



G O L D E N A C R E  
H O M E & G A R D E N

SINCE 1967

A large, stylized sun graphic with a bright yellow center and a dark grey outline. The sun is partially cut off by the left and bottom edges of the frame. Several dark grey, rounded rectangular bars radiate from the sun's edge, representing rays. The text "Spring Lawns" is centered within the yellow area of the sun.

# Spring Lawns

# What is a “lawn”?

- Most people immediately think grass.
- Lawn is an area of durable plants grown tightly together and maintained at a “short” height and in a specific boundary.
- Clover, native grasses, sedum, creeping thyme and others are all considered alternatives.
- Lawns are normally suitable for foot traffic and recreation.





# Grass lawns

- The most common type of lawn.
- Relatively easy to maintain.
- Have sun and shade options.
- Can take heavy foot traffic.
- Offers aesthetic value.
- Mitigate erosion.
- Affordable option.



# Snow has gone, what can I expect to see?

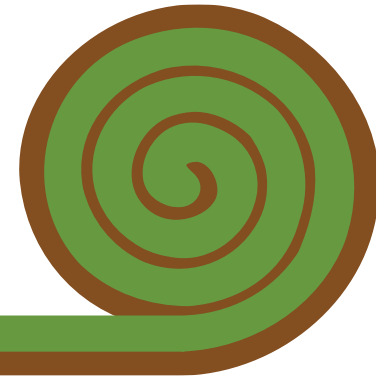
Our lawns certainly see a high level of harsh conditions in the winter. Snow and ice build up, people and pets walking on them.

- Brown leaf blades
- Debris.
- Mold.
- Vole damage.
- Flattened grass.
- Structural damage.



# Where do I start?

- Start gently.
- First, use your grass rake and remove debris and lift the grass blades, this will allow air flow and moisture control.

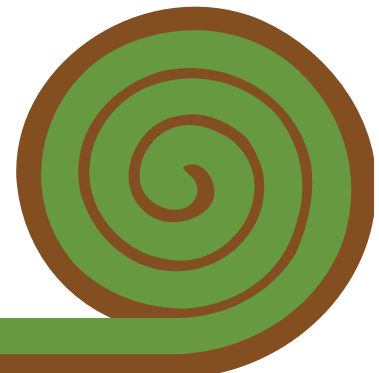


- Once it is dry and has warmed up you can de-thatch.
- After dethatching look at –
  - Top-dressing.
  - Reseeding.
  - Fertilizing.



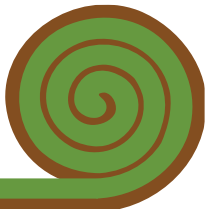
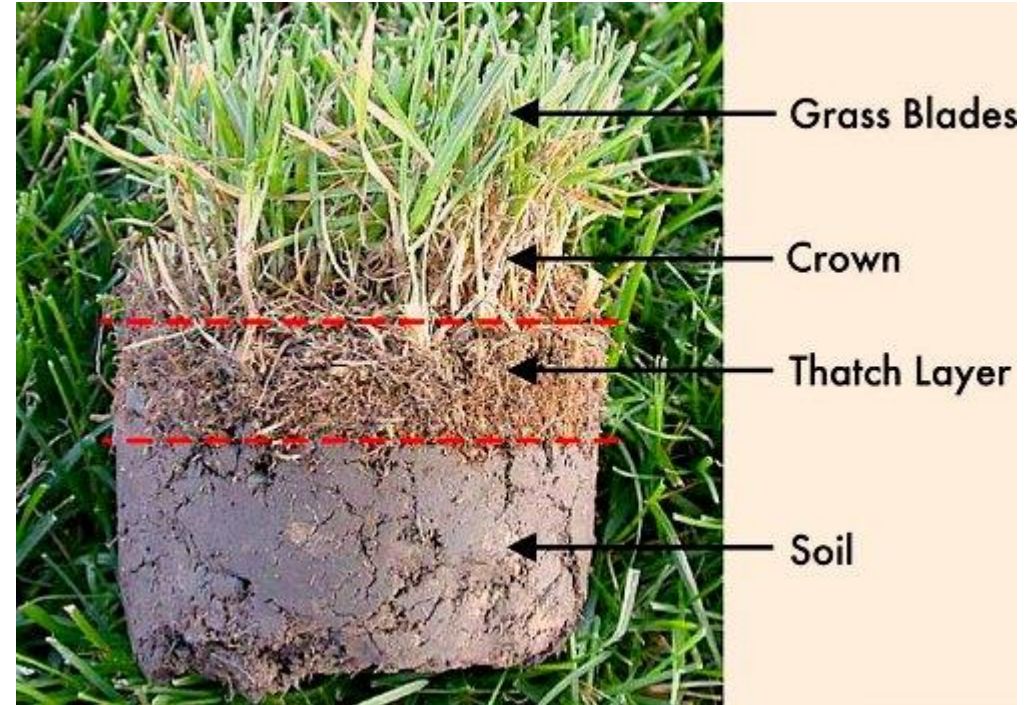
# Gentle cleaning.

- Use a grass, or fan, rake.
- Gentle pulls, non-aggressive.
- The objective is to remove debris (such as garbage, leaves, branches).
- Lift the lawn blades, combined with the removal of debris this will allow the warmth, light and moisture to get to the roots.



# What is thatch?

- Thatch is a natural build up of living and dead plant material that builds up on the soil.
- Thatch helps to protect the lawn against temperature fluctuations, moisture evaporation and root damage.
- If it is too thick it can inhibit moisture, nutrients and overall health of the lawn.







# How and why do I de-thatch?

- Deep, hard raking (can use a power rake) to tear the thatch up from the ground and lift it away from the lawn.
- Only to be done when lawn is dry.
- Ideally after the last frost.
- Done in spring.
- Prior to over seeding or fertilizing.



# What is top dressing?

- Top dressing is the process of adding a fine layer of material to your lawn.
- Usually compost, topsoil, peat moss, sand or gypsum (or a combination thereof).
- The material should only be about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep max. Often it will be thinner.





A person wearing blue jeans and brown shoes is using a metal rake to top dress a lawn. The rake is being pulled across the grass, spreading a layer of dark, rich soil. The background shows a well-maintained green lawn.

# Why do I top dress my lawn?

Improves soil.

Helps thatch break down.

Helps smooth/level lawn.

Protects seeds.

Helps seeds germinate.

Helps damaged lawns.

Aids in moisture retention.



# Lawn seeding.

- Important to know exposure.
  - Sun.
  - Shade.
  - Sun/shade.
- Consider the usage of the lawn.
  - High traffic.
  - Aesthetic value.
- Be aware of the dimensions.
- Seed when the temperatures have warmed up.



# 3 main types of grass seed.

## Kentucky Bluegrass.

- Requires full sun locations.
- Produces a dense, lush lawn. Suitable for high traffic.
- Can be high maintenance.
- Germinates slower than other seeds.

## Creeping Red Fescue.

- Can grow in sun or shade.
- Produces a thick healthy lawn. Suitable for high traffic.
- Tends to be low maintenance.
- Germinates slower than rye grass.

## Perennial Ryegrass

- Prefers full sun locations.
- Often used as a supplement with other grass seeds.
- Can be low maintenance.
- Fastest growing lawn seed.



# Why/how do I seed my lawn?

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- Why?
  - Seed to replenish lawn that may have died.
  - Add seed to thicken a healthy lawn.
  - Over seed to meet changed conditions.
- How?
  - After raking/dethatching, and mowing.
  - After top dressing.
  - Spread seed with spreader or by hand.
  - Lightly cover with peat moss/lawn soil.





## Fertilizing the lawn.

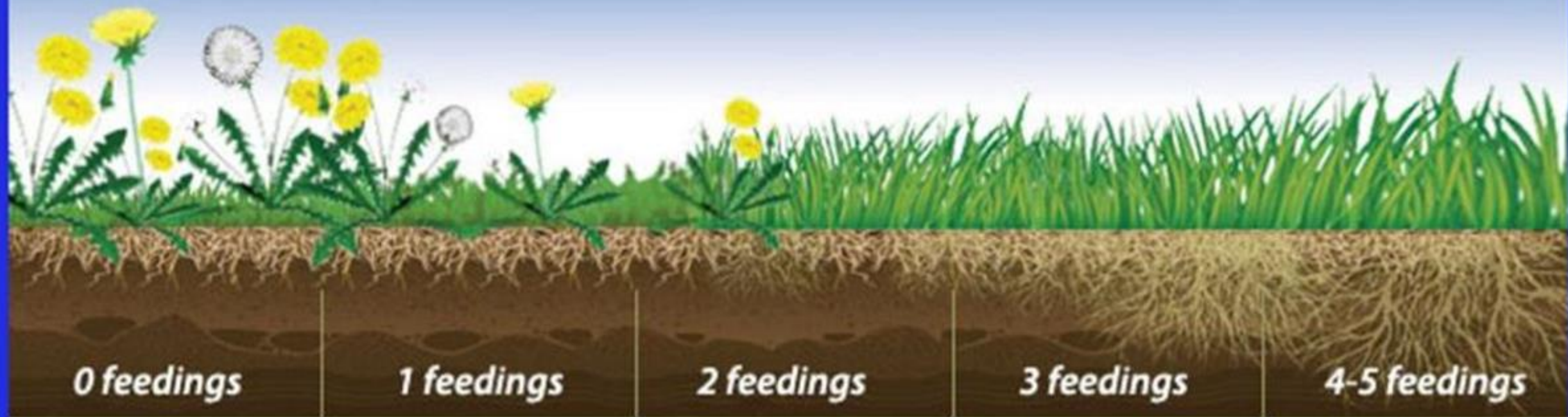
- Promotes active, healthy growth.
- Use spreader, do **NOT** hand fertilize.
- Frequently over-looked
- Helps inhibit weeds.
- Use correct fertilizer for season. Especially spring and autumn.
- Add after top dress and over seeding.
- Follow recommended amount.
- Fertilize regularly, 3-5 times a year.



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## Results Of Yearly Fertilization



### 0 feedings

- Very weedy
- Short root systems
- Few resources

Grass has trouble dealing with stressful periods and die off quickly

### 1 feedings

- A bit healthier
- Slightly denser lawn
- Less weedy

After one feeding, grass will begin to rebound and weeds will begin to disappear.

### 2 feedings

- Thick roots
- Denser lawn
- Much less weeds

Lawn starts to choke off the weeds after two feedings. Lawn is more lush and green.

### 3 feedings

- Much healthier
- Very thick lawn
- Dense root system

After three feedings, lawns will weed free and begin warding off pests.

### 4-5 feedings

At this point, feedings are for upkeep and will allow the lawn to survive a variety of stress factors. A super dense, lush lawn can be enjoyed and easily maintained.

# Watering the lawn.

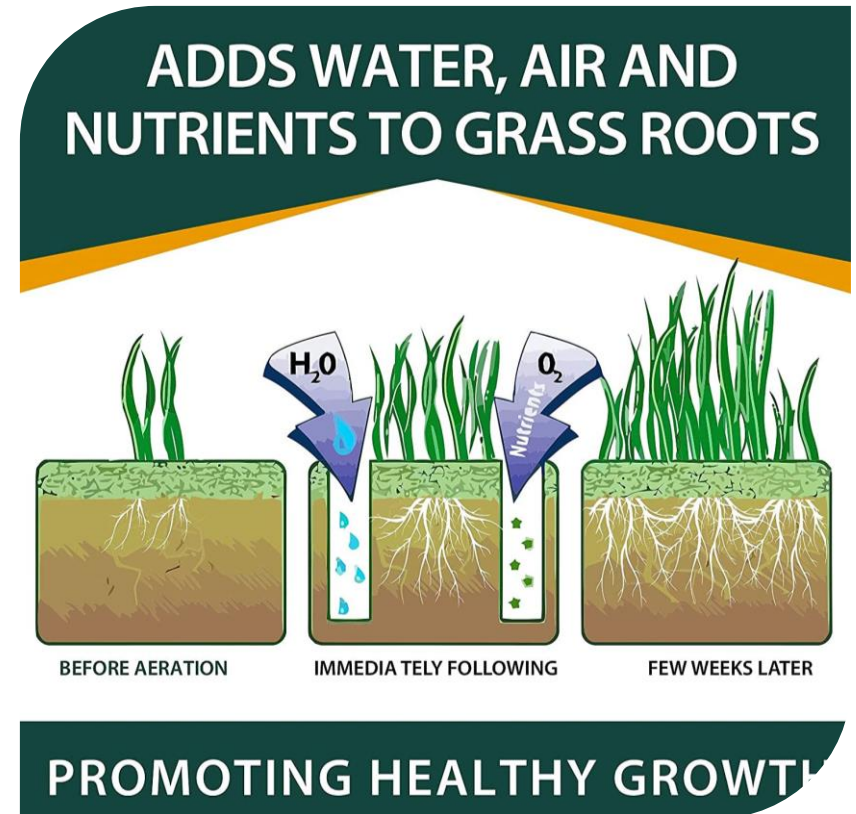
- Essential for a thick, robust, healthy lawn.
- Sprinklers are your friend.
- Ideally low and slow is preferred.
- Best watered early (very early) morning.
- Be careful to not overwater.
- Use the tuna tin or frisbee measurement.
- Water after fertilizing and over-seeding.





# Aeration.

- Aerate only when lawn is severely compacted.
- High traffic areas especially.
- Only when needed, doesn't have to be every year.
- Can be done by hand or machine.
- Ideally rake up plugs.
- Top dress.
- Over seed.
- Fertilize.
- Water.



A stylized illustration of a pink flamingo standing on its right leg in a grassy field. To the left, there are green reeds with two brown seed heads. The word "THANKS!" is written in a pink, outlined, sans-serif font across the middle of the scene.

THANKS!

