

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH MOSS

Avoiding a Mossy Mess

Removing moss is not a one-time chore. To get rid of moss in your lawn and keep it from growing back, you have to change the conditions in your lawn that led to its initial growth.

A poorly drained lawn is friendly for moss and hostile to turf growth. This combination makes proper drainage a must if you want to get rid of moss for good.

Heavy traffic and poor soil quality often lead to poor drainage. Clay-heavy soils typically don't drain as well as sandier soils. If your soil is clay-heavy, you can help improve the soil by aerating and adding humus or compost.



Healthy grass should grow roots four to six inches into the ground. If the roots are shallower than that, your grass isn't healthy. Compacted soil is likely to blame, and aeration is in order.

If your lawn is collecting standing water when it rains, you may need to improve your drainage systems. Sometimes, simply filling in the low areas with soil can remedy the situation. In other cases, you may need to install or update a drainage system of some sort.

Moss can also thrive in an abundance of shade. If you find that you're struggling against a carpet of moss, look up. While most grass needs 6 hours of sunlight or 12 hours of partial sunlight every day, moss thrives in limited sunlight. Selectively pruning your trees to thin out some of the canopy, allowing more light to filter through, helps deter moss growth.

Moss is a sign that conditions for turf growth in the area are less than ideal. By increasing sunlight and improving drainage, you can get rid of moss for good.