



Getting Ready for Spring

Future Water Needs

We know it may be a bit early to be talking about watering now, but a little mental preparation now will help when the time comes. **About 1" of water each week**, from rain or irrigation, should be enough for healthy turf. Watering should begin when the top 1" of soil is dry. Don't wait till your lawn turns brown because it will take more water to bring color and vigor back. If you need help with your automatic system, call for a referral to trustworthy, local irrigation company.



Today's Treatment

If no rain occurs within two or three days, please irrigate 1/2". If nighttime temperatures fall below freezing, temporary darkening of the grass may occur. Normal mowing will bring the color back to normal.

We treated your lawn with a complex liquid bio-fertilizer, including a high rate of iron to discourage moss. The nitrogen in the fertilizer was treated to minimize volatilization (movement into the atmosphere) and leaching (movement through soil). All *Plus* lawns received **SoilSeeds**^{®*} (organic microbes to aid in nutrient release and reduce thatch) and **SuperTrace**^{®*} (thirteen essential trace minerals in organic acids).

* Manufactured in Olympia by our sister company Plant Essentials, LLC.

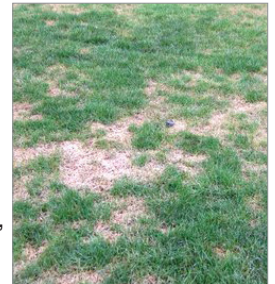
Mow Short in the Spring!

Winter damage and false crowning can be mowed off. **Mow your lawn very short, even if it means removing most of the green blades***. It may take several trips across the lawn to get the desired effect. Then, before you mow again, raise your mower up one notch (about 1/2"). Continue to raise the setting one notch each month throughout the growing season, until summer. A good summertime grass height is 2"- 2 1/2". That's about right for most grass types. We recommend mulch mowing when it's not too wet, leaving the clippings on the lawn (otherwise known as Grass-cycling). Mulched clippings return a portion of the nutrients to the soil, encourage soil organisms, and conserve moisture. Make sure no clumps are left on the surface, since they block sunlight and hinder transpiration and photosynthesis.

**Do this after the lawn begins to show growth in spring; it will recover quickly.*

Winter Fungus Damage

If you didn't have Wolbert's treat for winter fungus, and have brown or bare spots showing now, you may want to consider adding fungus prevention treatments to your program. They are very effective if applied before infection, in October and again in December. Because of product cost, the treatments are more expensive than a fertilizer treatment, but compared to the cost of top dressing and over-seeding, fungus prevention treatments are a smart investment. The results are remarkable.



Residual Microdochium Damage

Notes on Spring Seeding

The best way to ensure successful germination is to wait until soil temps are at least 50 degrees, usually sometime mid-April at the earliest. Soil temps are usually 10 degrees lower than the high daily temps. Warmer temps mean quicker germination. Ideally, the seed would be placed in the soil by either slit-seeding machine (not many of those around town) or after thatching (making sure soil is showing). Aerating and topdressing with 1" of sandy loam topsoil is an alternative to thatching. The seed must have soil contact to survive, no matter how seeding is done. No matter how tempting it might be, scattering seed on the surface without thatching or topdressing is a waste of time and money.

Broadcast the seed at 5-6 lbs.1000/ft, followed by moderate rolling (rental units at Low Rents) to push the seed into the soil. It's imperative the seed doesn't dry out before germination (usually taking under 10 days when soil temps are above 50 degrees), so be prepared to irrigate if rainfall isn't sufficient. If your dominant species are ryegrass, the premium sun loving seed from Country Green Turf Farm is best. If not, go for their sun/shade mix. If you adopt a yearly over-seeding program, the sun loving seed mix will perform well, even in shady areas.

Call our office or send us an e-mail if you'd like referrals for local, reliable companies that provide seeding and/or topdressing service.



Our Bio-Fertilizer makes the difference!

