

Organic Lawn Care: 4 levels of care...

1. Do nothing – enjoy the green you have

Remember clover has deep roots, in effect aerating the soil, and also fixes nitrogen from the air into the soil which keeps your green lawn green!

2. Build up soil biology

1. Spread compost over entire lawn (spread evenly to a ¼")

you should see your existing grass blades

5,000 sf (typical 1/4 acre lot size lawn) = 4.5 cubic yards

- Do this in the spring and fall (or once a year with slower results)
- Until you have 6" of good topsoil – check with shovel

2. Use a mulching mower

- Always leave grass clipping on yard after mowing
- Spread dried autumn leaves on lawn and turn into confetti mulch with mulching mower

3. Aerate your soil in the fall

4. Water infrequently (2x/week maximum) 1" of rain/week

(encourages deep growing roots – that need less watering)

5. Mow high – 3"-4" to shade out weed seedlings – last cut of the season should be 1" short to prevent fungus and disease

3. All of above + organic fertilizer

1. Test your soil – results will tell you what nutrients you need

2. Apply organic nutrients your soil test describes you need

3. Make and apply compost tea for the fastest results

3. Apply Calcitic Limestone if the test results say you have less than 7:1 calcium to magnesium

3. Water infrequently (2x/week maximum) 1" of rain/week

4. All of the above + weed prevent

1. Spread corn gluten just before forsythia blooms – kills weed seeds not existing plants (also high in nitrogen = greening fertilizer)

less seeds each year = less weeds each year.

2. Spot kill weeds with full strength vinegar in *paved* areas

3. Manually aerate the soil where many weeds grow, add compost and grass seed in the fall when less weed competition.

4. Eliminate low spots in lawn, that hold water and compact the soil creating a habitat for weeds, loosen soil, add organic compost & lawn seed, water for 3 weeks in the morning only, DO NOT let seeds dry out

4. Manually pull weeds.