

This Report is brought to you by...

The WOW Experience

Overdelivery is our Specialty!

Where Vision and Value Go Hand in Hand with Information and Opportunity!



Other Companies Make Promises -- We Make Dreams Come True!
We Offer QUALITY CONTENT in Every WAY, TYPE and FORM

- Exclusive WOW Private Label Releases
- Private Label Products
- Public Domain Products
- Master Resale Rights eBooks
- Master Resale Rights Software
- Bestselling Audio eBooks by Top Authors
- Non-Fiction Audio eBooks
- Exclusive WOW Affiliate Products
- Resale Rights Products
- Exclusive WOW Private Label Reports
- eBook to Audio Conversion Software
- Resale Rights Generation Software



And, of course, if you want it all tied up in a neat website package, with *all the work done for you*, we have our NEW [Niche Empire Builder Software](#) – the Niche Real Estate Business Builder's Dream Come True!

Niche Empire Builder

The Complete Done-it-For-You Niche Real Estate Business Builder's Dream Come True!

www.the-wow-empire.com

The WOW Content Club

Your Full Spectrum Content Provider

If Content Is King,
The WOW Content Club is the Kingdom
You Have Been Searching For!



www.wow-content-club.com

WOW Profit Packs

Help Yourself to Hundreds of Brand New, Blockbuster Products at Bargain Basement Prices!



www.WOWProfitPacks.com

Enjoy this Free Niche Report, compliments of WOW Enterprises
For Many More Free Reports, simply click on the links below.

www.TheWOWExperience.com

www.NicheEmpireBuilder.com

www.WOW-Content-Club.com

www.WOWProfitPacks.com

How To Care For Your Lawn So That It Stays In Tip Top Shape

Topics Covered:

Getting Hole Punched: Why Aerating Your Lawn is Beneficial

Tips for Aerating Your Lawn to Health

To Aerate or Not to Aerate: When is this Question?

Giving Your Lawn the Time of Day: Picking the Best Time to Do Lawn Maintenance

Golf Green: Not Just a Color in Your Crayola Box!

Gone to Seed: Five Ways to a Perfect Lawn

Grass Issues: To Bag or Not to Bag

Green Bag It: How to Compost Your Grass Clippings

How to Make the Grass Greener on YOUR Side of the Fence

Keeping the Weeds Out

Southern Sod: Three Types of Grass that Grow Well in the South

St. Augustine: Sometimes the Grass is Greener There

Lawn Care Basics

Laying Down the Lawn: How to Turn that Dirt Patch Into a Perfectly Green Lawn

Lime for your Lawn: How to Know When You Need It

Rooting for the Perfect Lawn: Maintaining Proper Nutrient Levels for Your Lawn

Five Lawn Problems from Weak Watering Practices

Weed Out the Competition: Top Three Weed Problems of Your Lawn

Weed Whacked: Ten things You Should NOT Do In Ridding Your Lawn of Weeds

Bugged Out! How to Diagnose What's Eating Your Lawn

Protecting Your Landscape from Insects

Pet Deposits: Why Cleaning Up After Your Pet is Important

How To Care For Your Lawn So That It Stays In Tip Top Shape

Getting Hole Punched: Why Aerating Your Lawn is Beneficial

Caring for a lawn can be complicated. You spend a lot of time figuring out mowing schedules, fertilizers to use, and when to edge. You probably worry about insects, disease, and even your own competence in care. One thing that you should look at in terms of lawn care that can be a solution to many of your problems is lawn aeration. Aerating your lawn is a very beneficial procedure that can end up saving you a lot of stress down the road.

Lawn aeration is the process of reducing soil compaction by essentially punching holes in the soil either with special shoes, a hand tool, or coring machine. The procedure can be done by buying or renting spiked shoes that are made for loosening the soil as you walk around. The other way of doing it is by renting a mechanical core aerator, which will mechanically remove plugs of soil and thatch from your yard. Either way, it is an important procedure to perform in the maintenance of a healthy and beautiful yard.

Often times, you may even be overlooking the problems that compacted soil may be causing in your yard and blaming them on other things. Many homeowners will blame insects, bad watering processes, disease, or even fungus is often blamed for a yard's decline. In reality the real problem may be compacted soil.

Compaction begins when approximately the top four inches of the soil and thatch become compressed. This compression can impede air movement, water movement, and nutrient access to the roots of the plants. The whole thing can be very stressful on the grass. It can become less able to compete with weeds and may not recover from injury or shock as quickly.

Aerating your lawn will take care of a lot of your problems. Aeration will loosen the compacted soil and thatch so that water and nutrients are more available to the plants. The process of aerating will also increase oxygen in the soil, which can stimulate the roots as well as the activities of the thatch-decomposing creatures that help keep your lawn healthy. Aeration helps reduce water runoff so that your watering is more efficient. Overall it will improve your lawn's health and increase its tolerance to drought.

So you know that it is important to aerate your lawn, but when should you do it? You will aerate your lawn either in the fall or the spring, depending on what kind of grass you are growing in the lawn. If you have a cool season grass, you should aerate in the fall, when the danger of heat damage is low. For a warm season grass, you should aerate in the spring and summer during active growth times. For either kind, no matter when you aerate, you should do so on a day with mild temperatures and moist soil.

Aeration then should happen as often as necessary. The best way to tell if your lawn needs aeration is through a screwdriver test. Take a screwdriver out to your lawn and try to push it into the soil. If it is hard to push it in, then you probably need to aerate. If it goes in with just a

little bit of resistance, then you do not need to aerate. You should only perform the screwdriver test when the soil is mildly moist.

You can also combine the aeration and seeding of your lawn. Once you have aerated the lawn, allow about a month before you seed, though. The ground and grass will need time to heal before introducing seed to the situation. By combining the aeration and seeding of your lawn, though, you will be able to create a beautiful and full looking lawn.

With all the chores that are involved with lawn care, it can be easy to get confused. You may be watering more often than you need to, spreading more pesticide than you need to, or changing your fertilizer when it is unnecessary. The real answer may just be that you need to aerate. By aerating you will loosen up compacted soil and then solve a lot of the problems you may have had before. Aerate your lawn as often as needed to keep it healthy and low-maintenance.

Tips for Aerating Your Lawn to Health

Aerating your lawn is an important part of keeping it healthy and lush. Many times, some of the problems you may blame on insects, fungus, under watering, or fertilizer problems are, in fact, actually due to the fact that you are not aerating correctly or as frequently as you should.

Aerating your lawn will help to prevent soil compaction, which happens when the top four inches of soil compact and prevent nutrients, oxygen, and water from circulating around the grass properly. Aerating loosens the soil by removing cores of it and allowing room for the nutrients and air to circulate in the soil properly. The problem in home lawns is usually more prevalent in high traffic areas where people and pets might help the soil to compact more quickly than in other less disturbed parts of the lawn.

There is a simple test you can perform to figure out if your lawn is in need of aeration. Take a screwdriver out to your lawn when the soil is moderately moist. Attempt to probe the screwdriver into the soil. If it is very difficult to do, then you likely need to aerate right away. On the other hand, if there is just a little resistance, then there is no compaction problem and you do not need to aerate.

Getting your home lawn aerated, though not always a common practice, is not very expensive. In fact, the simplest and cheapest way to do it is to use a spading fork. Push the tines into the soil as far as you can then rock them back and forth. This is not the best way to aerate, but for lack of another way the tines will create space for the circulation and will loosen the soil. Because of the work involved, it is really only a method that works for small areas of lawn.

Another small lawn solution for aeration is to spend a few dollars and purchase a sod-coring tool. The sod-coring tool actually removes cores of soil and deposits them on the lawn. The plugs that are left behind are as helpful to your lawn as the holes themselves. The plugs bring microorganisms up from below that can help decompose the thatch that may have developed in your grass.

What, though, if you have a larger yard? In the case of a large yard, the two manual methods would be just too labor intensive. The answer is a power-driven core aerator. You can rent one at your local home or garden store. The machine takes hollow tubes and drives them into the lawn. Cores of soil are removed and left over the lawn. Some will, instead, have spoon shaped tines that perform the same task essentially. Leave the plugs on the lawn, but you can rake them in if you don't like the way they look laying on the grass.

No matter which method you use for aeration, there is a technique to it. First, go over the entire lawn in one direction, like if you were mowing. Then, go over another direction, perpendicular to what you had just done. Using this method to go over the entire lawn twice will give you the best results when aerating.

If you have a bare area in your yard or a part where the grass is just sparse, then you may want to combine seeding and aerating to get the good lawn results you want. If you choose to combine aerating with seeding, then you should go over the lawn six or ten times. There should be a lot of holes in the area you are seeding. Then, give the holes about a month so they can begin to heal so that you don't get speckled looking grass. Then, simply put out your seed, keep it watered, and you are on your way to a healthy and new looking lawn.

Aeration is an important, and often overlooked, part of lawn care. Golf courses and sports field maintenance teams do it all the time, but for some reason it gets neglected by homeowners. The process of aerating your lawn is not expensive, but can help you to a healthy lawn and help you avoid many problems you likely blamed on other things in the past.

To Aerate or Not to Aerate: When is this Question?

By aerating your lawn, you will prevent several things from happening to your lawn. This will help it to remain healthy. If you have crabgrass, aerating your lawn will eventually cause it to not receive the compact nutrients from the soil and die. If your lawn seems to be dry, and if you are still watering it regularly, it needs more air moving through the blades and soil in order to continue breathing properly.

If your grass is thinner than usual, aeration can also help it to become fuller than it was before. All of the problems that may be seen in your grass are a result of the soil becoming too compact. By this happening, the roots are not able to move freely and receive the right nutrients from the water and soil.

It is best to aerate your lawn at least once, and possibly twice during the year. For those living in a warmer climate, it is best to aerate your lawn in the late spring. If you live in a cooler climate, the best time to aerate is in the fall. The only time that you definitely shouldn't aerate your lawn is in the warmer summer months. By doing so, you will damage the lawn as it becomes stressed under the heat.

You can also know when to aerate your lawn by recognizing some of the problems that your lawn may be having. If the water isn't moving into the soil in the ground, it probably means that the soil is too compact and isn't able to reach the roots. You can also tell by fertilized

grass not turning green and other parts of the lawn staying flat.

If your yard is close to a street where there is some traffic, it is especially important to aerate your lawn, as this will cause the aeration to become polluted and not allow nutrients to move into your grass. If the soil that you have in your yard is compacted, you should also consider aerating more often, as this holds in the air that needs to move through the grass in order to keep it healthy and green.

One type of popular aeration that is used is known as core aeration. This pulls up plugs of soil and puts them as topdressing. When you water next, or when it rains, the soil will disintegrate. Air will then be able to move into the soil where the holes were put, giving more nutrients and room for the grass. Another reason why core aeration works is because the water will be held in the soil for a longer time, instead of running off of the soil.

A similar way to aerate your lawn is through a punch aerator. This pushes holes into the soil, instead of putting the soil on the surface. If you think that the grass will need more nutrients from the soil, then it is better to use the punch aerator method. This will still allow more oxygen and water to move into the soil, causing for healthier grass.

A third way to aerate the lawn is through de-thatching. This can be done at any time of the year. The more that it is done, the better it is for the grass. By thatching, you can rake up the dead grass, moss and debris that are left on your lawn. By doing this, it will give the outer surface of the grass more room to breathe and take in the nutrients that are needed from both the sun and the air.

All of the different types of aeration methods include tools that can be used in order to make your job easier when you aerate your lawn. Before you aerate, make sure that your yard is moist, as this will make it easier for the soil to move out of the areas in which the core aeration is. This will also make it so there isn't as much stress to the grass. It will also allow you to not accidentally pull up parts of the roots or grass when aerating.

Aerating your lawn will allow an easier movement of nutrients, water and oxygen in your lawn. By aerating, you are allowing the nutrients to move further into the soil and are allowing the roots of the grass to become stronger. You are also helping your soil to keep water for a longer period of time. By aerating once or twice a year, you will help your yard to remain greener, fuller and healthier through the seasons.

Giving Your Lawn the Time of Day: Picking the Best Time to Do Lawn Maintenance

Your lawn requires the right maintenance in order to be able to remain green and full throughout the seasons. Allowing the right time of day for this maintenance is one of the important factors when allowing your lawn to perform at its best. Another thing to consider is to know when the right season is for the right maintenance. By maintaining your lawn at the right time of day and year, it will allow a better supply of nutrients to reach your lawn as well as avoid stress problems with the lawn.

The first thing to consider with timing and your lawn is when to water your lawn. The best time to water your lawn is in the early morning. This will help your yard in two ways. The first way is that it will be easier for the water to soak into the soil. If this is done in the afternoon, it will be likely that the sun will evaporate the water that is supposed to be used for the grass.

The second reason why it is best to water in the morning is that it gives the lawn time to dry during the day. If the grass remains damp or wet, it may cause fungus or diseases to spread through your lawn because the moistness that is left from the watering will not have time to evaporate or move into the soil, where it provides nutrients for the grass.

The second thing to time out properly when working on lawn maintenance is when to mow your grass. It is known that it is best to mow your lawn in the evening. If you mow your lawn in the afternoon, it may cause the lawn to become more stressed. The heat from the sun already causes the grass to be stressed out. By cutting it during this time, it will only add to the stress.

The next thing that lets you know that it is best to mow your lawn in the evening is that you know the grass will be completely dry. If you find that the grass is still wet in the evening, it's best to not mow it until it has had time to dry. If the grass is wet, it may cause a spread of diseases, as the bacteria are given an opportunity to spread through the lawn mower. It may also make it more difficult to move through the lawn, as the grass is slippery when it is wet.

Timing out the right days to mow your lawn will also allow for easier maintenance. It is best to look at how long the blades of grass are. The best time to mow your lawn is when the blades are all about three to three and a half inches long. If the blades are shorter than this, it may not allow the right amount of nutrients to be given to the blades.

Another way to time out the maintenance of your lawn is through the seasons. This will depend on if you are in a warm or colder climate. For example, it is best to aerate your lawn in the spring if you are in a colder climate. If you are in a warmer climate, it is best to aerate your lawn in the fall. The beginning or end of the season can be determined by the change in sunlight as well as the change in temperature. This will allow for the proper nutrients to reach the soil and for the roots of the grass to be given a better chance to grow stronger into the ground.

One thing to keep in mind with lawn maintenance is to know when to winterize your lawn. This should be done before the ground freezes, but if it is done too soon, it will cause the grass to become stressed. The lawn is winterized in order to allow for the grass to still be given the proper nutrients during the winter season.

Winterizing your lawn includes making sure that the pH level in your lawn is balanced; removing leaves and other types of material from the lawn, and making sure that you apply mulch. By doing this right before the first winter freeze, it will ensure that your grass will have enough nutrients to supply it through the winter season.

By knowing when the best time for lawn maintenance is, you will be able to cut down on costs as well as time and energy. This will also allow your grass to be greener and fuller throughout the seasons. Timing is everything in your lawn maintenance.

Golf Green: Not Just a Color in Your Crayola Box!

No, not just a color in your Crayola Box, it is now possible to have your own private putting green in your own yard. For the avid golfer it might seem like a dream come true to have your own green. Do they know what is involved? Let's look at some facts.

Greens are expensive to build and need special maintenance. If you are determined to have one then we will fill you in on some facts. The first thing you ought to know is that taking care of greens will need a great deal of work. One of the first items to be considered is drainage. To maintain a green in good putting condition, the water has to be able to drain off properly.

It does need to be watered, but in watering, it also should be well drained. If you want to have your own green, you should be able to spot disease, insect problems, and fertility issues. One thunderstorm can tell you if you have enough drainage. Some greens need to be surrounded by perforated pipes to carry the water to a distance away from the green or to a private stream.

Seeding is a problem, knowing what seed to plant for your location and making it look great is another problem. If you consider using sod, you should know that it is expensive. Seeded greens have to be pampered while the grass is taking hold. There is a fine line between waiting too long to mow and weakening the turf, making it open to blight, and mowing it too soon. The grass could be so young and tender that a regular mower will mash it down.

Green mowers are also an important cost factor to consider. New mowers can cost \$5000 or more and used mowers are known to be priced as high as \$1000. Toro makes a special mower just for greens.

Controlling such diseases as pythium, sod webworm and cut worm as well as algae and moss has to be done consistently. Regular treatment needs to be applied and if a treatment is missed, you could find your green overrun by disease in the space of one week.

Building a green can be done either by USGA specifications or by using less expensive material and less elaborate drainage designs. USGA specifications can make the cost of your green anywhere from \$20,000 to \$80,000. A good design is one where the green is above the surrounding lawn area with sandy loam topsoil. It also requires about a one-percent slope for satisfactory drainage. Many experts also recommend an irrigation system so you won't have the inconvenience of watering the green by hand.

What grass do you want for you own backyard green? Again that is going to depend on where you are located. You have to consider if you are in the warm season zone or the cool season zone. There are many basic grasses that are used on nearly any golf course and there are also grasses that have been specifically developed for golf courses.

In the cooler climate, these seeds are suggested for your green. For one hole of golf, in the tee areas it is recommended that you use bentgrass while roughs and fairways require bluegrass. Hazards can also be planted with rough bluegrass and other ground covers.

In the southern or warmer zone, the recommendations are as follows. Tee areas should use Hybrid Bermuda, for fairways Bermuda, Ryegrass, and Zoysia is recommended. Roughs require Bahias, St. Augustine, Common Bermuda, and Ryegrasses.

Another question that you will need to answer is; do I need a special lawn mower? A standard rotary motor is not the right mower for keeping a green. It is important that you use a mower that pinches off the grass rather than chopping it. Look around for the best deal on these mowers.

Maintenance time should not be so time-consuming that you can't enjoy your private putting green. It can give you hours of enjoyment and practice in the comfort of your backyard and if you especially enjoy gardening, it will be well worth the effort. Landscaping and preserving a golf green can be fun and relaxing, and you have the added benefit of being able to improve your game at home instead of going to a course to practice.

Gone to Seed: Five Ways to a Perfect Lawn

Knowing how to take care of your lawn will help you to have a better looking yard in the spring and summer seasons. It will provide greener grass, as well as healthier looking grass. There are several tips and ways in which taking care of your lawn will help to improve the looks of your yard. By following a few simple rules, you can have a better and healthier looking yard.

Watering your lawn. It is important to know how much you need to water your lawn. This will always depend on the region that you are in. If you receive a lot of rainfall, it won't be necessary to water your lawn as much. If you live in a dry area, it may be easier and more effective to put an irrigation system in your yard to help keep the lawn moist.

If you water your lawn too much, it may cause the grass to wilt, and by watering it too little, it may cause brown spots throughout the yard. It is easy to tell when your lawn needs more moisture, simply by seeing how much moisture is in the dirt. Another part to keep in mind with watering is to always water early in the morning or late at night. This will help the water to stay in the ground, instead of evaporating.

Remove lawn thatch from the lawn. If your grass is kept short, having thatch on the lawn will cause the water and nutrients that you are supplying to be soaked up by the thatch, instead of the lawn. It may also cause an extra problem with insects getting into the lawn. By raking the thatch away from your yard regularly, you can prevent problems with thatch taking the place of your yard.

Lawn Aeration. One of the overlooked parts of taking care of a lawn is the aeration that is needed for the grass to breathe. The first way to allow your lawn to breathe is to take away the lawn thatch. The second technique that can be used to allow the nutrients to get into your lawn, and allow the lawn to breathe, is through poking holes in the soil, either in early spring or in late fall.

If the area of the lawn is walked on consistently, the lawn may need to have this done more

often as the grass can be smashed down, making it harder for air to help supply nutrients.

Lawn Fertilizer. It is best to fertilize your lawn periodically. The best type of fertilizer to use is the ones that are found to be slow-releasing, meaning that the nutrients do not all spread over the lawn at once, but rather, are moving into the lawn over a longer period of time. This will not only help your lawn to stay green, but will also help with weed control for a longer period of time. There are several different types of fertilizers, all which are better when used at a certain season in order to ensure that your lawns remain healthy throughout the entire year.

Mowing the lawn. One suggestion for having a better lawn is mowing with a mulching mower. This will allow you to not have to mow as much, but will also allow you to not have to rake or bag grass clippings, which allows extra fertilizer to the ground. The next thing to keep in mind is when and how often to mow your lawn.

Most say that it is best to mow your lawn when it is about 3 inches tall, and not to cut it to be less than 2 inches tall. This allows the nutrients to be used to their fullest in the lawn. It is also best to mow early in the morning or in the evening, as it is less stressful for the lawn. It is also best to mow in different directions every time that you cut your grass. This will prevent ruts from forming in your lawn.

By taking care of the lawn through providing the right balance of nutrients, as well as knowing when to take care of the lawn through these techniques, you can be ensured a greener, healthier looking lawn.

Grass Issues: To Bag or Not to Bag

One of the most basic and possibly mundane actions you have to perform on your lawn is to mow it. Every Saturday or Sunday you fire up the lawn mower, push it out into the yard, and begin the routine: push down, back, down, empty the bag, and repeat. Do you have to empty the bag, though? Do you have to bag the clippings at all?

The topic is one that is debated on cul-de-sacs across America. The truth is that there is a time to bag your clippings and a time not to bag them. You can avoid a lot of the time consuming work of bagging and emptying by educating yourself on the scientific reasoning behind mulching, while still keeping in mind that there are good times to bag your clippings.

You are already thinking that mulching or leaving clippings is bad for your lawn because it contributes to thatch. That is actually not true. Thatch, for the most part, is made up of dead or dying roots, leaves, and other slow-decomposing organic matter, but not grass. Your lawn clippings actually decompose at a fairly rapid rate, and will actually make your lawn more durable.

Clippings contain many of the same nutrients contained in the fertilizers you buy at the local gardening center. For every bag of clippings you haul away from your yard, you are taking with it a quarter pound of organic nitrogen. Now, how much do you pay for organic nitrogen for your lawn?

By simply mulching your clippings back into the lawn, you can save significantly on your fertilization costs. Imagine the money you would save if you just fertilized one less time per year.

Leaving your lawn clippings in the grass will also help to create a cushion under your lawn surface that is healthier than the thatch, but is enough to help maintain the lawns durability. The clippings will also help to keep your soil temperatures down and moisture in the soil where your grass can actually make use of it.

There are a lot of benefits to leaving your clippings in your lawn, or mulching them down, but there are actually reasons to bag your clippings from time to time as well. The most notable time is if you let the lawn get away from you. Maybe you had to go out of town and let it go a week longer than you should have, got busy and didn't get to it, or just were feeling lazy one week.

No matter what the reason may be, if you are cutting more than an inch off of your lawn, you are creating fairly large clippings. Large clippings of an inch or more may have trouble getting between the blades in your lawn and down to the soil where they can do any good. In that case, bag the clippings. You can still use them in a compost pile or for fertilizing other plants on your property, though. Just keep in mind that if your lawn has been recently treated with chemicals, that you should wait through two cuttings before using the clippings on any other plants.

The other reason to bag your clippings would be if you happen to have dandelions in your yard and they have gone to seed. In a perfect world, you would never have dandelions growing in your yard, but the truth is that not everyone has the time or desire to do what is necessary to keep them out completely. If you were to leave them in after going to seed and mowing them, you will, however, end up with many more dandelions than you had in the first place.

Traditionally, lawn clippings have been bagged and set out with the trash collection each week. However, the trend is certainly moving away from the bagging of lawn clippings. By leaving the clippings in the lawn, scientists have found that the clippings can reduce water evaporation, reduce lawn weary by adding a cushion, and create healthier grass by giving nutrients and maintaining cooler temperatures in the soil through hot summer days. By leaving your clippings in, except for in certain circumstances, you will be able to create a more self-maintaining lawn and save yourself money at the same time.

Green Bag It: How to Compost Your Grass Clippings

Composting your grass clippings is not a difficult process, though it may require a bit more work than you might think and these clippings can sometimes cause problems in your compost pile if not properly composted. Taking a few simple precautions will prevent your grass from turning into a smelly and slimy problem.

Grasscycling is the easiest way to deal with your grass clippings. With grasscycling, you just leave the grass clippings on the lawn. If you leave grass clippings where they fall naturally from the mower, they will act like any other natural fertilizer. This will save you money on fertilizer and time on bagging or moving grass cuttings. Any grass mower can become a grasscycler--all you need to do is remove the grass catcher from your lawn mower.

You will need to make sure you are mowing when the grass is dry to prevent the old clippings from clogging up your lawn mower and keep the blade of your mower sharp. Let the grass clippings lie like this is the simplest way to deal with them, though it may not be practical if you have young children or pets.

If the idea of grasscycling does not appeal to you, then here is the proper way to compost your grass clippings.

Your freshly trimmed grass has more moisture and a much higher nitrogen level than most other garden materials. Freshly mowed grass can often clump together and this is a problem because there is no room for oxygen to get in. If you compost your grass clippings like this, you may find that you have a serious odor problem to deal with. If you follow the following process, you should be able to reap the benefits of adding fresh grass clippings to your compost and also avoid any sort of odor problem. Grass can also develop a white mold if there is no air getting in.

To start with, you want to add high carbon materials (also referred to as browns) to your compost pile. These types of materials include wood chips, leaves and broken up sticks. Adding browns to your compost will prevent the grass clippings from clumping up the compost and will help oxygen circulate. You want to alternate your layers, a layer of grass clippings and then one of browns.

You can also get the oxygen in your compost pile circulate by aerating it. Aerating or oxygenating your compost pile involves the turning of the material. If you are going to be adding grass clippings to your pile then you need to make sure that you are aerating your compost pile on a regular basis. If your pile is mainly made up of grass clippings then there is nothing for the gas to ignite and the pile turns into a disgusting slimy mess.

If you are going to be continually composting your grass clippings then you are going to have more grass clippings than other materials in your compost pile. What is the solution? The solution is obviously multiple compost piles. You'll go through a process all summer where you are rotating between the piles and then consolidating piles as they become more manageable.

If you do not want to have two or three compost piles on the go, you can also try baking your grass clippings in the sun for a day before adding them to your compost pile. You can spread them on your driveway or any other flat surface for at least a day to prevent the clippings from souring up your compost pile.

If you have recently applied pesticides or herbicides to your lawn, then you do not want to add those grass clippings to your compost pile until the rain has washed them clean. You really need to be careful about adding clippings to your pile that have come in contact with chemicals like these.

Another tip that you might find useful is to add lime to your compost pile (or grass heap if it's mainly made up of grass). This will kick start the decomposing process and prevent mold from forming and your pile from developing a nasty odor.

Follow these simple guidelines and you should have no problem turning your old grass clippings into compost that will benefit your whole garden.

Green with Envy: What's the Best Lawn Grass for You

Lawn care is not only hard work, but it can also be very confusing. If you live in a suburban neighborhood, you know how much peer pressure there is to have the perfect lawn, but that there is a lot to keep track of in the process. You have to know when to fertilize, which fertilizer to use for the time of year, and then there is the decision of which grass type you are going to use for your lawn. There are many factors that may determine what type of grass you want to seed in your lawn, but the first will likely be the climate in which you live.

For instance, if you live in the southern United States, where the weather is warm almost year around, you will likely want to plant what is called a warm season grass. Warm season grasses do their active growing roughly between the months of April and October. Warm season grasses, as you may guess, prefer warmer climates.

For proper growth of warm season grasses, your area needs soil temperatures to be around 70 degrees Fahrenheit. Be careful; don't make the mistake of trying to plant a warm season grass if you live too far north. The grasses are genetically bred to grow in warm climates and will not be able to survive a Midwestern or northern winter. Bermuda grass is an example of warm season grasses.

If, however, you live in the Midwest or northern part of the country, then you will want to think about planting what is called a cool season grass. Cool season grasses do most of their growing in late spring and early fall. Because they are bred for cooler weather, their growth usually slows down considerably during the heat of the summer.

The best time to plant your cool season grass is the early fall. If, however, you want to plant at a different time of year, be careful that you do so when soil temperatures are around 50 degrees Fahrenheit, which would likely be in the spring. Kentucky bluegrass is cool season grass for example.

A third option, and one that is best for beginners, is to plant a grass seed mixture. The mixture will contain a number of different grass species in it. Planting a mixture will help you to avoid disease in your lawn.

Most fungi that attack lawns are specific to certain species of grass. If there are various species growing in the yard, it is hard for fungi or other diseases to spread from one plant to another when there are other species buffering them from one another. Mixed lawns will tend to adjust themselves to differences in the soil makeup or sun exposure in different parts of the lawn. All in all, a mixture is lower maintenance for a lawn care beginner.

Another kind of grass you will want to think about for your lawn is not one you would make your base grass in the lawn, but can be a big part of the overall look of your landscaping. That type of grass, of course, is what is called ornamental grass. Ornamental grasses are becoming an increasingly popular way to improve the look of lawns and landscaping all over the country.

While ornamental grasses can be grown from seed, the most popular way of raising it is to buy pots of the grass. Each pot can be divided up to make more grass, and if you are savvy with grass you will be able to grow all of the ornamental grass you could want.

Growing and maintaining a lawn can actually be stressful if you don't know what you are doing. When it comes to seeding a lawn, the number of species and options in the grass seed aisle of your local garden store can be intimidating. However, if you educate yourself through a little research, you can make good decisions about the grass to plant in your lawn.

Talk to a representative at your local nursery or garden store and find out what is best. If you decide to go with a mixture, the same representative can help you select the mixture that will work best for you and require the least maintenance.

How to Make the Grass Greener on YOUR Side of the Fence

As the summer season approaches, many will be considering the care of their lawn. In deciding the maintenance for your lawn, you can also decide to allow your grass to become greener and healthier than what it has been in the past. The reason why some lawns are greener than others is mostly because of the amount of nutrients that the yard is receiving.

The way that lawns are cared for adds onto the green that they are able to produce in return. This maintenance allows nutrients from the soil to be given to the grass. By watering your lawn properly, mowing and aerating your yard, you will be able to make a greener looking lawn.

One of the factors which may be adding to your grass not being as green is the location where it is at. If your lawn is shaded by trees, or other outside factors, it will be harder for it to receive the right amount of sunlight each day. This can eventually lead to the grass dimming out. If a tree is preventing sunlight from reaching the grass, you can trim the branches to allow more sunlight to come in.

Another thing to consider is how much traffic is moving through your lawn. By people moving over your grass, it causes the aeration that is needed through the soil to not move right. This causes the grass to have a lack of oxygen and may also add onto water moving into the soil as much as it should. You can solve this by aerating your lawn.

If you notice that the soil is compact, or if there are flat places on the lawn, then you should aerate your lawn. Make sure not to do this in the middle of summer, as it will stress out the grass. In preparation for your yard to become green, it is best to aerate your lawn at least in the spring, and possibly in the fall.

Making your grass greener also includes watering the grass at the right times and with the right amount of water. When watering your lawn, it is best to do so in the early morning, as this will allow the water to move into the soil instead of evaporating by the heat of the sun. It is also important to make sure that you are watering it evenly throughout your yard, instead of in patches. An easy way to do this is to use an irrigation system for your yard. It is also important to make sure that the soil is not staying too wet, or becoming too dry between the days that you water. This will help in making sure that your grass becomes greener.

Another factor in making sure that your grass becomes greener is making sure that lawn thatch and debris aren't taking over your yard. This may mean raking your lawn consistently and removing thatch that is over a half-inch in your yard. This will allow more aeration to move through your grass, as well as allow the water and nutrients to move freely through the grass and soil.

The soil that you are using for your yard is an important factor to consider in making sure that your lawn stays green. The soil should have the right pH balance, as well as the right texture with the grains.

If it doesn't, you can easily add compost or fertilizer to balance out the soil. This will help with giving the grass the right amount of nutrients, which will help it to stay greener. Depending on the type of soil, or the problems you see from the grass, as well as the time of year which you will be applying the fertilizer, will determine the type of fertilizer that you should get for the lawn.

Another important consideration in keeping your grass greener is when to mow your grass. You should remain aware of the mowing height and clippings that you should use. If you cut your grass too short, it may stress out your grass. If you don't cut your grass enough, it may cause problems with water and sunlight moving into the soil.

Aeration, proper nutrients, the environment around the lawn, as well as mowing will all help your lawn to become green and stay greener. By keeping the maintenance in mind with your lawn, you will easily be able to produce a green lawn.

Keeping the Weeds Out

One of the evils naturally attending any landscape endeavor is the fact that weeds need to be taken care of. There are plenty of ways to keep the weeds out, but chances are that at some point you are going to have to do some weeding. Even the best herbicides and the best-laid plastic liners are not full proof. Inevitably it will be necessary to pull weeds by hands. But by making sure that you remove the offending plants, you will have a better-looking landscape over all, and can maintain a well-groomed yard.

The proper way to weed by hand involves getting close to the weeds. This means getting down on your hands and knees and using your hands or maybe a small handheld tool to remove the weeds. Getting close to the weeds allows you to attack each individually while causing very little, if any, harm to your more desirable plants.

Additionally, while you are down there, you might as well look at your plants to ensure that they are in good health. Weeding can serve two purposes: getting rid of interlopers and allowing you to be aware of problems to your own plants before it is too late.

You should pull even the smallest of the weeds. It is easier to pull them when they are small. Their roots are less developed, and they have less chance to wreak havoc on your own plants. After all, a weed takes moisture and nutrients that are intended for you plant and then hogs them for itself.

If you get the weed when it is small, then it does not have ample time to weaken your plants. It is best to pull the entire weed out, including roots. Merely snipping them at the base leaves the main problem still in the ground. You can use a small trowel to help you get under the weed. It also helps to water your garden a few hours before hand to help the soil give a little.

Pulling weeds early in the day will help you, as it is cooler and you can start the day off with some invigorating exercise. You should weed regularly, once or twice a week. You could weed every day, but many people do not have time for that. But by setting a regular weeding schedule, you can make it part of your weekly routine and make sure that small weeds do not grow into large, ugly monsters. Dead weeds can be added to the compost heap, as they do not decompose into more weeds. They merely break down into helpful organic material.

Another thing that can help keep weeds down is mulch. Mulch keeps weeds out and it retains moisture in your garden. It is possible to use plastic mulch, and this will almost entirely keep all weeds out. However, it will not return nutrients to your soil, nor is it environmentally friendly. Organic mulch, created from the compost pile, can keep weeds down as long as it is applied thickly.

Any weeds that do happen to poke through the mulch are very easy to pull. Paper can be used in mulch, as long as you let it sit in the compost pile with everything else, and it adds extra weed protection. Organic mulch is environmentally friendly, and it acts as a natural fertilizer. Effective composting practices can save you a great deal of money in your landscaping efforts.

Of course, it is possible to use weed killers and herbicides to get rid of weeds in your landscape, or to keep them out. They make use of chemicals and are often the fastest way to get rid of weeds. They are very effective: often the most effective ways to get rid of weeds. Additionally, they require very little effort to apply.

It is important, however, to be careful. The chemicals are harmful and if improperly applied can damage your plants. They can also cause you trouble. Be sure that all weed killers and herbicides you use are legal and approved by the government. And read the labels to ensure that you apply them properly and that you utilize proper protection to yourself, as some of the chemicals are harmful if you breathe them in or if they come in contact with your skin.

Kentucky Blue Grass: It's not Just a Type of Music

Kentucky bluegrass, as a species of grass, is native to most of Europe, the northern parts of Asia, as well as the mountainous regions of Morocco and Algeria. The grass, though common now in the cool humid parts of the United States, is not even native to North America. It came to this country along with colonists from Europe, who brought grass seed mixtures. The species took to the climate of New England well, and is now found throughout much of the modern United States.

Kentucky bluegrass is one of the most recognizable grasses in the United States. It grows from about one and one half to two feet in height. It is recognizable because of its boat shaped tips on the blades. The growth of Kentucky bluegrass varies with the time of year and is triggered by the length of the days rather than the temperatures of the days.

If you wish to plant Kentucky bluegrass you must know that it requires approximately two to three pounds of seed per 1,000 square feet of land. Fortunately it can be seeded any time of the year, but will grow best if you plant in the spring or fall. Once planted, you should water your bluegrass at least a couple of times a day for the first two weeks, and maybe even three times depending on the weather. You can cut back on the watering once the seeds start to produce visible sprouts.

Compared to many other grasses, and specifically warm season grasses, Kentucky bluegrass requires a lot of water. To stay healthy it will need as much as two inches of water every week. That should keep the grass green and bright throughout the summer. In order to help the roots to grow deeper and hardier, water no less than an inch on any single day of watering.

If your Kentucky bluegrass happens to go dormant during a drought, it will need only about an inch of water every two or three weeks. That will keep the crowns of the grass alive so that when rainfall does come the grass will recover fast.

Kentucky bluegrass requires a fairly large amount of Nitrogen during most every year of its life. The first year, when you plant it, it will likely need five or six pounds of nitrogen to grow properly. After that, you can probably get away with cutting that back by about half. In order to avoid burning and to maintain convenience, you may want to use some sort of slow release nitrogen source. It can be applied more liberally and less frequently, making it an especially attractive option if you are a beginner in lawn care.

Like most purebred lawn grasses, Kentucky bluegrass is susceptible to pests. The weed problems you may encounter with your bluegrass are dandelions, clover, crabgrass, and annual bluegrass. These can generally be controlled with pre-emerge herbicides. As far as insects, billbugs, sod webworms, and white grubs all enjoy a good Kentucky bluegrass meal.

Monitor the insect situations diligently and apply pesticides in a timely manner, with care not to over do it. Bluegrass may also get hit with disease. To prevent this problem, you can seed with a mixture added to your bluegrass or use varying strains of Kentucky bluegrass that have resistance to different diseases. If your soil happens to be alkaline, and you did not have it tested in advance, your Kentucky bluegrass could develop iron chlorosis, which is yellowing between the veins of the grass.

Kentucky bluegrass, because the state is named for it and because it can be found all over the United States, is one of the most well known grasses around. It is also very recognizable by its unique blade and bright color. Native to the middle United States where the weather is cool and humid, the grass is not as difficult to plant and maintain as its reputation would imply. Plant your bluegrass in the correct density to ensure good cover, seed it either in the spring or the fall when the days are the proper length to ensure a good root system, and be sure to get the newly seeded area significant light, frequent water, and proper care and you can have a beautiful bluegrass lawn that you can be proud of.

Southern Sod: Three Types of Grass that Grow Well in the South

You may not realize that different types of grasses, just like other plants and shrubs, have different needs and some varieties are more suited to some climates than others. There are grasses that grow better in moderate or moist climates and then other types that do much better in hot, dry locales. If you live in a southerly climate, then here are three grasses that grow well in your area.

1. Bermudagrass

Bermudagrass can be both a blessing and curse. It can be uncontrollable and can invade your flowerbeds and produce an uncontrollable amount of grass seeds. All of this stress and aggravation is worth it though, especially if you have neither the time nor the inclination to nurture your lawn. Bermudagrass can survive for decades with very little care and can also work well as a winter lawn in place of perennial ryegrass. This grass is tough and hardy and is often used on roadsides in the south because of its ability to stand up to real wear and tear with little maintenance.

Bermudagrass needs a warm climate. It is both drought and wear resistant. It is fast growing and the comma Bermuda variety is quite cheap. It does need full sun to thrive and has a very low tolerance for shady areas. Don't plant Bermudagrass if your lawn does not get a great deal of direct sunlight.

2. Centipede

Like Bermudagrass, centipede is quite low maintenance and does not require frequent mowing or fertilization. It does not, however, grow quickly and it cannot withstand heavy traffic in the way that Bermudagrass can.

Centipede is a tough grass variety that is particularly suited to areas in the lower South and where the soil is quite acidic. This variety of grass can take root where many other grasses have failed. Centipede grass can grow in some shade, but you will get best results if it is full sun or almost full sunspots.

Centipede grass should be fertilized in the spring with low-nitrogen fertilizer. You need to make sure that your fertilizer does not contain phosphorus. The ideal mix to look for is 15-0-15. The ideal pH level for centipede grass is between four and a half and five and a half.

3. Zoysia

Zoysia is a very dark and dense turf and it the most tolerant of cold of the entire southern climate suited grasses. The ideal pH level for this variety of grass is between six and seven.

Zoysia is quite slow to take root if grown right from seed. You can bypass this difficulty by laying sod, rather than growing the grass right from seed. If you decide to go with sees, then you will have to have a great deal of patience.

Zoysia does best in full sun, but there are some sub-varieties that can do well in the shade. The Emerald Zoysia variety has a high shade tolerance. Zoysia also has somewhat of a drought tolerance, though you will need to stay on top of the water level and make sure that you water your grass if the drought lasts longer than a week. Zoysia can deal with some dry spells, but not really lengthy ones. Zoysia grasses should be fertilized in both the spring and the fall.

This variety of grass is the most attractive of the warm season grasses, but it comes at a price. Zoysia grass takes a great deal of care and nurturing on your part to achieve the luxurious look it is known for. If you don't have the time or energy to devote to this type of grass, then you should probably consider planting one of the other varieties of warm climate grasses.

There are some other warm climate grasses that will do well if you live in a southern climate. There are also some tall fescue varieties that can do well in southern areas too, especially those that are resistant to droughts.

At your local garden center, they should have a mix for your area. Grass companies have spent a great deal of time and money researching the best mix for your area. If you don't have the time or want to do extensive research into the specific kinds of grass that are best suited to your land, then one of these grass seeds mixtures may be your best bet.

St. Augustine: Sometimes the Grass is Greener There

Yes, the grass is greener in St. Augustine and one reason is that Southern lawn grass is the St. Augustine grass. It is great for hot temperatures; it is also aggressive and dense. St. Augustine grass is tough, course and is mat forming. This grass is good at spreading quickly and can be started with either plugs or sod patches. If you look for bags of St. Augustine grass seed, you'll have a hard time finding it.

St. Augustine grass does not produce a marketable seed. Recent developments have given the public a seed but it is still better to start with sod or plugs. This grass is great for salty, alkaline, or acidic ground. It tolerates ocean saltwater and thrives in the sun. If temperatures in warm weather zones are expected to drop to below 20 degrees, watering the lawn will keep the soil temperature closer to 32 degrees. Colder temperatures coupled with a dry soil will cause root damage. St. Augustine grass will grow well in full sun and will tolerate some shade.

St. Augustine grass is usually a light to medium green color and as mentioned before is course in texture. Its growth habit is fast and it creeps along, filling in the lawn as it goes.

St. Augustine grass needs to be mowed to a height of 2.5 to 3.5 inches for best results. If you have shady areas, you need to let the grass grow a little longer. In the hottest part of summer, raise the mowing height and don't mow at all if you're experiencing a season of drought. St. Augustine grass will knit itself into a tight turf that naturally resists weeds if you fertilize properly. It actually smothers weeds, as the grass grows so thick. The grass has aggressive aboveground runners called stolons that can grow ½ inches per day laterally.

In addition, iron in a fertilizer will give you the maximum green color that lawn enthusiasts desire. Fertilization is best done in Spring, Summer and Fall. Early in Spring your St. Augustine lawn needs a weed and feed pesticide that will kill broadleaf that is already up and growing and stops new weed seeds from germinating. Also in late spring you should use a fertilizer and pest control if it is needed.

You should use lawn fertilizer in the summer and insect control but only as needed. In the early fall, St. Augustine grass should be winterized with a winter conditioner. If your lawn's pH level is discovered to be too low, then lime should be added in late winter or early spring. It is important to remember when fertilizing your lawn to use a fertilizer spreader to spread lawn care products evenly over your lawn.

Maintenance will depend on the temperature of the soil, water levels, and your mowing and fertilization schedule. If temperatures are cool, the grass will grow slower and less mowing is required. St. Augustine grass needs to be regularly irrigated or watered to keep it healthy. It requires two inches of water every seven days to preserve its green color and keeping it from going dormant.

If it does go dormant, it will green right up again as soon as it receives the moisture it needs. If you have more than ½ inch of dead stems and debris on the soil's surface, you will need to thin and clear out the dead thatch for a healthy lawn. You should do this in the spring just before new growth begins. The root-growing season starts in April and goes through October.

Two pests cause damage to any lawn with St. Augustine grass. One is known as St. Augustine Decline, which is a virus and the other, is a bug called a chinch bug. These are tiny black insects with white wings. You will probably find them in hot dry spots of your lawn. If you are unsure if you have them, you can make them come to the surface by soaking the spot with a bucket of soapy water. To repair spots damaged by the virus or the chinch bugs you will need to plant sprigs of a resistant strain of St. Augustine grass such as Floratam or Floralawn. Check with your county extension to see how and when to best control both problems.

Lawn Care Basics

Lawn care is often the most basic of landscaping chores. Taking care of the yard is practically an American institution. There is much pride in ensuring that you have a healthy and beautiful lawn. Additionally, it is satisfying to know that you can take care of your lawn on your own for much less than paying someone else to do it.

Plus, you get that sense of satisfaction knowing that you did a great job on your lawn. But in order to have a great looking home landscape, there are a few things to keep in mind regarding lawn care basics. But once you have the basics down, and if you keep with them, there is no stopping you from having a great looking lawn.

Before you do anything, like mowing, you need to make sure that you clean the lawn. This means raking up leaves and debris, and clearing the area of unwanted brush. If you are looking to have a level lawn, getting rid of bumps and or dips, there are some things that you can do. To get rid of little valleys, you can fill the holes with topsoil and then add grass seed.

Bumps can be removed by using a garden spade to cut an X in the raised area. Peel back the sod and then remove the soil as needed before replacing the sod. By cleaning and leveling your yard, you will make it easier to mow the lawn, and your yard will have a pleasing uniformity of appearance.

Mowing the grass should be done regularly. Depending on where you live, and how fast your grass grows, this may need to be done once every week or once every other week. You should adjust the lawn mower blade so that it does not cut off more than one third of the grass's height. The surface area of each blade of grass is important in sustaining the health of the lawn. If the grass is cut to short, an environment especially conducive to disease is created, and this can result in a rather unhealthy lawn.

One of the essentials of lawn care is making sure that you do not have too much soil compaction. Over time, your soil will become compacted and harder beneath the grass. This begins to cause problems like moisture penetration and grass root restriction. Aeration makes it possible for your soil to "breathe" a little easier.

There are two types of aeration. One is the kind called "plugging," where a special device removes clumps of soil, about the size of a finger, from out of the ground. The other kind simply punches holes into the soil. The point, however, is that this allows water seep down better (preventing erosion and drying out), as well as providing room for helpful organisms like earthworms to live. It is usually possible to rent an aerator if you do not wish to buy one. It is good to aerate about once every year or two.

Fertilizer can help your lawn grow as well. While it is not strictly necessary, and while it is possible to grow a healthy and attractive lawn without the aid of fertilizers, many people find them very helpful. It is important not to apply too much, however, as this can result in the death of your lawn, and also can result in harm to the environment as the excess fertilizer is washed away. Fertilizers usually come in liquid or granular form.

Liquid fertilizers act fast and require application every two to three weeks. They can be applied with a hose-end sprayer or by using a watering can. Granules are dry and require that you water the lawn immediately after their application. You most often use hand spreaders or mechanical spreaders to disburse these types of fertilizers. They can last eight to twelve weeks.

When you use fertilizer, you should be aware that it might be harmful to let your children play on the lawn for a few days. You need to make sure that the fertilizer has been absorbed below the surface before allowing yourself or others to play on the grass. Many conscientious

landscapers find that they do not need fertilizers to create a successful lawn.

Laying Down the Lawn: How to Turn that Dirt Patch Into a Perfectly Green Lawn

There are several different ways to have a lawn in your yard. One way is through the use of laying down sod, which is pre-grown grass. While this is easier and faster, it is not the only way to turn your yard into a lawn. You can also plant grass through seeds. This is a cheaper way to have a lawn and will allow you to have a different grass type than what is available with sod. If you decide to have a lawn that requires seeds, then it is best to prepare your lawn so that your seeds will grow more effectively.

The best time to plant seeds for grass will be determined by the climate in which you live. However, as a general rule, most lawns shouldn't be planted in the middle of summer, as the sun will cause the seeds to overheat, stress and die. You also will not be able to plant your lawn in the middle of winter, as the ground will most likely be frozen and if not, the proper nutrients for your lawn will be harder to maintain. It is said that either in early spring or early fall are the best time to begin your new yard.

The first thing to do when you decide to put in seed for a lawn is to make sure that the ground is clear for the seeds. This includes digging up weeds that may be growing in your yard and turning the soil so that old roots and weeds don't have a chance to re-grow. This will not only help in getting rid of the old weeds or lawn, but will also help to move the nutrients in the soil to be more effective.

The next thing that should be done in order to have a healthy lawn from seed is to make sure that the soil has the right nutrients and right pH. You can easily test your soil to make sure that it is made of the right components. The first way to do this is to get a pH tester. You can also determine the type of your soil by seeing the thickness of the grains.

If they are too thick, or clay like, or too thin, similar to sand, it won't allow the seeds to get the right amount of nutrients. After you determine what type of soil you have, you can put fertilizer or extra nutrients in the ground to balance out the pH and type of soil. If your soil is claylike, you can break this up by using a tiller. This will cause the clay to break and become more even.

When you put the fertilizer or compost in the ground, you should make sure to use a tiller so that it will be spread evenly. Raking soil so that it is even, as well as moving extra rocks and debris from the soil will help in making sure that your soil is healthy and a good place to grow the grass. Before you plant any grass, it is important to make sure that the nutrients, as well as the soil is even all the way across the lawn. This will prevent problems when your grass begins to grow.

The easiest way to spread the seeds through your yard is by using a seed spreader. It is said that it is easiest to spread only $\frac{1}{3}$ of the seeds each time across the lawn, and each time go in a different direction. This will help to spread the seeds evenly. After this, you can rake the

seeds into the ground. The seeds should be slightly covered by the soil so that they will receive the right amount of nutrients and not become stressed out and die from the heat or the sun.

In order for your lawn to grow right, it is important to water your lawn consistently. You should begin this as soon as your seeds are covered under the ground. Because they are not rooted into the ground yet, it is best to use a light spray. It is best to water your seeds consistently every day before they begin to sprout. After they begin to come out of the ground, you can change the watering to only twice a day. After about six weeks, you can change the watering to only during the morning.

By starting out your lawn with the right nutrients and with healthy soil, it will be ensured that you will have a lawn growing in a short amount of time. Maintaining and taking care of your grass will help your lawn to become green and healthy through the summer season.

Lime for your Lawn: How to Know When You Need It

Why do lawns need lime and how do you know when you need it? I'll try to answer some of these questions for you. The first fact you should know is why lime is used on lawns. Soil ph is a measure of the soils acidity or alkalinity. If your ph level is below 7.0 then your soil is considered acidic and if it's above that number, it is considered alkaline.

A desirable ph level is between 6.0 and 7.0. Lime conditions the soil and will improve the growth of turf and make it healthier. With a good ph factor a lawn has, less of a chance of loss of nutrients and thatch is reduced. Soil acidity increases with an increasing rainfall.

Some of the things that can cause acidity in lawn, other than rainfall, some fertilizers also leach the nutrients from the soil. Other factors, which cause acidity are irrigating with water that has a high acid content and decomposition of soil organic matter.

The only way you can determine if your soil needs liming and how much to apply is to do a soil test. A soil test kit can be found at your local garden center to test your lawn's ph level but it won't tell you how much lime to use to make your lawn healthier. The only way to determine how much lime you need is to have an actual soil test by the county extension office. If they don't have the facilities to test there, they can tell you where to send your soil for testing.

They should be able to tell you how to collect the soil needed for testing. You will receive a test report when the test is completed, and in that report there is a section titled Lime. If there is a zero in that section, you don't need any lime at all. If you see a letter "T" or "M" with a number following, that indicates you need lime. The letter "M" stands for pounds per 1000 square feet. Homeowners will normally not see the letter "T" because it is the indicator of tons per acre.

There are a couple of different forms of lime. You will find palletized lime or powder lime. Pellet sized lime is easier to apply and creates much less mess. Powdered lime, even though it is less expensive it is very messy and hard to spread. It has the consistency of baking flour. The finer the particle size of lime the faster it will have an affect on soil ph. Applications of lime are best when mixed with the soil with a roto-tiller or using a core aeration machine that pulls

out soil plugs.

It is recommended that lime application and fertilizer applications be separated by at least two weeks. There really isn't a specific time to apply lime. It can be applied anytime during the growing season. It should not be applied when the grass is wilted or frost covered. It will help improve turf growth because grass grows better when the soil pH is improved. Lime is completely natural, as it is crushed limestone.

Homeowners mistakenly think that they need to apply lime every year to keep the necessary pH level. There are negative aspects of creating a too high pH level as well as of having too low a level. A high pH level prevents nutrients such as nitrogen phosphorus; potassium sulfur and other nutrients are less available.

With these nutrients less available, it makes your lawn less vigorous and healthy. Once your pH level is adjusted to the proper number, you can maintain the correct level by combining one pound of lime to every pound of fertilizer used. You only need to have your soil tested once every three years or so after, its initially tested.

The question has been asked if liming your lawn will eliminate moss. It won't do that; the only way it helps eliminate moss is by allowing the turf to grow stronger and healthier.

Any way you look at it, lime is an essential ingredient for a healthy lawn. If your lawn is not healthy and has an abundance of weeds, test your soil. If you find your pH level is not at a high enough standard for a healthy lawn, then you can use lime to help your lawn grow green and strong. Remember sturdier grass and healthier lawns are a deterrent to those nasty weeds we don't like to see cropping up in our yards.

Rooting for the Perfect Lawn: Maintaining Proper Nutrient Levels for Your Lawn

Maintaining proper nutrient levels is an important, but often overlooked part of a healthy lawn care routine. If the nutrient levels in your soil drop below what they should be, your grass and plants will suffer. That's why you need to be aware of the nutrient levels and take steps to correct the levels if they drop below what is needed for a healthy lawn.

There are many factors that contribute to the nutrient level of your soil over time. The type of grass and soil, as well as weather conditions and the age of your grass will all factor into your lawn's particular nutrient level.

If you are concerned about the nutrient levels in your lawn you can perform a simple pH test on your soil to ensure that you have the right balance of nutrients. This test is the only way to know for sure whether your soil has the right balance of nutrients. Because there are so many factors that can influence the amount and times of fertilizer applications, a pH test is the only way to get an accurate reading of your soil's nutrient levels.

You can have a soil test done at a lab or you can purchase one of the many do-it-yourself kits that are now on the market. These kits are inexpensive and easy to do at home, but you may not get as accurate a result as you would from a professional lab.

If you discover that your nutrient levels are below what they should be, then you can fertilize your grass. You want to avoid over fertilizing your lawn. Fertilizing should only be done when nutrient levels go below what is required for the maintenance of a healthy lawn.

Adding compost to your soil will help with the nutrient levels, but the release of nutrients will occur slowly over time. Organic fertilizers will supply the type of nutrients you need, though they are in a slow release form.

You can also purchase inorganic fertilizers at your local garden center. These commercial fertilizers are usually made up of three main nutrients needed for healthy lawn care. The first is nitrogen, which gives your grass a deep green color and promotes growth. Next is phosphorous. This nutrient encourages root growth.

Finally there is potassium for stress resistance. Your soil needs all of these nutrients to really thrive, but they are needed in different levels, with nitrogen being the most used and needed of these elements. If there is too much nitrogen though, there will be too little root growth and too little energy stored for the winter months. That's why your fertilizer mix should be a balance of all three nutrients.

There should be numbers on the fertilizer bag, which tell you what percentage of these three nutrients is in the mix you're looking at. The numbers will always be presented in the order N-P-K (N for nitrogen, P for phosphorous and K for potassium). You will need to make sure to water your lawn after applying an inorganic fertilizer (unless the packaging tells you not to). If you do not water after applying this kind of fertilizer, you may burn sections of your lawn.

Before applying fertilizer, you need to measure your lawn area properly. The basic ratio of nutrients to land space should be listed on the bag of fertilizer you purchase. When doing your calculations, you need to make sure that you are just measuring your lawn area and not the entire size of your property. You must subtract any non-lawn area from the size of your property (for example your house, driveway and planted beds).

The rate and timing of fertilization is really important to the health of your lawn. Some soils only require fertilization in the fall, some in the spring and fall and some lawns require anywhere from four to six applications per year. The best time to fertilize is in the fall rather than the spring. In the fall, fertilizer helps the lawn grow and store carbohydrates to help through the winter months. Spring fertilization can actually deplete stored energy and the result can be excessive growth, which must be kept under control with extra mowing and a lot of extra work on your part.

Five Lawn Problems from Weak Watering Practices

Watering your lawn is one of the most important ways to make sure that the grass is receiving nutrients and staying healthy throughout the year. Bad watering practices can cause problems to occur with the lawn that you are trying to get to remain healthy. There are certain ways not to water in order to prevent some of the problems with your lawn. By paying attention to watering practices and staying consistent throughout the season, your lawn will look healthier and greener from the nutrients you are giving it through the water.

Drained food reserves from dormant grass. This may occur because of inconsistent watering. It is important to decide if you are going to water throughout the entire season, or allow your lawn to stay dormant through the spring and summer. If your grass is dormant and brown, then you decide to water it for a while, then allow it to go back to the brown dormant mode, it will drain the food reserves that are in the plant, causing the grass to die instead of just to be in a dormant or hibernation mode.

Smaller roots and a color that does not stay green. This is a result of not knowing when to water lawns. At the beginning of the season, you shouldn't water your lawn right away, but allow a few days for the grass to get use to the warmer weather. The grass will actually go through a period of drought stress. However, the reaction to this by the grass is that it allows for the grass to increase rooting. The grass will also turn greener in color as a result. If you water right away, the grass will be over-watered, which will cause problems for the rest of the season with nutrients and color of the grass.

Soil washing away, causing the grass to turn brown because of a lack of nutrients. This is a result of watering your lawn too much. If you water too much, it will cause the soil to wash away the nutrients that the lawn needs. When you water, it's important to water for a longer period of time, but not every day. This allows the water to be soaked into the soil, and be given to the grass over a longer period of time. Through this, the grass will be able to soak in more nutrients that are in the soil as well as in the water.

Browning and dehydration. This is a result of watering in the middle of the day. This will cause the grass to not receive the right nutrients and can cause browning and dehydration. By watering in the middle of the day, the water is absorbed and evaporated by the sun instead of the soil, not allowing the grass to get the nutrients that it needs through the water. It then dries out the soil, causing the grass to not have the proper amount of nutrients available.

Brown spots and over-watered grass. This can easily occur if there is inconsistency in watering the entire lawn. It's important to make sure that the lawn all receives the same amount of water. If some places receive too much water, and others don't receive enough, it will cause the grass to wilt and die. If you are on a slope, then it is important to watch for runoff that may occur when watering your plants.

If you think this may be happening, go to the lower places on the slope and make sure that the water has soaked in, or water it again to make sure it is ok. If your lawn doesn't all receive an even amount of water, some places will be over-hydrated, while other places will not be receiving the right amount of nutrients that is needed.

Bad watering techniques may cause your grass to not grow roots properly, to wilt, to brown when it is not needed, and not receive the proper nutrients. By not watering right, your lawn will not be able to grow right. It's important to make sure you have a system that will benefit the lawn throughout the season by knowing what your grass will need in relation to better watering practices.

Weed Out the Competition: Top Three Weed Problems of Your Lawn

Weeds can be a consistent problem when you are trying to have a nice looking lawn, which receives the right amount of nutrients and continues to grow. Weeds can become overbearing in your yard, and if the proper maintenance isn't given, they can completely take over your lawn.

Because of this, it is important to know what the problems with weeds are. By identifying the major problems that your lawn may be having with weeds, it will be easier to eliminate the weeds and allow your lawn to grow better while receiving the proper care.

Broadleaf weeds. These are the number one type of weed that is found in lawns. They can easily take over the entire yard by taking the good soil and water from your plants. Some of these will appear every single year, with new roots forming in the same place, even after you pull them out. The seeds spread quickly as well.

These are found in almost every single lawn and are constantly taking the nutrients and water from the grass that is growing around it. If these aren't handled, they can easily kill off all of the grass and take over your lawn. However, there are several other types of weeds, which will try to take over your lawn. It is always best to identify what these are.

Growing and spreading of weeds. One of the most common problems with weeds is that they reproduce easily. Once one weed finds a home in your lawn, several others will begin to spring up around it. Because of this, it becomes hard to get a handle on the weeds once they start growing. Even after you have pulled the weeds out, there may still be several seeds or roots that are in the yard, which will cause the weeds to take the nutrients from the lawn and use them for their own growth.

Hidden Weeds. Sometimes, it is hard to see the weeds that are in your lawn. They may get mowed over, or may just be a small type of weed to begin with. Several weeds will thrive without you ever noticing that they are there. This will help them to grow and spread throughout the lawn, causing major problems later on. Because of this, it is important to take some time to find the hidden weeds that are growing in your grass. These kinds will always continue to grow and eliminate the nutrients that the grass needs in order to survive.

Because of the problems that weeds bring with them, there are several ways to get rid of the weeds. The first thing to do is to identify which type of weed it is. There are some types of weeds that are best eliminated at a certain type of year. By doing this, you will be determining that they will never come back again.

The second thing to do is to find the right type of weed eliminator for your yard. Some will use a fertilizer or spray in order to get the weeds out. Others will spend time pulling the weeds out from their yard. If you decide to do this, it is important to get all of the roots out with the weed, in order to make sure that you are getting rid of the entire problem.

If weeds do take over your yard, it is because they are soaking up the nutrients and water that the grass needs. By doing this, the grass will not be as green as it should be; it will begin to turn brown, and eventually will die completely, while the weeds begin to get healthier. Because of this, it is important to find weeds before they get too big and start to soak up all of the nutrients that are supposed to be going to your lawn.

Weeds can become problematic for lawns. They can easily take over an entire yard by taking nutrients, spreading easily, and returning year after year. Certain types of weeds are especially attracted to lawns and need to be watched for. Because of this, the proper maintenance, as well as identifying the type of weed that is taking over your yard will help in eliminating weeds completely.

Weed Whacked: Ten things You Should NOT Do In Ridding Your Lawn of Weeds

One of the common problems in lawns is an abundance of weeds getting ready to take over the grass that is growing in your lawn. Weeds can be prevented and taken out of your lawn through simple methods. However, there may also be an invitation for more weeds to grow in your yard if the right preventative measures aren't taken in getting rid of weeds in your lawn. Here are ten things that you should keep in mind and not do when getting rid of the weeds in your yard.

1. Don't mow at the wrong time. One of the ways to encourage weeds to grow is through low mowing. This won't allow you to see the weeds as they grow, and will cause them to seed easier, spreading faster through your yard. It is also best not to mow right after you have applied a weed killer, as this will cause the killer to be picked up out of the ground, instead of moving into the weeds.

2. Don't avoid putting fertilization in the yard. If you don't fertilize your yard, there won't be enough nutrients available for your grass. The nutrients that are in the soil will go to the more deeply rooted weeds, which will eventually take over the yard.

3. Don't fertilize at the wrong time of the year. Depending on the type of fertilization that you decide to use, you should put it in at a certain time of year. Most of these are best in the early spring or early fall. If you put the fertilization in at the wrong time, then it may cause weeds to use the fertilization, as the grass will be stressed from the sun or from other factors.

4. Don't over-water. If the soil can't soak up the water that you are giving to the grass, then it is a perfect opportunity for weeds to take the extra water for their own growth. It's important to make sure that the water is all going into the soil and being used for the grass.

5. Don't have too much shade. By having shade from bushes or trees, weeds will have an extra chance to grow. Many different types of weeds begin in the shade, as they don't need as much sunlight, then spread to other parts of the yard. By cutting back tree branches and bushes, this will prevent weeds from growing.

6. Don't apply herbicides with low soil moisture. While herbicides are used to prevent weeds, doing this when the soil moisture is low will cause damage to the grass as well as not be effective in the prevention of weeds.

7. Don't add herbicides to new sod or to newly planted seed. If you add herbicides or weed remover before the grass has a chance to grow, it will have the opposite effect than what was intended for the growth of the grass.

8. Don't use the wrong kind of weed killer. If you use the wrong kind of weed killer, it may cause the opposite effect from what was intended, or have no result at all. It may also damage the grass.

9. Don't use weed killer in the wrong season. If you use weed killer in the summer, it will most likely evaporate instead of moving into the weeds. The weeds also aren't really growing in the spring and fall, making it easier to kill them and prevent them from growing in the summer.

10. Don't use the wrong prevention method. There are several different types of weeds, each which thrive in certain types of environments, with several different factors in relation to the nutrients that are available. It's important to choose the right type of weed killer, and to identify which type of weeds you have. By doing this, you will be able to kill the weeds easier. You will also allow less maintenance time in getting rid of the weeds in your yard.

By knowing the exact method in taking out weeds in your yard, you will be able to follow an easier process for getting rid of the weeds in your lawn. You will also be able to prevent more weeds from appearing without having to do as much maintenance in your yard. By not knowing exactly what to do for weed prevention, you may be inviting more weeds to grow in your yard.

Bugged Out! How to Diagnose What's Eating Your Lawn

Insects can cause a lot of problems in a lawn. They can eat the grass blades, attack the roots, or just be a nuisance. The best way to get rid of an insect problem in your lawn is to call a professional, but if you want to do the work yourself, you should make sure you can identify some of the more common lawn insects.

First on the list is the immortal aphid. Aphids feed on all types of vegetation and come in a few varieties. If you get white pine aphids in your yard, they may not cause damage to your grass, but they can get into any decorative trees you may have and wreak havoc. There are many species, so if you think you do have an aphid problem, the best thing to do is consult a professional.

If you live in the southern part of the United States then you are likely familiar with a major turf pest: the armyworm. An armyworm is a moth in its larval form. They feed directly on turf grasses and will chew them all the way down to the ground. They most often appear in the fall as they feed to store up for the winter. Armyworms can cause a great deal of damage to a lawn if left untreated.

Another tough pest is the billbug. There are a number of different species of billbugs that attack different types of turf grass. The adults grow to about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in length and can be identified by a long snout. These beetles will burrow in the grass stems right up by the surface of the soil. They also will feed directly on the grass leaves.

Another lawn pest is the chigger. Chiggers don't really do damage to the lawn itself, but if you plan to enjoy your lawn with your family, you don't want a chigger problem. Chiggers are a type of mite that will attach themselves to your skin. Once they are attached they release a point that causes severe itching and stinging so that they may get access to blood. They are very tiny, so often only their effects are seen rather than the mites themselves.

Another moth larva that can cause a real problem is the cutworm. Cutworms are a spotted gray or black caterpillar that is about 2 inches in length. They will hide in the soil of your lawn during the day, and then they will come out at night to feed on your grass. They can do severe damage to Bermuda grasses, bent grasses and rye grasses, which are their preferred food.

Another very destructive larva is that of several beetles, including the Japanese beetle. That, of course, there is the grub. Grubs live below the surface of the lawn and feast on the roots of grass plants. This eventually destroys the plant. Generally grubs do most of their damage during the late summer months.

The resulting damage, though, may not be apparent to the eye until fall rolls around and it is too late. If you are susceptible to grub problems, you should try to get your lawn treated in the early summer when the grubs are most susceptible to treatments and pesticides.

Leafhoppers are a tiny, but damaging, little pest. They are wedge shaped hopping and flying insects that are generally green in color. There are many species of leafhopper, but most all of them love to feast on lawns. They climb onto the blades of the grass and suck the sap from the stems and leaves. The damage they cause can sometimes be so severe that lawns have to be reseeded. If you see white patches showing up in your yard, you may have a leafhopper problem and should get it treated as soon as possible.

Insects, worms, and bugs can cause a lot of problems for an otherwise healthy lawn. There are countless types of these pests and many species within each type, but no matter which pest it is, quick identification and treatment is important. It is recommended that you consult a professional before treating your lawn, but by identifying the problem early you may be able to get a jump on it before things get too serious.

Protecting Your Landscape from Insects

Insects can cause significant damage to your landscape. This damage can result in costs to treat the damage or replace damaged plants. Managing insect pests is a very important part of landscape maintenance, and requires that you take an active role in protecting your plants and caring for them. Be sure to know what you are dealing with beforehand, and ensure that you are adequately prepared to combat insect pests, whether you use natural methods or synthetic methods.

The first thing that you need to recognize is that not all insects are pests. Some of them (like bees) actually provide helpful services and are part of a thriving ecosystem in your yard. Additionally, different insect pests cause different problems, and they should be treated differently.

It is possible to treat most insects with pesticides, but it is important to note that when one uses these chemical solutions, they rarely distinguish between helpful insects and pests, and may kill insects that do no harm. If you can identify the pest that is causing a specific problem, then you can more effectively treat it using targeted methods of eradication.

For the best possible health to your landscape, prevention is the best way to avoid insect pests. There are many non-chemical management techniques that can be used to help prevent unwanted insects from even causing a problem.

The best treatment is to keep plants in general good health. Healthy plants are more resistant to the vagaries of insect pests, and they will stand up to harsh measures if they have to be taken. Below are some general guidelines to help you have the healthiest possible plants and to help your landscape increase its defense against insects:

Choose your plants carefully. Make sure that they match the site in terms of soil type, drainage and sunlight received. Also select plants that are compatible with the climate in your region.

Plant varieties that are resistant to common pests. For instance, paper birch is especially susceptible to bronze birch borers, and may fall victim to these pests. Choose plants that are hardy and not often affected by the run of the mill insect.

Promote diversity by selecting plants that are resilient to different pests. Also, planting a variety of vegetation in your landscape can lead ensure that even if one particular plant is ravaged, that your entire landscape will not suffer. Diversity protects.

Promote the general health of your plants through proper care. Make sure that you follow a schedule of watering, pruning, mulching, and fertilizing. This will help the plants remain in good health.

Encourage natural enemies in the insect world. Insects eat other insects, and if you promote competition in that way, the populations will remain lower, and there will be less focus on your plants. A wide variety of flowering plants that bloom at different times throughout the growing season are especially good at encouraging natural enemies.

Monitor your plants regularly to ensure that an infestation does not have time to strengthen and take root. This way you can take care of the problem immediately. Some non-chemical methods that work very well in controlling insects are things like hard water sprays to keep aphid populations in check and cardboard or metal rolls that protect against cutworms. If the damage is not severe, it is possible to take no action against them, but this does carry with it a risk: it could become severe if not properly treated.

If you feel that using an insecticide is the only way to eliminate a pest problem that you have, be sure to use such chemicals with care. Determine whether the use of the pesticide will actually prevent significant damage from occurring. Try to treat the plants before the damage has occurred, so that the plant recovers better.

If the insects have moved on, there is no reason to treat the plant, especially if damage has already occurred. The chemicals will affect the plant as well as the pests. Make sure you carefully read the label prior to buying your insecticide, and be sure to read the instructions before using. Also be concerned about how much you use. Too much insecticide can cause damage to your health, as well as to the health of your plants.

Pet Deposits: Why Cleaning Up After Your Pet is Important

If you are a dog or pet owner, there are several maintenance responsibilities that come along with owning the pet. One of the important responsibilities to take is cleaning up after your pet's deposits in your yard, or in a public area as well as in your own home. In most places, it is a law that you pick up after your pet because if not, it can be hazardous to others' health.

The main reason why it is important to clean up after your pet is because there is a bacterium in their deposits, which may sink into the soil. This bacterium is harmful to both us and the water. Eventually, these bacteria will move into storm drains as well as lakes and streams, causing problems and diseases to spread from the pet deposits. By not picking up pet deposits, the water in the area can become hazardous to one's health.

Beyond the bacteria getting into the water, are other types of diseases or infections that can occur from not picking up the pet deposits. Skin infections and the spread of other kinds of diseases may not only occur with your pet, but also in your household. One popular disease that spreads easily through pet feces is several different types of worms. The best way for these diseases and infections to not occur is by continuously picking up the pet's deposits.

A third reason why it is important to pick up after your pet is because the waste is not as degradable as other types of waste. If you have a lawn or if you are taking your pet to a public area, it won't help the grass or other types of plants. The nutrients in the deposits don't have the right type of fertilizer that would normally balance out the soil.

Instead, it causes problems with either natural habitats or in the yard. By not picking up after your pet, the aeration to your yard or to any other type of plant will be blocked from receiving other proper nutrients, water and sunlight, causing either problems with fungus, weeds, or causing the lawn or plants to eventually die.

If your animal is an indoor animal, it can often cause behavior problems by not picking up the deposits. The animal will think it is ok to break their training habits of going outside or using the litter box. Pets respond to smell. Because of this, they will think it is permissible to break their training and avoid the places where they should be for their pet deposits.

Because the chore at hand is not always pleasant, there are several different ways to complete the chore of cleaning up after your pet without having to do much work. There are several companies who will clean up after your pets for a small fee every week. They will then take the feces that they pick up from your yard and take them to a local waste area to dispose of. There are several different types of deals and ways that you can organize this service, depending on the types of animals that you have and how many animals you have.

Another option in cleaning up pet deposits is to put in an in ground septic system. This is buried inside of your ground and will break down the waste. The pet deposits will then be broken down through the septic system, taking away the enzymes that can cause several of the diseases. While you still have to pick up some of the waste, it can be ensured that there won't be as much of a bacteria problem.

No matter what type of pet you have, or where you take them to deposit their food, it is important to pick up after them. By doing so, you will prevent several different types of diseases, behavioral problems and will keep the plants and your lawn looking healthy and free of disease. If you don't like to pick up after your animal, there are several companies who will come to your house for a small fee to help with the chore. By cleaning up after your pet, you will be ensuring your health, as well as others.

You are invited to pass this report along to as many people as you like, provided that you make no changes to it and that you give it away for FREE.

If you would like **your own Private Label Version of this report** and hundreds of others just like it on hot, high interest niche topics – all of which come complete with 5 custom cover graphics – [click here to visit our Niche Reports Resource](#).



WOW: Where Vision and Value Go Hand in Hand with Information & Opportunity!

Please click below to check out all of our entrepreneurial friendly sites and products.

=> <http://www.The-WOW-Experience.com>

Always something NEW on the horizon. Always something for YOU to use to grow your business!
That's what WOW is all about. Your success is our ultimate goal and our reason for growth.