

Rejuvenating Lawns in Spring

If you missed rejuvenating your lawn in the fall (**the** absolute best time to do it), you need to do it in the early spring.

- A.** If you decide to seed or over-seed your lawn in the spring, do it early, as in March, and be prepared to water it often during the hot dry summer or the new grass will die.
 1. Seed you lawn with a good perennial grass seeds as soon as the ground begins to warm, usually mid to late March.
 2. Fertilize when you plant the grass seeds.
 3. In mid-May, treat the lawn with a pre-emergent killer to prevent the germination of the seeds produced by annual grasses and weeds last fall.
 4. Water the young grass plants as necessary to keep them growing during the summer.
 5. Seed, or over-seed, and fertilize the lawn again in mid-September.
 6. Fertilize the lawn again in mid-October and mid-November.
 7. You may fertilize the lawn again in the following spring if you wish to.
 8. Treat the lawn again with a pre-emergent killer this and every spring.

- B.** If your lawn has good perennial grasses interspersed in the dead annual grasses and weeds, you can do the following:
 1. Fertilize the lawn in early April. Some experts advise fertilizing lawns three times in the fall and then not fertilizing in the spring. However, if the recommended fall schedule was not attained, it will not hurt to fertilize the lawn in the spring.
 2. In mid-May, treat the lawn with a pre-emergent killer to keep the seeds produced by the annual grasses and weeds last fall from sprouting.
 3. Use chemicals to kill weeds; this must be repeated many times throughout the growing season in most lawns
 4. In the fall, over-seed the lawn with good perennial grass seed. This is best done in mid-September while warm temperatures will stimulate the seeds to germinate, but it can be done as late as early November.
 5. Fertilize the lawn in mid-September, mid-October, and mid-November.

- C. If your lawn is made up mainly of annual grasses and weeds or has large areas of mainly annual grasses and weeds, and you are unable or unwilling to do a great deal of watering during the summer, you may do the following:
1. Fertilize the lawn(?) in mid-May to encourage the annual grasses and lespedeza to grow in the summer giving a lawn that is green starting in June and lasting into September.
 2. Use chemicals to kill weeds and wild onions. In many cases, lespedeza will be the main plant in areas devoid or almost devoid of perennial grasses. In-order to have something that will be green during the summer and to keep the soil from washing away, it is advisable to not kill the lespedeza or the annual grasses at this point.
 3. In mid-September, seed all areas of the lawn giving special attention to those areas that mainly supported lespedeza and annual grasses, using good perennial grass seeds.
 4. Fertilize when you plant the grass seeds and again in mid-October and mid-November.
 5. You may fertilize the lawn in the spring if you want.
 6. In mid-May, treat the lawn with a pre-emergent killer to prevent the seeds from the annual grasses and weeds from last fall from germinating.
 7. Over-seed and/or reseed as necessary in mid-September.

NOTES:

1. Fertilizers used on lawns should never contain more than 4% phosphate in order to protect our streams, ponds and the lake.
2. In order to control weeds and annual grasses on a continuing basis, it is necessary to apply pre-emergent killer in May of each year. Do not apply pre-emergent killer in the summer if seeding in September.
3. It is always advisable to over-seed in mid-September of each year and to re-seed as needed.
4. It is always necessary to kill weeds; some weed killers will also kill some annual grasses and wild onions (read the label). Some annual grasses will germinate in-spite of the application of a pre-emergent killer; these