



# Express Lawn

## Jobs Performed

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# Grass Facts



Kentucky Bluegrass 1.5 - 3 inches (38.1 – 76.2 mm)

Tall Fescue 2 - 3 inches (50.8 – 76.2 mm)

Perennial Ryegrass 1.5 - 3 inches (38.1 – 76.2 mm)

Fine Fescues 2 - 3 inches (50.8 – 76.2 mm)

Creeping Bentgrass 0.25 - 0.75 inches (6.35 – 19.05 mm)

St. Augustine grass 1.5 - 3 inches (38.1 – 76.2 mm)

Bermudagrass (common) 0.75 - 2 inches (19.05 – 50.8 mm)

Bermudagrass (hybrid) 0.5 - 1.5 inches (12.7 – 38.1 mm)

Zoysiagrass 0.75 - 2 inches (19.05 – 50.8 mm)

Centipedegrass 1 - 2 inches (25.4 – 50.8 mm)

Buffalograss 1 - 3 inches (25.4 – 76.2 mm)

Bahiagrass 2 - 4 inches (50.8 – 101.6 mm)

Kikuyugrass 0.5 - 1 inches (12.7 – 25.4 mm)

Paspalum (Seashore) 0.5 - 1.5 inches (12.7 – 38.1 mm)

- **Leave Grass Clippings on the Lawn**

*Leaving grass clippings on the lawn is called grasscycling, recycling, or mulching. Clippings are full of nutrients and can actually reduce your need for fertilizers by as much as 50%.*

- **Keep Lawn Mower Blades Sharp**

*A sharp mower blade provides a clean cut that minimizes numerous lawn problems such as disease and pests, it also makes mowing your lawn a lot easier.*

- **Mow Your Leaves for a Healthier Lawn**

*A Michigan State University study showed that when leaves were mulched into established turf the grass greened up quicker in the spring and also had fewer spring dandelions.*

# Watering Established Lawns

Proper watering practices can improve the quality of your lawn, provide important environmental benefits and conserve water.

**Most homeowners over-water their lawns!**

**The average lawn only needs about one inch (2.5 cm) of water per week, either by rainfall or in combination with irrigation.**



The healthiest lawns are produced when they are watered thoroughly at infrequent intervals.

The best times to water your lawn are early morning or early evening, when there is generally less wind and heat. Watering at these times allows for less evaporation into the air, greater penetration into the soil, and less run-off.

One-inch (2.5 cm) of water per week will allow the water to reach deep into the root system.

It will usually take 10-15 minutes to water your lawn thoroughly. If puddles or run-off occur, turn your sprinkler off for a few minutes to allow water to penetrate into the soil. If your watering system is applying water faster than it can be absorbed by the soil, you will want to adjust the amount of water applied, or the timing of the application, or both. Let the lawn completely dry out between watering intervals.

# Advanced Lawn Care



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# Fertilizing



Fertilizers are organic or inorganic materials that are applied to the soil or the plant to improve its health and provide sufficient mineral nutrient elements. Plants obtain three of the essential elements they need for growth - carbon, hydrogen and oxygen



***There are three main macronutrients – nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K).***

***Nitrogen promotes rapid growth, leaf development, chlorophyll formation and protein synthesis.***

***Phosphorus plays a key role in early root growth, hastens maturity, stimulates blooming and aids seed formation.***

***Potassium increases resistance to drought and disease and also plays a part in root growth as well as in stem development.***

Micronutrients also are essential for plant growth, but are needed in minute amounts. The micronutrients are: boron (B), copper (Cu), iron (Fe), chloride (Cl), manganese (Mn), molybdenum (Mo) and zinc (Zn). The fertilizer may contain some of these other nutrients, as well as NPK.

## **Fertilizers – Quick-Release and Slow-Release Nitrogen**

### **Quick-Release**

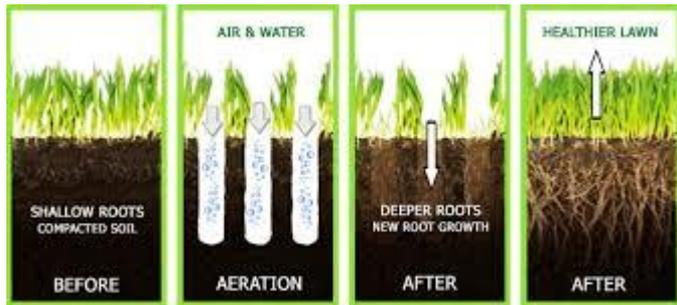
**Quick-release nitrogen in fertilizers is useful because the nutrients are immediately available to plants.**

### **Slow-Release**

**There are several benefits of slow-release nitrogen in fertilizers. They provide more uniform grass growth. They are less likely to burn the lawn or other plants. They can last 6 to 8 weeks or longer so they don't need to be applied as frequently as fertilizers with quick-release nitrogen.**

# Aeration

Aeration. Aeration is the process of creating openings in the lawn to help air, water and nutrients move into the soil to the grass roots, alleviate soil compaction and help reduce thatch. ... It uses spoon-shaped or hollow tines to remove columns of soil and deposit them on the surface of the lawn.



Core aeration is the most effective method. It uses spoon-shaped or hollow tines to remove columns of soil and deposit them on the surface of the lawn.

Spiking uses solid tines to create holes in the soil.

Slicing uses rotating blades to cut narrow slits in the soil.

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# Aeration (Continues)

How often should you aerate your lawn? Each lawn varies based on how much foot traffic takes place on the lawn, how much thatch is present, etc. If your lawn looks good, aerating every 3-5 years is sufficient. If there's a lot of activity it might be worthwhile to consider aerating every two years or annually.

For lawns with cool-season grasses such as Kentucky bluegrass and tall fescue, fall is the best time to aerate. With cooler temperatures, you'll avoid heat stress on the grass and reduce the chance of weed invasion.

Schedule the aeration approximately two weeks prior to the final fertilization for the year and five to six weeks before the first frost to allow the grass time to recover.

For warm-season grasses such as zoysiagrass, centipedegrass, carpetgrass, St. Augustinegrass and bermudagrass the best time to aerate is late spring or in the summer, when the grasses are actively growing.

With either type of grass, warm or cool season, aerate when temperatures are mild.

# Overseeding

Overseeding is the practice of adding grass seed to an existing lawn.

Overseeding is a common practice in the transition zone, the geographical area between parts of the country where warm season and cool season grasses converge

Overseeding a cool-season grass into an existing warm-season grass lawn will provide color and active growth during the cold-weather-related dormant period of the warm-season grass.

Seed selection should be based on the species and varieties of cool-season grass that will establish quickly and then transition out easily when temperatures rise.

# Top Dressing

Topdressing is a sand or prepared soil mix applied to the surface of the lawn.

Topdressing materials are evenly applied in a thin layer, typically  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch (6.35 mm) or less, for a variety of purposes. Topdressing can be used to smooth the surface of the lawn. It can reduce thatch buildup by encouraging decomposition.

***When applied following core aeration , the topdressing material filters into the holes opened by the aeration process, speeding grass recovery.***

# Dethatching



*Thatch is the dense, fibrous layer of living and dead grass shoots, stems, leaves and roots that accumulates between the green vegetation and the soil surface.*

A thin layer of thatch, ½ inch (12.7 mm) or less, is desirable. It helps moderate temperature extremes, limits weed growth, and provides cushioning that makes an excellent surface for play and sports.



**There are several names for effective dethatching equipment: vertical mowers, verticutters, dethatchers or power rakes.**

Don't attempt to remove the entire thatch layer with one pass over the lawn. Cover the area from north to south; then use a leaf rake to remove the organic material that has been dislodged. Repeat this process, covering the lawn from east to west.

You can compost the organic material that you have collected.

Grass clippings do not cause thatch and they are good for your lawn. When mowing, it is recommended that you leave the clippings on your lawn to provide nutrients for the grass and the soil.