



Spring lawn care

Top Soil is King

New home, new lawn? Congratulations! Your lawn grows best with 4-8 inches of topsoil beneath. Good topsoil is the foundation for a healthy lawn, but many new homes have had their topsoil compacted and removed during construction, leaving behind debris and clay. These lawns soak up little water and require more fertilizer and pesticides. To slowly improve topsoil so your grass grows better, add organic materials like lawn clippings, mulched leaves or a top dressing of compost with aeration.

Here's How You Mow to Grow

1. **Most lawns need to be cut every four to five days**, not every seven to ten days, like most of us tend towards!
2. **Follow the One-Third Rule:** Never remove more than a third of the blade.
3. **Don't scalp your lawn** if spring rain or vacation leaves you with really tall grass. Instead, gradually reduce cutting height to keep a healthy balance between root and blade growth. If you keep scalping your lawn, you won't have to mow as often because your grass will die!
4. **Keep your grass taller at about 3½"** to preserve moisture and out-compete weeds.
5. **Sharpen those blades.** Dull blades chew, tear, and rip grass, which stresses the plant. Torn blades die back and are more likely to succumb to disease and pests. And you can save on fuel costs by using efficient, sharp blades. Sharpen at least once a year, and check out reel mowers if you've got small yard.
6. **Consider aeration in spring and fall.** It improves compacted soil, water and nutrient penetration, and thickens your lawn by allowing deeper root growth.

Grow Native

Turf doesn't do much for biodiversity. Add natives to your garden beds, vegetable gardens, or landscaping. Research shows that native plants offer more for biodiversity. Why plant pansies when milkweed feeds monarchs, and oaks support over 500 species of butterflies and moths that feed our songbirds?

Turfgrass and Water Quality

Studies show that runoff from healthy lawns is nearly zero, due to its dense matrix of grass shoots, stems, and leaves. However, patchy lawns will lose soil during rainstorms- this makes water cloudy and suffocates fish.

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