

# Fall Lawn Renovation

**Did your lawn take a beating this summer?** If more than half your lawn is dead or weed infested then you might consider renovating it or putting in a new lawn from seed or sod. Plentiful rainfall, cooler temperatures and the lack of competition from weed seeds combine to make the late summer and early fall the absolute best time to do this.

## Starting A New Lawn From Seed

- Remove all dead and living grass, weeds, large stones and other debris from the area.
- Spread a generous amount of compost or peat moss, a starter fertilizer and lime (if needed - see box for pH testing information) over the area.
- Roto-till or work these materials into the soil to a depth of at least 6 to 8 inches.
- Level the soil and break up any large clumps. Use a roller to flatten high spots and help with the leveling.
- Use a seed mixture that best suits the area's conditions; we can help you select the right mixture.
- Lightly rake the seed into the surface of the soil.
- Cover the seed with a mulch such as Seed Aide.
- Gently water the area and check it daily. Keep the soil surface constantly moist for the next few weeks. Never let a newly seeded area dry out.
- Fertilize with an organic fertilizer such as Milorganite 6 to 8 weeks after the seed germinates.

## Starting A New Lawn From Sod

- Remove all dead and living grass, weeds, large stones and other debris from the area.
- Spread a generous amount of compost or peat moss, a starter fertilizer and lime (if needed - see box for pH testing information) over the area.
- Roto-till or work these materials into the soil to a depth of at least 6 to 8 inches.
- Level the soil and break up any large clumps. Use a roller to flatten high spots and help with the leveling.
- When area is level, lightly wet the soil with a fine mist of water.
- Lay down strips of sod in an alternating, brick-like pattern, making sure that the edges touch one another.
- Water the area well after laying the sod.
- Water daily or as needed until the sod roots grow into soil. This should take 2 to 3 weeks.
- After the sod has rooted in well resume normal maintenance.
- Fertilize with an organic fertilizer like Milorganite 6 to 8 weeks after laying the sod.

## Seeding Bare Spots

- Remove dead grass, weeds and other debris from a bare spot.
- Loosen the soil with a spade or garden fork and mix a generous amount of compost or peat moss, a starter fertilizer and lime (if needed – see box for pH testing information) to a depth of 6 to 8 inches.
- Rake and level the spot.
- Use a seed mixture that best suits the area's conditions; we can help you select the right mixture.
- Lightly rake the seed into the surface of the soil.
- Cover the seed with a mulch such as Seed Aide.
- Gently water. Check for water daily to keep soil surface constantly moist for the next few weeks. Never let a newly seeded area dry out.
- Fertilize the entire lawn with an organic fertilizer like Milorganite 6 to 8 weeks after seed germinates.

## Seeding a Thinned-out Lawn

- Rake out and remove dead grass and weeds.
- Apply an organic fertilizer, such as Milorganite, and lime (if needed - see box for pH testing information).
- In the thinned-out area only, sow a seed mixture that best suits the area's conditions; we can help you select the right mixture.
- Gently water. Check for water daily to keep soil surface constantly moist for the next few weeks. Never let a newly seeded area dry out.
- Fertilize the entire lawn with an organic fertilizer such as Milorganite 6 to 8 weeks after seed germinates.

## Healthy Fall Lawn Maintenance

- Have your soil tested for pH level and apply lime if needed; we can test it for you.
- Fertilize your lawn with an organic fertilizer such as Milorganite around Labor Day and Thanksgiving.
- Apply weed killers anytime weeds are actively growing.
- To control grubs, apply a grub control such as Dylox in September or early October.
- Mow your lawn no shorter than 3 inches.
- Continue to water if there is a lack of rain.

## 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 1 cup of DRIED soil to our 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 70 years.
- Non-Burning. It contains virtually no chemical salts, 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.



# FALL LAWN RENOVATION



 **Hicks**  
SINCE 1853  
nurseries, inc.

100 Jericho Tpke. Westbury, NY 11590  
(516) 334-0066 [www.hicksnurseries.com](http://www.hicksnurseries.com)