

## Spring Lawn Care Tips

### #1: Raking

Raking will be your first task of spring lawn care. This will help controlling thatch. A thatch build-up of more than 1/2 inch is considered excessive.

Spring raking will remove grass blades that died over the winter -- dead blades that are just waiting to become thatch.

But there's often another good reason for a spring raking. As you survey your lawn in spring, see if there are any matted patches, in which the grass blades are all stuck together. This can be caused by a disease known as "snow mold." New grass may have difficulty penetrating these matted patches.

### Tip #2: Check for Compaction

If your lawn is subjected to high levels of traffic year after year, it may eventually start to show signs of decline. In such cases, your lawn is probably suffering from compacted soil. For instance, the presence of moss signals compaction (among other things).



Aeration will reduce soil compaction plus it will allow nutrients, water, and oxygen to get deeper into the soil. This will also help decompose the thatch layers plus improves root growth. We recommend that aeration should be done at least every other year in order for your lawn to perform at its peak levels.

### Tip #3: Liming

Besides compaction, the presence of moss also signals acidity. But grass likes a neutral pH. You can solve this problem by liming your soil. But don't expect a quick fix: the effects of liming are slow to take place.

On our first visit we check your pH to determine the extent

of your soil's acidity. Liming is only a corrective measure, not a preventive measure. A soil that is too alkaline will also cause your lawn problems, so too much lime is as bad as not enough.

### Tip #4: Overseeding

Is your lawn riddled with bare patches due to dog spots, heavy traffic or neglect? If so, you may need to apply grass seed to fill in those bare patches. This solution is known as "overseeding lawns."

However, spring isn't the very best time for overseeding lawns. Fall is the preferred time, when the new grass won't have to compete with crabgrass. So postpone overseeding until fall, unless your situation is dire.

### Tip #5: Tuning Up Existing Lawn Mowers

Mowing the lawn all summer can be tiring enough, right? Why make it more difficult on yourself by putting up with a lawn mower that doesn't start up immediately? Although it's often possible to get by without one, it is recommended that you have a mower tuneup each year.



### Tip #6: Tuning Up Your Irrigation

Take your time and go through each of the sprinkler stations because if a line is broken in the ground it may take some time to bubble up. Dig up and repair any leaks and replace sprinkler heads that are broken. Make any necessary adjustments to the spray pattern of the sprinkler heads. Let it run a bit and check the coverage. Some spray heads may have to be cleaned out or adjusted before working properly again. Set the timer. It's a good idea to set the watering times when you can keep an eye on the watering especially in the beginning of the season to make sure everything is working properly.