertilizer for new lawns. The only way consumers can make wise decisions and purchase the right fertilizers for new lawns is to be able to understand the numbers on the bags.

When you go to purchase fertilizer, you will see three numbers listed on the bags. These numbers are important. These numbers will tell you the percent of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium that is in the fertilizer.

The first number that is listed on fertilizer bags is the nitrogen. Nitrogen is good for lawns because it can really help to green up a dull yard. If you already have a mature, existing lawn, you will probably not need a high percent of nitrogen in your fertilizer.

The second number that is listed on fertilizer bags is phosphate. Phosphate helps the grass seed to germinate and it promotes root health. New lawns will need an application of fertilizer that is fairly high in phosphate. The third number that is listed on fertilizer bags is potassium, or potash. Potash helps to strengthen lawn grass. Strong roots and healthy grass is the key to a great ground cover.

You should consider doing a soil test on your soil before you choose a fertilizer for new lawns. Having a soil test can truly save you money in the long run. Who wants to purchase fertilizer if it is not needed? Likewise, you may hurt your lawn by adding things to it that it does not need.

Lawn grass grows best when it is planted in soil that has a pH of 6.2 - 6.5. What this means is that your lawn grass will receive the most nutrients if it is planted in soil within this pH range. Most soil tests will give you recommendations on what amendments or fertilizers you need to add to your soil to get it to the desired pH level. Soil tests will show you the levels of phosphorus, magnesium and calcium that are currently in your lawn soil so you don't make costly mistakes.

If you have cool season grass, such as Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Rough Bluegrass, Tall Fescue, Creeping Fescue, Annual Ryegrass and Perennial Ryegrass, you will want to fertilize your new lawn in the fall. The months between September and December are the best months for fertilization. This will promote root growth and help the grass to be tolerant to heat and drought in the summer heat. It will also help your grass to green up faster in the spring, which is a major plus.

If you have a warm season grass, such as Argentine Bahiagrass, Pensacola Bahiagrass, Common Bermuda, Improved Bermuda, Carpetgrass, Centipede, St. Augustine and Zoysiagrass, you should add fertilizer to new lawns in the spring and summer. The months between April and July are the best time to add fertilizer.

## Preparing Soil for a New Lawn

Are you starting a new lawn? Perhaps you are moving into a newly constructed neighborhood or maybe you are unhappy with your existing yard and you want to completely rebuild it? Whatever the reason you may have for starting a new lawn, we are sure that you want to take all the necessary steps to make sure your work is productive.

Do you want to know what the most important thing is when it comes to starting a new lawn? It is soil preparation. If you have soil that is good condition, your lawn will be easier to keep up in the future and it will cost you a lot less money in the long run.

Prior to starting a new lawn, you should get the soil tested. The test will tell you what is needed to get you soil to the proper pH levels. Your soil may be too acidic or alkaline. Soil testing answers these questions and a lot more. You can take your soil to a laboratory to have it tested, or you can purchase a soil test kit yourself and test it in your own home.

The first thing you should do when starting a new lawn is to remove any debris from the yard. This includes stones, weeds and sticks. If you are redoing an old yard, you will have to remove the old grass.

Next, take a look at the growing area. Is it too high or too low in certain areas? Is it laid out properly to manage rain and water runoff? If so, this can be fixed by scraping or digging off any high areas and using the dirt to fill in any low spots or areas.

After you have laid out the lawn area to the level you want it, you should till the soil. The seedbed needs to be tilled to at least six to eight inches. You should till the seedbed in two different directions.

When you have completed tilling, you may notice that the tiller has brought debris and stones to the surface. Rake these out of the seedbed.

Any amendments that need to be added to the soil should be added at this time. You should also apply a lawn fertilizer to the soil.

After you have added your amendments and fertilizer, you should till the area again. Next, you will need a lawn roller. If you do not have one, you can rent one at a rental agency. Rake the area again.

Apply a light application of fertilizer, again, to the surface.

If you are starting a new lawn with seed, now is the time to spread the seed. Likewise, if you are starting a new lawn with sod, now is the time to install the sod.

It does not matter whether you are starting a new lawn from seed or sod. It should be roped off at this point to minimize traffic. You should also make sure that the entire area is kept moist so the seeds can germinate or the sod can establish its root system.

## Tips for Seeding New Lawns

If you are seeding new lawn, you should know that the best time for sowing is during the late summer and early fall. During these times, the soil is still warm. This allows the fragile germination process to take place and the roots a chance to firmly establish themselves. Seeding a new lawn in the late summer and early fall will keep your new seed from being exposed to high temperatures. It will also cut down on pesky weed problems.

While you can sow seed in spring, it is usually only recommended for warm season grasses. But, keep in mind that while germination can take place in the spring, the new sprouts may not be firmly established before the heat of summer sets in.

To get the best results when seeding a new lawn you should use a hand cranked seed spreader. Many people sow seed by hand and this leads to uneven grass. When you use a seed spreader, you should make sure the spreader is set to the proper seed rate. You should put down two or three applications of seed. Each application should be in a different direction than the previous application.

You should then apply a dressing to your lawn. This will ensure that your seeds are not disturbed. Dressings can include peat moss or straw. After you have sown your seed and applied a dressing, you should use either a lawn roller or a rake to ensure the seed comes in contact with its growing soil. You should then proceed to water the lawn. The lawn must remain moist until the grass seed germinates.

During the first few weeks, you should apply about one inch of water to your new lawn weekly. You should take into account of any rainfall you may have had prior to watering. This will ensure that you do not over water your new lawn.

You should not mow your new lawn until it is at least 2½ inches tall. After the first mowing, it is recommended that you apply a fertilizer to your new lawn. After you apply the turf fertilizer, you should water your lawn. This will help to prevent burn.

You should protect your new lawn from trauma. Keep lawn traffic to a bare minimum during the first month. Do not allow anyone to drive onto your new lawn, ride bikes or do other activities that would damage your new lawn – such as playing a game of volleyball, setting up an elaborate outdoor party, etc.

### Special Tip on Seeding a New Lawn

Before you go out and purchase grass seed, you should make sure you are buying one that will grow in your area. You should also know if the grass you are buying is a cool season grass or a warm season grass. Warm season grasses do best in the southern states, while cool season grasses grow better in the northern states.

As previously stated, warm season grasses can be planted in spring and cool season grasses should be planted in the late summer or early fall. It is important that you know which grass you have and which growing season it will thrive in to make seeding new lawns a rewarding project.



## Watering a New Lawn

If you are looking for new lawn watering tips and you live in a draught region, you have come to the right place. New lawn watering is so important, but if you live in an area where rain is scarce, you will be the one that will have to provide all of the water to your new lawn.

The first thing you have to do in regards to new lawn watering is to find out if there is any water restriction in your town. If there are water restrictions, find out what they are in detail.

The best time to water during a draught is in the morning. This will keep your water from evaporating due to high wind and temperature. Many people who live in a drought region invest in an automatic watering system. This will ensure new lawn watering without having to get out of bed before the roosters.

You should probably avoid using overhead sprinklers during the day. Over half of the water put out by these sprinklers will be lost. A method for new lawn watering during the afternoon that is very productive is soaker hoses. Invest in soaker hoses and run them throughout your yard.

When you do water, try to water less often but water deeply. Water needs to go to a depth of six inches. If you water often but not deep, the bottom soil will not stay moist.

Be mindful of any leaks you may have in your watering system. This is a good practice, especially if you are under water restrictions in your area. Slow leaks can amount up to hundreds or thousands of gallons of lost water every month.

In the chance that you do get rain, have your gutters set up so the water is diverted to your new lawn.

If you are just starting a new lawn and preparing the soil, you should add organic matter that will aid in water retention. You should also probably think about sowing a grass seed that is draught resistant.

Slow down your fertilization routine during the draught times. Fertilizers promote growth which means you will have to water more often. Instead of using weed killers during the draught times, you may need to manually pull them out of your lawn, or simply cut them off at the surface.

Leave your lawn clipping on the grass. They can add moisture to your lawn.

If you are restricted from watering your lawn, you should simply let it go dormant. It will come back to life when water conditions improve. However, you should not mow grass when it is going dormant and not growing. Avoid applying pesticides during times of draught, if possible. Pesticides can cause burns and injuries to grass that may require extra new lawn watering.

## How to Take Care of New Sod Lawns

You have to take care of new sod lawns. Sod is living and breathing and it can die. You should never schedule a delivery of sod until you are ready to install it. Sod should never be stored for more than a couple of days, or all you will have is a bunch of dirt and dead grass!

When you go to purchase sod, you should make sure it is freshly cut. You should also look for sod that has been grown on soil that is similar to the soil in your yard. When you install your sod, try to avoid stretching it or leaving any gaps between them. This will encourage weeds to grow.

You should know that heat can build up inside a roll of sod. As soon as it has been laid, you should take care of new sod lawns by giving them a good drink of water. Allow the water to penetrate to a depth of six inches.

During the first two weeks, you should take care of new sod lawns as if they are dehydrating. You cannot over water them. You can water your new sod lawn up to five times a day. The key is keeping the sod moist so the roots have time to take root. You should keep people and pets off of your new sod lawn if possible until it has had its first mowing. Most sod lawns can be mowed approximately two weeks after installation. However, if your lawn was installed in the cold months, it may be a while before a mowing is required. Keep in mind that it is better to mow high than to scalp your new lawn.

During the third and fourth weeks, you can start to reduce the frequency of watering. While you may decrease the frequency of your watering, you may want to increase how long you water. Sod lawns at this age really like deeper and less frequent watering because it helps their roots to grow deeper to reach water. This establishes your new lawn into the soil and makes it stronger. If you want to check to see if your lawn is getting firmly rooted, simply tug on the turf. At the four week mark, you should apply an application of fertilizer to your new lawn.

### **Problem Solvers for New Sod Lawns**

If you think that your sod is not taking root fast enough, you should know that sod lawns that are planted in excessive shade will have a slow time at putting down roots than sod lawns which are in full sun. Adjusting your watering schedule can help a lawn that is having problems establishing roots. Doing less frequent but deeper soakings may help.

If your sod is shrinking, that is a sign that it is not receiving enough water. Immediately begin increasing the duration and frequency of the watering and the gaps should fill in.

Does your sod have bluish-grey spots? If so, these are drought spots. Take care of new sod lawns by increasing the minutes that you are watering. If you are using a sprinkler to water, make sure it is reaching the areas that are spotting.

## Weed Control On Lawns

Weeds are unwanted plants that steal the nutrition and minerals of the important plants and crops that are growing in your garden. And they may grow on the nutrition and food off your important plants and may hamper their growth. It is very important to protect your plants and garden from weeds. Weeds grow at a much higher speed than the normal plants growing in your garden. Weed control is also known as pest control in which weeds are prevented to reach a mature stage when they can harm the livestock and plants. In order to reduce the amount of weeds there are different weed control strategies that can be applied to prevent its growth.

The most common and preferred method that is applied in order to remove and destroy the weeds is ploughing. Today there are many other chemicals present in the market that can help you decrease the amount of weeds growing in your garden. Herbicides are widely used in different parts of the world to control the growth of weeds.

In domestic gardens there are different methods like covering the area of the garden with many layers of newspaper for several weeks in order to control the amount of weeds. Also, you can use a black sheet instead of newspaper. You keep a newspaper for seven days; it prevents the light of the sun from entering beneath and hence kills the unwanted plants.

Saturating the newspaper that you place on the ground every day helps in the decomposition of the plants that die in this process. The dead plants also help in increasing the nutrition and minerals for the soil. After few weeks you will find most of the weeds are dead and can be removed easily.

If you are using a black sheet then the greenhouse effect will help you in killing the plants and weeds beneath it. The weeds reproduce at a much faster rate than other plants and you will be able to see that they survive most of the adverse conditions as well. It is very important to know the kind of weeds growing in your garden so that you can easily kill them using the correct method and herbicides.

One of the common techniques that are used by growers in different parts of the world is the Stale seed bed in which soil is cultivated and is left for about a week. When the seeds are germinated in the ground, there are increased chances for the growth of weeds that hampers the growth of the plants and eat up their nutrition.

Stale seed bed helps in killing the weeds at the time of germination and helps in retaining the essential nutrients of the soil.

## The Different Seasons of Lawns

Planting a new lawn can be a very rewarding process. The least expensive route to planting a new lawn is to plant grass seed. However, if you choose the wrong kind of grass seed, all of your time and money will be wasted.

Before you go out and purchase grass seed, you should know what type of grass will grow in your environment and growing season. Do you need a cool season grass or a warm season grass?

### Cool Season Grass

Cool season grasses grow best in the spring and fall. If you are planting a new lawn with cool season grasses, it is best to sow your seed in the early fall. During this time the ground still has enough heat to germinate the seed. You can sow your cool season grass in the spring, but keep in mind that it will not have as much time to establish itself before the hot weather season. If you wait until spring to sow your cool season grass, do it as soon as possible. These grasses are popular in the Northern United States.

Cool season grasses include Bentgrass, Kentucky Bluegrass, Rough Bluegrass, Tall Fescue, Creeping Fescue, Annual Ryegrass and Perennial Ryegrass.

### Warm Season Grass

These grasses are meant to be planted in the late spring. Planting in the late spring allows the grass seed to establish itself and take root prior to the hot growing season. Warm season grasses are a favorite from Texas to Tennessee.

Warm season grasses include Argentine Bahiagrass, Pensacola Bahiagrass, Common Bermuda, Improved Bermuda, Carpetgrass, Centipede, St. Augustine and Zoysiagrass.

### Sowing Tips

Whether you are sowing a cool season grass or a warm season grass, sowing seed is all the same. When you are planting a new lawn, you have to have a spreader. If you do not have one personally, you can rent one.

You should apply a top dressing to your lawn. This will help to hold in moisture. This can be peat moss or any other organic matter. Top dressing is best applied using a cage roller and it should be applied in a thin layer.

If you do not want to apply a top dressing, you can rake the seed bed. Use a stiff rake and do not push too hard. Next, you will want to roll the lawn surface. If you do not have a roller, you can easily rent one.

This step is the most important when it comes to planting a new lawn. You have to water your new lawn gently—but thoroughly. You want the water to penetrate to a depth of six inches. To prevent puddles and the washing away of seed, you may have to do this watering in intervals. For instance, three or four gentle watering over a few hours may be what it takes to get your seed bed moist. It really depends on the type of soil you have, so monitor your watering efforts carefully.

You do not want to over water. However, you want there to be enough moisture so the seeds germinate and do not dry out.

## Managing Organic Lawns

Organic lawns basically refer to a garden and its management without using any chemical and artificial fertilizers. Fertilizers do enrich the soil with essential nutrients for once but after some time of its use, the soil becomes barren and loses its fertility. Various other alternatives that are used in order to enhance the yield and production in organic lawns is through the use of natural predators like nematodes that helps in preventing infestation in the lawn with ants and crane fly larvae.

Such pests also assist in avoiding fungal infection and help in physical maintenance like raking and effective mowing. It is very helpful that your plants are protected against any kind of infection or damage arising from unwanted pests and bacteria. Most of the time such pests and bacteria are responsible for decreasing the quality of the yield produced in your garden. Some other natural tillers that are present to help us mix seeds into the soil are earthworms. They enhance the yield and also help in tilling the soil of your garden. These natural tillers are easy to get in the market and are very helpful in maintaining your garden and you don't have to pay them.

Organic lawns are preferred more because of their capacity to add to the biodiversity. It is very easy to apply compost to your lawn using the wheelbarrow. You can also use a push broom to spread it across your lawn. Compositing is very helpful for your lawn as the soil is provided with essential nutrients and minerals that help in the increasing the yield and production of various flowers and plants.

Preparing turf is also very easy. It is very helpful and healthy for the soil of your lawn. The turf must contain various bugs and beneficial microorganism that will not just enhance the quality but will protect various crops and plants from other microbes that cause disease into them.

The fungi and bacteria are the beneficial microorganisms that are found in good quantities in finished compost. There are two different ways in which you can get benefit from compost. It is full of beneficial bacteria, which makes soil mineral rich. In order to settle the compost you will have to prepare the ground of the garden one-day before and must apply it after the grass is established on it. And you must plan for a new lawn and must see that the topsoil is covered with at least 4 inches of compost in order to provide your garden with all the necessary vitamins, nutrients and minerals.

Organic lawns our preferred to those using fertilizers and pesticides because they are natural and you do not have to worry about handling chemicals and the damage that they cause to the health of the people around.

## Let The Experts Care For Your Lawn

Lawns play a significant role in the overall look of the home. A lot of effort, dedication and time are required in order to make a lawn beautiful and healthy. For families lawns are an integral part of their memories as their children grow up while playing there. Lawns are very useful for small family and friends get-togethers and they are eco friendly as well.

So lawns are an important part of the house and family and thus it becomes necessary that they should be taken care of to the maximum possible level. However due to the busy schedules people get little time and it becomes difficult to take care of the gardens. So it's better to hire a lawn care professional who can take good care of the lawn. Optimum level maintenance of lawn can be done only by a lawn care professional. Lawn care professionals understand the requirements and needs of a family very well and they develop the lawn accordingly. Unkempt lawns give the house a disastrous look. It's difficult to spend time in a lawn with a disorderly look.

So if you want your house to look beautiful, attractive and appealing then it is better to hire a lawn care professional. Lawn care professionals are expensive; hence a thorough research needs to be done before hiring one. The most important point to be considered is that one should hire a lawn care professional who is qualified enough for his job. Experience and a good track record for the maintenance of lawn are the important qualities of a good lawn care professional.

Besides these qualities a lawn care professional needs to be aware of the environmental issues because only then he will be able to understand the importance of a chemical free and healthy residential environment. Before hiring a lawn care professional there are few other things also which we must consider such as:

A lawn care professional must have the license as per the government laws. If you are hiring a lawn care professional from a particular company then the company must possess the license or have the relevant memberships and associations.

It is important for you to collect all the information about the annual cost, and the cost, which will incur after each visit of the lawn care professional.

There is a wide range of services, which are offered by the companies so you should be clear about the kind of services you want from the lawn care professional such as seeding, aeration, maintenance, pest control etc.

It is also helpful and extremely convenient, if you hire a lawn care professional from your neighborhood. Most of the companies offer guaranteed services and refunds in case of failure such companies also offer occasional discounts.

It is a must to get all the information prior to hiring a lawn care professional or company and by being a little prudent you can be a proud owner of an amazing, beautiful, and attractive lawn.



## Lawn Care Resources - Landscaping

### Landscaping Software Design, Where To Begin

Not every yard is created equal and some yards need some landscaping. So if you have some ideas and need to plan out how to change your yard to an oasis, then you need the right landscaping software.



There are some fantastic landscaping software programs that will help you design the backyard of your dreams, but there are also some landscaping software programs that are a complete waste of money. The trick is to find out which [landscaping software programs](#) are good before you purchase them.

Many of the landscaping software programs that are on the market for the regular consumer have poor graphics and are not very user friendly. However, commercial grade programs have great graphics and are easy to use but are just too expensive for the average consumer. What you need to find is a commercial grade program at a discount price that won't bankrupt you. Read more...



A [landscaping software program](#) is only a tool to help make your ideas a reality. If you have some great ideas and you want to see if they will work, then a good landscaping program

with great graphics is exactly what you need so you can visualize the landscape of your dreams. Imagine designing your very own backyard oasis...



If you are ready to make your landscape the envy of the neighborhood, then do yourself a favor and check out [ideas4landscaping](#). This program is equal to a commercial grade program with great graphics, easy to use and an economical price. This program has helped so many people get the backyard of their dreams. Check it out and see for yourself.

JB