

Preparing Your Lawn for Spring

In early Spring many Alberta gardeners are anxious to get their grass cleaned up and looking good. While there are many steps you can take to groom your grass, it is crucial that it is done at the right time.

Raking

Whether you are hand raking or power raking your grass, you must be sure it is dry enough. The way you can tell is by walking on it. If your footprints remain, then it's still too moist and raking will do more harm than good. Alternately, be sure to rake while the dormant grass is quite brown. Raking too late will harm healthy roots.

Aerating

This is done to 'open' up the soil so it can accept water and fertilizer more readily. Aerating is most beneficial on grasses that are older than five years or have very compacted soil. Spring is a great time to aerate since so much moisture is available, but it can be done all season long.

Fertilizing

Although the main goal is to attain lush green grass, early Spring is not the time to apply fertilizer with high nitrogen (first number). Instead, you should use a slow release formula with a higher middle number such as Golf Green 10-20-5. The middle number represents the percentage of available phosphorus, which encourages good root development. In Spring, your lawn is struggling to recover from Winter, therefore a turf starter fertilizer is what will benefit it the most. You can apply a higher nitrogen, slow release fertilizer when the grass is green and growing, usually towards the end May.



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For an organic spring lawn fertilizer, choose Turf Revolution Green Acres 5-1-5 fertilizer. Note that though the phosphorous content is not as high as in synthetic fertilizers, Green Acres boasts the addition of Alfalfa, which acts a stimulant for healthy root and blade growth.

Thickening the Grass

One of the best way to thicken your grass is by 'top dressing' it with a high quality grass seed. Pickseeds's Thickening Grass is a blended mixture to use on all grass types. Once you have raked your lawn, apply a thin layer of soft soil (bagged is fine). Spread grass seed over lawn, then apply another thin layer of soil on top. Using the soil will help germination by anchoring the seed, keeping it moist and preventing birds from eating it. Grass seed must be watered lightly every day until established. Depending on weather, it may take seed two to three weeks to germinate.

Preventing Weeds

Top dressing your grass will thicken it, thereby preventing weed seed development. If possible, try to dig out weeds in the grass before they become mature and go to seed. If you are applying a selective herbicide such as Killex, be sure to only trigger the actively growing weeds as opposed to broadcasting the spray all over the grass.

Our Weedblaster Pro tool makes it very easy to apply herbicide accurately on weeds, resulting in less chemicals used and money saved.

By following these steps, you can be assured your lawn will look better than ever this year.



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