



The Ultimate Spring Lawn Care Guide: How to Have the Best Lawn on the Block

Spring is the time when lawns start waking up from their winter dormancy. If you want a lush, green, and weed-free yard that turns heads in the neighborhood, now is the time to take action. But before you rush to plant new grass, it's crucial to understand that **fall is the best time for seeding**, not spring. In this guide, we'll walk you through the essential steps for achieving a perfect lawn this spring while setting it up for long-term success.

Step 1: Clean Up & Assess Your Lawn

Before you do anything, start with a **spring cleanup**:

- Remove leaves, sticks, and any debris left over from winter.
- Rake lightly to fluff up matted grass and improve air circulation.
- Look for problem areas like bare spots, moss growth, or compacted soil.

If you notice **large bare patches**, resist the urge to seed them now—more on that later!

Step 2: Early Spring Lawn Fertilization

Grass needs a strong start in spring, but it's important to use the right fertilizer at the right time.

- Apply a **slow-release nitrogen fertilizer** to encourage steady growth.
- Avoid high-nitrogen fertilizers early in the season, as they can cause excessive top growth at the expense of root development.
- If your lawn is prone to weeds, consider a **pre-emergent herbicide** to stop crabgrass before it starts.

● **Avoid spring seeding if you use a pre-emergent!** The herbicide will prevent grass seed from germinating just as effectively as it stops weeds.



Step 3: Mowing & Watering Tips

- **First mow of the season:** Set your mower to **2-2.5 inches** and your first mow is always shorter than any other mow, and then set mower back up to **3-3.5 inches**
- **Sharpen mower blades** to ensure clean cuts, which reduce disease risk.
- **Water deeply but infrequently**—about 1 inch per week, including rainfall.

Step 4: Aeration & Dethatching

Spring aeration is **only necessary if you have extreme soil compaction**. Otherwise, it's better to wait until fall.

- **Dethatching** (removing excessive dead grass buildup) can be helpful in spring, but be gentle—too much can damage healthy grass.
- If your soil is compacted, consider **aerating in fall** rather than spring to reduce stress on the grass.

Step 5: The Truth About Spring Seeding

Many homeowners make the mistake of **seeding their lawn in spring**, thinking it's the perfect time for new grass. Here's why that's a bad idea: **✗ Spring-seeded grass competes with fast-growing weeds. ✗ Weed control products (like pre-emergents) will stop grass seed from germinating. ✗ Young grass doesn't have enough time to establish deep roots before summer heat hits.**

✓ The Best Time for Seeding? Fall! ✓ Fall provides the ideal conditions for new grass:

- Cooler temperatures help prevent weeds from taking over.
- Grass seedlings have all winter to develop strong roots.
- More predictable rain patterns mean less watering is needed.

So, **what should you do if you have bare patches in spring?**

- **Use sod for immediate results** rather than seed.
- If you must seed, use a light application of fast-germinating grass but understand it won't thrive long-term.
- Plan for a **proper overseeding in the fall** for the best results.



Step 6: Spring Weed Control

The best way to stop weeds? **A healthy lawn!** Thick grass crowds out weeds naturally. But if weeds are already present:

- Apply a **pre-emergent herbicide** in early spring for crabgrass control.
- Spot-treat broadleaf weeds (like dandelions) with a **selective herbicide**.
- Keep up with regular mowing to prevent weeds from spreading.

Step 7: Lawn Care Success Through Summer and Beyond

- **Continue deep, infrequent watering** to encourage root growth.
- **Fertilize again in late spring (May-June)** with a balanced formula.
- **Keep up with mowing** but never scalp the lawn.
- **Prepare for fall overseeding** by keeping your lawn healthy all summer.

Final Thoughts: A Beautiful Lawn is Built Year-Round

Spring lawn care sets the stage, but **true lawn success comes from a year-round plan**. While spring is great for cleaning up, feeding, and weed prevention, **fall is when the real magic happens with proper aeration and overseeding**.

By following this guide, you'll have the **best-looking lawn on the block**—not just in spring, but all year long! 🌱💪

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