

Spring Lawn Care

1. **Aerate and de-thatch:** You will know if your lawn is in need of aeration if you have a significant amount of moss. Moss growth is a good indication that water is sitting on the surface of the soil. If you have a large amount of dead grass in your lawn you may wish to de-thatch your lawn. This will allow air and sun to penetrate for a nice thick lawn. You can rent an aerator or de-thatcher from your local rental company or have a landscaper do this for you.
2. **Apply moss killer:** If you have moss, apply moss killer one-week AFTER liming. It is easier to use the 'ready to use' moss killer, which simply attaches to your hose, allowing you to water the moss killer into your lawn. For best results be sure to apply this on a warm dry day. The outdoor temperature should reach at least 15 degrees Celsius for at least 4 hours after application.
3. **Apply lime** at the rate of one 50-pound bag of Dolo-Pril per 4000 square feet. Dolo-Pril is almost dustless and adds both calcium and magnesium to the soil. Lime will help raise your pH, allowing better uptake of nutrient by your lawn. This way all of your fertilizer will be able to be absorbed by the grass.
4. **Rake:** Lightly rake the moss once it turns brown and dries up, if it is thick. If the moss is quite thin then you can leave it in place. *Never rake off green moss as the live spores will spread and your second crop of moss will be much stronger than the first.*
5. **Top dress:** It is always a good idea to top dress with sand after aerating. After removing any dead, brown moss you can top-dress the lawn with clean washed sand, which is great for filling in low spots and will aid in drainage.
6. **Over seeding:** Late February, March and April are great times to over-seed the lawn. Choose a blend that is right for your area. Use shady lawn seed, which is a shade tolerant grass for shady areas. Choose a locally blended mix as most national blends have Blue Grass, which does not do well in our wet coastal environment.

- 7. Grass Length:** When mowing your lawn, you should cut no more than the top 25% of the grass blade. Cutting length can vary depending on the season. In summertime the ideal length is 3", whereas in winter it should be 2 – 2 ½".
- 8. Fertilize:** Starting in February, use a slow release high nitrogen fertilizer every 4 to 6 weeks throughout the growing season for a consistent green lawn. Use a mix such as 28-4-8 or similar. Slow release fertilizers will not burn your lawn.

Lawn Pests

European Chafer



A European chafer completes its life cycle in one year

April to Late June

The adult Chafer beetles emerge from the soil and fly to nearby trees to mate and feed. The females once

they have mated, deposit up to 50 eggs in the soil. The chafer beetle does very little damage to the lawn during this period.

July thru September

The eggs begin to hatch in July and the grubs will begin to feed on the lawn. The grubs begin to tunnel under the lawn at this time and the turf may feel spongy when walked upon. You will see damage to the turf during this time which will show up as dead or dying patches of grass. You will want to monitor your lawn during the summer months as dead grass can also be caused by European Crane fly larvae as well.

October thru March

Chafer beetle grubs will continue to feed and grow through the fall and winter months. During mild weather the grubs will stay within 5cm of the surface of the soil during mild weather but can burrow deeper during colder weather. It is at this time that most of the damage to lawns may appear as raccoons, skunks and crows may

tear up the turf as they feed on the grubs. The grubs will continue feeding until they pupate to become adult beetles in May.

Monitoring for Chafer beetles:

- ❑ Cut three sides of a 1' x1' (30 cm x 30) cm square of grass to a depth of about 2" (5cm).
- ❑ Peel and fold back the patch of turf and count the grubs in the soil by digging around. You may have to use a trowel to help loosen the turf to peel it back.
- ❑ You can cut five more squares of sod/turf in different areas of your lawn, count the grubs in each square.
- ❑ Finding 5 or more grubs per square usually means that control is necessary.

Control:

- ❑ Applying nematodes (*Heterorhabditis bacteriophora* is recommended) in late July.
- ❑ Your lawn should be thoroughly watered to a depth of 4" before applying the nematodes. A healthy lawn is essential for achieving control when using nematodes.
- ❑ After applying nematodes you must keep the lawn thoroughly watered for two weeks to achieve effective control.
- ❑ You can rent portable liquid drop spreaders for effective application of the nematodes. You may also wish to apply Nutritec to your lawn at this time as well.
- ❑ You can apply for a water exemption permit from most municipalities during this period if required.

Leather Jackets:

Life Cycle of European Cranefly / Leatherjacket



Adult: resembles a huge mosquito (size 1.5cm to 2.5cm) with greyish brown body.

Larvae: light grey, greenish brown cylindrical grub with tapered ends, 3-4 cm at maturity.

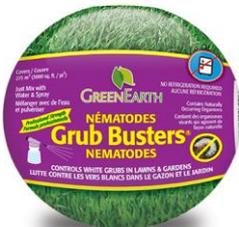
Pupa: brown, spiny and 3.3cm in length.

March thru June: The larvae, which have been dormant over winter, feed and grow during this time. This is the stage at which the larvae do the most damage to the lawn. Nematodes should be applied at double the rate during this period to kill the larvae.

Mid June: The Larvae stop feeding and move down into the soil (3-5cm). Damage to the lawn will diminish during this period.

Mid August: pupate in mid to late August at which time the adults emerge.

September thru October: Adults emerge lay 200-300 eggs, and live 4-7 days. The winged adults do not feed during this period and only mate and reproduce. The eggs, which are laid, need immediate moisture to survive and hatch 11-15 days later. Once hatched the larva feed throughout fall and warm periods in winter in upper 3cm of soil. This is the easiest time to ill the larvae.



Nematode Control: In early spring (March thru May) it is possible to have good success applying the nematodes on the feeding larva, however the rate of application must be doubled. Nematodes are usually only applied in situations where the damage is severe in spring.

Late summer and early fall is the preferred application time for Nematodes as the larvae are smaller and more easily killed.

For both applications it is important to make sure the lawn is well watered, fertilized and healthy before applying the nematodes.

You can rent portable liquid drop spreaders for effective application of the nematodes. You may also wish to apply Nutritec to your lawn at this time as well.

You can apply for a water exemption permit from most municipalities during this period if required.

Coverage Area

Green Earth Nematodes

- 3000 sq/ft – Fall
- 1500 sq/ft – Spring

Fall Lawn Care

1. **Aerate or de-thatch:** If not done in the spring you can de-thatch your lawn or, in bad cases of soil compaction, aerate your lawn in early September.
2. **September/October:** Over-seed now. This should be done by the mid-October for best effects. You should apply moss killer when the temperature is above 15° for best effect.
3. **Apply moss killer:** If you have existing moss, apply liquid moss killer now while the weather is still warm. This will help prevent moss build-up over the winter.
4. **Correct PH by liming:** Due to our naturally acidic soil, caused by our wet climate, it is good to correct the pH by sweetening the soil with lime in both Fall & Spring. Use *1 bag of Dolopril* per 2000 sq/ft
5. **Fertilize:** Re-apply fertilizer with a composition of 28-4-8 as the lawn is still in active growth until the end of October.

6. **Starting in mid-October:** Begin to shorten the length of grass. In the summer it is best to have a lawn length of 3"-4", while in the winter the length should be 2"-2 1/2". This allows the lawn to stay drier through the winter months and prevents moss & disease build-up.
7. **Late October/November:** Fertilize with a winterizer lawn food such as 6-8-6 and continue to shorten the length of grass when you cut.
8. **Rake Leaves:** Leaves left on the grass over winter will smother the lawn and cause brown patches. Remove them as quickly as possible.