

Fall Lawn Care

The Best Practices for a Healthy, Lush, Weed-Free Lawn

Things to consider...

Montgomery County lawn laws on weed, insect and fungus control

What is your Focus? Weed eradication, Seeding, Feeding

Putting your lawn to bed

New Montgomery County Laws:

- No use of weed and feed that has synthetic herbicide in it. In general you cannot broadcast on your lawn any chemically based weed, insect or fungus control. You Can use fertilizer on your lawn (state law) but only from March 1-November 15.
- You can spot spray or use a hose end sprayer with items Like Natria, an iron based "selective" weed and fungus control that is mildly effective on broadleaf weeds such as clover and dandelion and fungus like dollar spot or rust without harming your lawn. Nancy has been trying all these products on her lawn as have I with "good" results
- It does not work on grassy weeds such as crabgrass, stiltgrass or Bermuda grass.
- You can spot spray any weeds in your lawn with a NON-SELECTIVE weed control such as Burn-out, a natural round-up that kills any vegetation it gets on. This works well but needs to be applied several times before it will kill to the root. Works good on broadleaf weeds, ok on grassy weeds...not very effective on bermudagrass.
- You can pull them-old fashioned weed control.
- We can use Corn gluten, a pre-emergent weed control and fertilizer. This works well when used for several years as it prevents seed from rooting in the spring.
- Narrow window of application
- Can be used in early fall for certain weeds but not grassy weeds

We can use all the above AND begin the process of creating a healthier environment for your lawn to grow in. This is really the key.

Weeds are opportunists and fill in where grass fails. Weeds are symptomatic of poor soil/turf, not the cause.

Weeds thrive in compacted soil that has a PH below 6.2 and above 7.0.

Grass thrives in healthy soil that allows water and air to penetrate well and has a PH of 6.2-7.0.

- PH in the mid Atlantic is notoriously low.
- Check for compaction by pushing your finger into soil. If the soil does not come up to the first knuckle, you have compacted soil and water and air will not penetrate well, leaving you with a grass cover, allowing those weeds to come in.

Great lawns thrive in great soil...improve the health of the soil and grass will grow, choking out weeds and giving them little chance to grow.

Always cut your lawns to 3" or higher. Water 1" once a week in the morning during dry periods.

Fertilize in spring with a nitrogen based product, in fall with a potassium based product. Only use a phosphorus product if seeding or sodding, otherwise it's useless and potentially harmful to waterways.

How do we get great soil?

Correcting PH through lime. Correcting PH and compaction with Magical Plus

Using organic matter often on the lawn to continue adding healthy soil for microbial activity (life)

Use great seed and fertilizer with great soil and seed and feed in the fall.

Jonathan green Ultra turf type tall fescue

Seasonal: Jonathan green Fall magic or Jonathan green Winterizer fertilizer

Organic? Use Milorganite

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