



LAWN CALENDAR

Our seasons are changing and this means that lawns are having to adapt to longer growing periods and changeable rainfall. This monthly lawn care guide will encourage you to monitor the effects of climate change and help your lawn to survive and flourish even with unpredictable weather patterns.

SPRING

March

Lawns start growing as soon as the weather conditions improve so with our milder spring weather this often means the sound of lawn mowers can be heard in early March – sometimes even in February!

During periods of dry mild weather the grass can be topped, ensure the mower blades are on a high setting to avoid removing too much grass. This will probably only need to be carried out once or twice during the month.

This is a good time to give the lawn an inspection the lawn for any signs of disease and dealing with moss. Ensure you follow the instructions on any product you use. Moss Killer (Lawn Sand) has to be given time to fully work before raking out the moss, normally allow 7 to 14 days depending on weather conditions.

April

Any bare patches can be dealt with now as the soil is starting to warm up and grass seed will be able to germinate better. Gently rake areas to loosen top soil and then sow seed over the area (a mixture of creeping red fescue, chewing fescue and smooth stalked meadow grass is ideal). Gently rake new grass seed in and water. The seed must be kept moist and not be allowed to dry out.

Mow weekly to keep the lawn tidy if the grass and ground is dry, but do not set the blades lower than 1 inch. Now is also the time to start thinking about fertiliser (6 x organic fertiliser is a good option). You should only apply fertiliser when the grass is dry but the ground is moist and normally with rain due, or be prepared to water in after 2 or 3 days.

This is also a good time to go over the lawn and dig out any weeds by hand.

May

Regular mowing once a week is normal at this time of year, remember to leave height of cut at least 1 inch or more.

Varying the direction of cut helps the lawn to grow evenly.

Only water if signs of stress appear as grass is very resilient and over watering can be more harmful in the end than drought.

If you do need to water your lawn do it in the evening and allow the water to penetrate the surface by at least 1 inch.

SUMMER

June/July

Mowing will now be in full swing, however if the weather is dry and hot raise the height of cut and don't collect clippings as this will help retain moisture in the lawn.

Never water your lawn in full sun - use recycled rainwater and water in the evening when the roots will absorb the moisture over night.

August

Water as in May to give a good soaking less often and allow the water to soak deep into the turf. This will allow the moisture to remain for longer and also encourage the roots to go deep in search of the water. This will eventually result in a stronger lawn requiring less watering

.Mowing should be left to once every two weeks if the weather is very dry.

Fertiliser can be used again to start to strengthen the lawn before winter.

AUTUMN

With the mild temperatures we have experienced at this time of year recently, regular lawn care needs to extend well into the Autumn months

September

Warmer temperatures encourage grass growth so you will most probably need to still mow your lawn but not as often.

Be flexible about when you mow the lawn as if it is very dry, the grass will not need to be interfered with.

The heavy rainfall that seems to come all at once now can mean the grass puts on a sudden growth spurt so watch for this and then cut it.

This is also the last chance to fertilise your lawn before winter (same fertiliser as earlier in year).

This is a good month to be thinking about any repairs to the lawn and also time to scarify and aerate the lawn. If your lawn is only small then you can use a normal garden fork to aerate it and a good strong springbok rake to scarify the lawn.

October

In recent years October weather has been warm so you may need to continue to mow the lawn but do remember to raise the height of the cut to at least 1.5 to 2 inches.

Rake any leaves and debris from your lawn on a regular basis.

WINTER

November/December

There should be no need to mow and remember during the winter months do not walk across a frosted lawn or you end up risk ending up with black foot marks were you have broken the grass and its top growth dies, thus weakening the lawn.

January

There is generally little maintenance work to be done in the month of January. Avoid using the lawn in very wet conditions and particularly in frost.

General debris, such as leaves and twigs, can be removed. Light brushing can be carried out to remove dew and surface moisture from fine lawns.

This is a good time to ensure all lawn care equipment is serviced and cleaned.

February

Although conditions have been quite mild at this time of year recently do not be tempted to mow the lawn.

Worm casts can be scattered by brushing with a birch broom or similar. Turfing and repairs using turf can be carried out providing the ground is not waterlogged and frost free.