

Fall

September-October



Mowing: Turfgrass resumes active growth now. Mower blades should be sharp and set at 2½ – 3 inches.

Weed control: Broadleaved weeds can be controlled now with an herbicide.

Watering: Supplemental irrigation is needed when rainfall is less than one inch per week.

Fertilizing: An application around Labor Day is recommended.

Liming: Now is a good time to check soil pH (see Spring Liming for details).

Winter

November - February



Mowing: Last mowing for the season is typically around Thanksgiving. Set mower blade height to 2 inches for the final mowing.

Rake: Remove fallen leaves frequently, before turfgrass is smothered.

Fertilizing: Last application for the year is around Thanksgiving.

Snow and de-icing salts: Stay off turf when frozen. If de-icing salts are used, be careful of runoff that can damage existing turf and plants. Sand or other non-salt or chemical traction-providing materials are safer for lawns, shrubs and trees near walks and driveways.

pH Testing

pH levels are used to determine your need for lime in your soil.

pH test meters and kits are available for sale for at-home, on-the-spot testing.

Or, bring ½ cup of DRIED soil to our Lawn and Garden Information Booth any time for a FREE pH test. The results are available while you wait.



Why we prefer Milorganite

- ✓ It's proven. We've been using and recommending it for over 75 years.
- ✓ **Non-Burning.** It contains virtually no chemical salt, so it never burns plants - even in the hottest temperatures and driest conditions.
- ✓ **Doesn't need to be watered-in to work.**
- ✓ **Rich in iron; non-staining.** Iron makes grass "greener."
- ✓ Meets the EPA's stringent "Exceptional Quality" standards.
- ✓ **Slow-release formula** means uniform growth. And, because of the slow release, it resists leaching. It won't contaminate groundwater.
- ✓ **Contains 13 essential plant nutrients** to promote vigorous growth and deep green color.



Lawn Care Made Simple

Spring
Summer
Fall
Winter



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Lawn Care Made Simple



Spring: March - May



Clean-up: Rake lawn to remove leaves, twigs and other debris that accumulated over the winter.

Mowing: Resume mowing when turfgrass begins active growth. Bluegrass, fescue and ryegrasses are cool season grasses; they prefer the cooler temperatures of spring and fall and therefore grow quickly at these times. Mower blade height should be set at $2\frac{1}{2}$ – 3 inches. If you mow regularly, leave the clippings on the lawn to recycle trace elements back to the lawn. Start the season with sharp mower blades.

Weed control: Crabgrass is a summer weed that germinates now and is easiest to control now. Crabgrass preventer should be applied when forsythia is in bloom. If you are planning to use seed on your lawn, you must use Siduron/Tupersan to control crabgrass. If the pre-emergent timeframe is missed, crabgrass can be controlled using a post-emergent herbicide. Dandelions and other broadleaf weeds can be controlled with a broadleaf herbicide. Spot treatment is preferred when only a few weeds exist. When the problem is severe, use a granular weed killer or a “weed and feed” product.

Watering: If spring rains are not adequate (1 inch of rainfall a week), then supplemental irrigation is needed. It is best to apply 1 – $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of water in one or two applications per week.

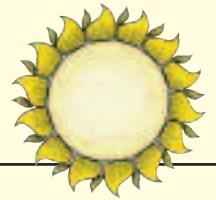
Fertilizing: An organic fertilizer such as Milorganite or another high-quality lawn fertilizer should be applied around Memorial Day.

Insects: You may apply an application of grub control as the weather warms if you didn't apply one last summer/fall and have grubs present in the lawn. We can help you determine the best treatment and time of application.

Seeding: Although this is a good time to seed thinned or bare spots, the best time for doing major seeding or lawn renovation is mid-August through fall. Blends of bluegrass, fescue and perennial ryegrass are best to use in our climate.

Liming: Only a soil test can determine pH and if lime is needed. Lawns prefer a pH range of 6.2 to 6.8 (6.5 is optimum). Lime is used to raise the soil pH if below the desired range.

Summer: June - August



Mowing: Hot weather will slow down Kentucky bluegrass and ryegrass growth. Keep mower blade sharp and set the height at $2\frac{1}{2}$ – 3 inches.

Weed control: Herbicides should be avoided on hot and/or windy summer days. If small patches of weeds are located, hand-weed or spot-treat with herbicide.

Watering: Cool season grasses will slow down during summer heat. Watering is critical during periods of dry weather. Apply 1 – $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches of water per week, preferably in one or two applications and not broken down to short intervals each or every other day. Long, thorough, once or twice a week watering encourages deep root systems and drought and heat tolerance.

Fertilizing: No applications are necessary during these months. Summer fertilizing can encourage disease problems in the lawn. An application of Ironite, a high-quality supplement, will help your lawn through the summer.

Insects: Insecticide for grub control is best applied in August. Chinch bugs or sod webworm may be a problem now, too. Apply proper insecticide if needed. We can help you determine the best treatment.

Seeding, Renovation: Lawns are best renovated starting in mid-August. If a total renovation is required, a non-selective herbicide such as Round-Up can be used to kill existing turf. Within 7-10 days, the area can then be prepared for seed or sod. Cooler temperatures and adequate rainfall, typical of Long Island autumns, make for ideal turfgrass establishment.