



7 STEPS TO A LUSCIOUS LAWN

Having a healthy, luscious lawn is something many homeowners take pride in. When it comes to maintaining your lawn and promoting dense growth, there are a few things you can do to provide a healthy environment that allows your grass to thrive and combat unwanted weeds. Through these seven simple steps, you can establish and maintain a vibrant, thick, healthy lawn for years to come.





STEP 1:

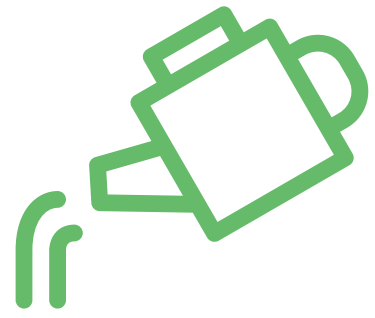
MOWING TECHNIQUE

The most important part of properly mowing your lawn is to have a high-quality lawn mower. When purchasing your lawn mower, look for mulching mowers or a mower that allows you to install a mulching kit. Using a lawn mower that mulches is one of the most effective ways to fertilize your lawn. It also helps to create a sustainable environment since you're not throwing grass clippings away.

To get the most out of your mulching lawn mower, ensure the blades are properly balanced and are sharpened often. When trimming your lawn, never remove more than a third of the grass blade. The optimal lawn height is about 3 inches or 7.5 cm. If you want to maintain your lawn to remain at 3 inches, trim your grass just before it reaches 4 and a half inches, or 11 cm tall.

Lastly, make sure to trim your lawn regularly to promote growth and strong blades of grass.





STEP 2: ***REGULAR WATERING***

It's no secret that water is one of the key elements of producing a gorgeous lawn. Watering your lawn not only promotes healthy grass but healthy soil too. Many people tend to over water their lawns which can harm your lawn and wash away the essential nutrients grass needs to thrive.

During the growing season, watering your lawn once a week is the most effective way to provide your lawn with the moisture it needs without oversaturating. When you water your grass, you want to give your lawn 1 inch, or 2.5 cm to 1 and a half inches, or 3.8 cm of water in one application. While watering your lawn, make sure to water the root zone deeply to promote stronger grass roots.





STEP 3: ***FERTILIZATION TIMING***

Fertilizer is a great tool many gardeners and landscaping professionals use to build and maintain a lively, vibrant lawn. It's crucial to use a zero-phosphorus fertilizer because adding phosphorus can cause an excess that can negatively affect water ecosystems and the environment. There are many reputable Canadian companies that make great zero-phosphorus fertilizer like 24-0-4.

The time you choose to fertilize is another big piece of the lawn-care puzzle. In Ontario, it's recommended that you fertilize on the long weekends from Victoria Day to Thanksgiving. It's also recommended that you use a slow-release fertilizer and always follow the instructions provided on your fertilizer's label.





STEP 4: WEED CONTROL

A weed-free lawn is a beautiful lawn, and many homeowners know that. But they may want to re-evaluate their definition of what a weed is, as some plants are good for your lawn. For example, White Clover takes nitrogen from the air and makes it accessible for your lawn while adding to your lawn's greenery. Before you work on weed control methods, do some research on the types of plants popping up in your lawn. In some cases, they might do more good than harm and you may want to keep them around.

However, if you're looking for methods to get rid of pesky weeds, a good place to start is simply pulling them out. If you have a lot of weeds, you may want to purchase a weed spray from your local garden centre. Spray the weeds while they're actively growing and remember to follow instructions for the best results. If you're still

having weed worries, try our other steps to help promote healthy lawn growth and see the difference it makes!



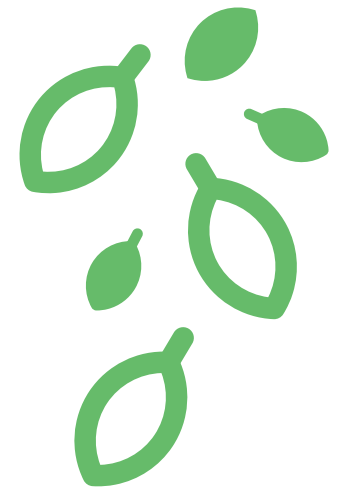


STEP 5: **AVOID AERATION**

There's a well-known secret relating to lawn care and aeration: healthy lawns don't necessarily need aeration despite popular belief. Typically, aeration is used to relieve surface soil compaction. But healthy lawns aren't under stress and the soil isn't compacted. If you feel your soil is compacting, you can improve the biome of your lawn's soil by applying an organic topdressing like compost.

However, if you insist on aerating your lawn, pay attention to the time of the year. The best time to aerate is between mid-August to late-September. The next best time to aerate your lawn is from mid-May to early-June. But when it comes to aeration, the golden rule is: if you can avoid it, you should.





STEP 6: ***PROPER RAKING***

The number one rule of raking your lawn is to not rake during spring. If you rake too hard during spring, you'll damage the base of the grass plant, also known as the grass crown. A lot of people might rake in the spring to remove dead grass, but it's not worth it as it only ruins your lawn and it makes it harder to repair during the warmer months.

Your grass is dormant and fragile during early spring. Your lawn doesn't fully develop until mid-May. Taking extra care of your grass during the spring months and being gentle with your lawn will lead to a healthier, more dense lawn during the summer. Only rake to remove twigs and other debris, and remember to be gentle with your grass to promote healthy growth.

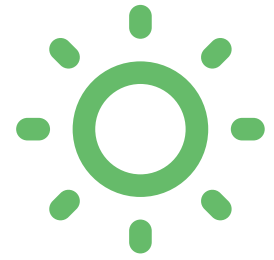




STEP 7: ***DETHATCHING***

Thatch is your friend when it comes to creating a luscious green lawn. Thatch is a layer of organic materials that build up during the spring and decompose through the summer and fall. These organic materials provide nutrients to the lawn as long as there isn't too thick of a layer.

A layer of thatch is healthy until it's about 1 cm thick and growing thicker. It's rarely necessary to have to dethatch your lawn, but if you must, the best time is from mid-August to late-September. The second best option would be any time between mid-May to early-June. As long as you keep in mind that a healthy layer of that is a good thing, your lawn will thrive off the natural nutrients provided by thatch.



START WORKING TOWARD A LUSCIOUS LAWN

When caring for your lawn, try to identify the problem and treat them to the best of your abilities. Don't be afraid to ask for professional advice, or try out different techniques and products. Remember that creating a healthy environment for your lawn is a process that may take time. However, utilizing these tips may help you along the way.

