

AERATION

The most important benefit of lawn aeration is that it allows the soil to breathe – this is done by pulling cores of soil and poking holes throughout the turf. Aeration also alleviates compaction caused by foot traffic, vehicle traffic, snow build up, etc. De-compacting the soil increases air flow, which in turn allows vital nutrients and water to penetrate down to the root zone.

During the spring and fall is best, but you can also aerate after heavy snows, or if certain areas of the turf receive a lot of foot traffic. Tight, compact soil can choke the life out of grass, and starve it of food and water sources. This is easily identified if you have bare spots or areas of patchy, thinning, or discolored grass and even some drainage issues.

A properly aerated lawn will also help to reduce the buildup of thatch (excess build up of decaying plant material) in your lawn which can smother young grass and harbor pests.

Lawn aeration helps prevent weeds by loosening the soil and not allowing pesky undesirable plants to take hold, with the goal of new seeds or existing grass simply crowding them out.

Aerating a lawn is an all organic and inexpensive way to improve the quality of your turf and the soil itself. Grass roots will be strengthened, your lawn will be a more vibrant green, and it can even help improve its resistance to insects, drought, and diseases.

OVERSEEDING

If you are looking to improve the look and color of your existing lawn, or you want to touch up a few bald spots, then overseeding is what you are looking for. This is the process of adding more seeds to your established grass to encourage new growth, choke out weeds, and repair any damage caused throughout the hot/dry season.

TOPDRESSING

Topdressing a lawn is accomplished by spreading a thin layer of material, such as compost or sand, over the grass to improve soil structure and help level rough areas. It also helps improve seed germination by increasing seed to soil contact. Combine topdressing with aeration and overseeding not just to grow grass but to make it thrive!

With these tips in mind, you will be well on your way to enjoying a beautiful and lush green lawn that will not only enhance the aesthetic appeal of your property, but also provide a welcoming space for outdoor activities.

Caring for Your New Grass

Water is what initiates germination of the new seeds and is vital to establishing a healthy new lawn. Once the seeds germinate, they must stay wet or the seedlings will die. This can be achieved by watering at least 1-2 times a day to a depth of 1-2" (meaning that the top 1-2" of soil are dark and moist but not soggy). The mulching straw that was placed over the bare areas helps to retain moisture and keep the top layer of soil from drying out too quickly.

Soggy, muddy dirt will just make the seeds rot so don't over water either. You do not want to see puddles.

Autumn is the ideal time to start new grass here in CT. With the warm days and cooler nights, the young seedlings will thrive. We also see dew each morning which will assist in the water requirements but is not sufficient on its own.

As the grass gets longer it will require less water so you can adjust your watering schedule as needed.

You should see a fuzz of green on average within the first 10 days and then expect it to slowly fill in over the following 2-3 weeks. Your first lawn cut is normally 3-5 weeks after seeding but is dependent on the height of the new grass.

The big take away here is to try your best to keep the soil moist and give the grass everything it needs to thrive.