



Seasonal lawn care

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Summer lawn care



Summer is one of the best times of the year to really appreciate your lovely, lush lawn – but it is also the hottest time of the year when your lawn is under great pressure from heat, wind and dryness. While we can't control the weather, we can control how we care for and prepare our lawn, so it survives such tough conditions. [Here are five easy tasks to make your lawn look great this summer...](#)

Plan ahead

Before rushing into any lawn care plan, determine the best approach to managing your lawn.

How much water do you have to use on the lawn over summer? Are water restrictions imposed?

Make sure your mower blades are sharp, so they don't tear your lawn leaving it weak and vulnerable to pests.

Having sharp mower blades also means you cut a neater, healthier-looking lawn during summer.

Rake up any leaf or stick debris which could be blocking sunlight, airflow and water which are all required for your lawn to grow properly.

During summer, extra lawn debris also has a habit of promoting pests and diseases as well as ugly brown patches.



Fertilise

Before summer fertilising be sure you know what sort of grass variety you have, - different varieties require different fertiliser treatments and applications.

The general rule is to apply a slow release fertiliser to your lawn in early summer to enhance growth.

Most importantly once temperatures reach 30°C do not fertilise your lawn as it can chemically burn your lawn's blades.

myhomeTURF recommends LawnPride's good selection of slow release fertilisers.



Summer lawn care



Water-wise

Watering your lawn during summer always depends on how much water you have and whether your region is affected by water restrictions.

Watering also depends on the variety of grass you have.

If you have a Zoysia variety such as Nara Native or Empire, then these varieties require much less water than say a Couch or Kikuyu.

Water your lawn early in the morning thoroughly for about 15 minutes, twice a week, so your lawn can absorb the moisture more effectively.

By watering your lawn thoroughly and deeply you encourage the development of strong root growth in your lawn. If you are short of water – water only the parts of the lawn that are drying out or where you want it to stay green. Late evening watering can induce humidity to occur overnight resulting in fungal problems.



Weeds

While springtime is also about removing the pesky weeds from your lawn – often these weeds continue to thrive in summer.

Dandelions and Cats Ear that have large tap roots are very likely to survive the tough dry conditions and be prevalent throughout your lawn during summer if not controlled.

The best method of removal is always by hand but ensure you remove the whole weed, including the roots.

Take care applying herbicides on your lawn during summer as some brands suggest avoiding use during hot conditions. If you are unsure about what herbicides to use on your lawn talk to your local garden centre, or have a look at LawnPride's selection.

Often the recommendation is to use a Weed, Feed and Green-Up Solution as it waters as it works and can be applied during the heat of summer.

For more information refer to [Common Lawn Weeds Fact Sheet](#).



Mowing

During the heat of summer, it is not unusual for your lawn to slow its growth due to stress.

It is recommended that you raise the cutting height of your mower at least 1cm during summer to leave the grass longer which provides shade and natural cooling to the roots and soil.

Mulch mow if you can, as this helps insulate your lawn's roots and soil during summer and reduces evaporation.

Mulch mowing returns grass clippings back to the soil but, to do it properly, you need a mulching mower.

During summer mow early or late in the day to reduce the incidence of your lawn developing burned tips.



Autumn lawn care



Following a long hot summer, most of your lawn's autumn care work involves returning it to good health for the cooler months when the grass can go dormant.

Here are some top tips to make your lawn strong and vibrant this autumn...

Aeration

Following a busy summer of traffic from parties, kids and pets your lawn's soil could be compacted.

Soil compaction means your lawn's roots are not able to receive enough, water, oxygen or nutrients.

The must-do activity for autumn is to aerate which helps de-compact the soil and allows water and air to move down into the profile.

The process is easy – drive a fork halfway down into the ground and wiggle it, remove, repeat across the lawn. Also, always be careful of any underground irrigation lines when aerating.

If you have a large lawn area, it can pay to hire a coring machine or aerator.

For more information refer to [Aeration Fact Sheet](#).



Weeds

Before you start your autumn care prep make sure your lawn is free of weeds. Typical examples of Broad-Leafed weeds are; Bindi Burrs, Clover, Dandelions, Capeweed, Cudweed and Thistles.

Depending on the size of your lawn you may be able to remove weeds by hand.

If your lawn has too many weeds to remove by hand a post-emergent herbicide is recommended.

Before applying a post-emergent herbicide first consult your local garden centre to check that the chemical is suitable for your lawn variety or contact LawnPride.



Autumn lawn care



Pests

Lawn pests are often rife after a long hot summer due to humid and dry conditions that have stressed out your lawn and made it more susceptible.

The best plan is to first try and identify what pest you have on your lawn and then ask your local garden centre what the appropriate insecticide to use, or alternately contact LawnPride.

The most common lawn insect pests are Curl Grub (the larvae of beetles like the African Black Beetle) and Lawn Army Worm.



For more information refer to [Common Lawn Pests Fact Sheet](#).

Diseases

Like with lawn pests, diseases can appear after a long hot summer when the grass is tired and stressed.

Many common lawn diseases include Brown Patch and Dollar Spot, which appear as dying spots and patches of lawn.

Lawn diseases can also be more common in areas with compacted or poorly drained soil

The trick to controlling lawn diseases is to keep your lawn healthy and well fed.

The most common lawn diseases can be controlled with a fungicide but consult your local garden centre or LawnPride for more advice.



For more information refer to [Common Lawn Diseases Fact Sheet](#).

Fertilising

Fertilising at the start of autumn is the best way to green-up your lawn and make it stronger, and better able, to resist damage from extreme cold, even frost.

Autumn fertilising also helps a lawn's recovery from any stress it may have faced at the end of summer from pests and diseases.

Your autumn fertilising application will firstly be determined by the sort of grass you have (warm or cool season) – consult your local garden centre or LawnPride for more advice.

For both warm and cool season grasses, if you have not fertilised at the start of the season, then mid-autumn represents a great time to fertilise.



For warm season grass, slow release fertilisers are great for building your lawn's strength over an extended period in the lead up to winter.

For cool season grasses the worst of the summer heat has passed, so they will respond well to a meal in order to mend themselves.

Autumn lawn care



Watering

During autumn if you notice the leaf blades on your lawn starting to wilt then it is time to water.

Remember windy, warm autumn weather can be just as drying for your lawn as a hot, summer's day.

During autumn it is best to water in the mornings as evening watering can encourage fungus growth when the lawn stays damp overnight.

Water your lawn early in the morning thoroughly for about 15 minutes, twice a week, so your lawn can absorb the moisture more effectively.

By watering your lawn thoroughly and deeply you encourage the development of strong root growth in your lawn.

If you are short of water – water only the parts of the lawn that are drying out or where you want it to stay green.

For more information refer to [Watering Fact Sheet](#).



Mowing

In autumn, your lawn is storing energy for winter therefore mowing frequency should decrease to allow growth. Raise your mower height around mid to late autumn to ensure a larger leaf surface area.

Before mowing clear any leaves to allow your lawn as much sunlight as possible.

If your lawn doesn't need mowing but has lots of leaves, raise your mower's cutting height to the limit, fit the catcher and use it like a vacuum cleaner.

For more information refer to [Common Mowing Tips Fact Sheet](#).



Winter lawn care



It's tempting to stop work on your lawn during winter however, if you put in some effort during the cooler months, you can make your lawn look vibrant and healthy come spring.

Just remember, that your lawn may go dormant during winter, but your soil remains moist therefore **you must adjust your water regime during colder months.**

Below are some of the basic tasks you need to perform...

Removing weeds

During winter, weeds take advantage of the lawn's weakened state to fill every possible gap.

Winter weeds germinate at lower soil temperatures, often coming in around April/Easter and May.

Bindi Burr and Broad-Leafed weeds can be relatively easily controlled with the help of a selective herbicide.

Winter is the time for a herbicide that removes invaders without causing damage to the lawn – always make sure you read the label to ensure the chemical is suitable for your grass variety.

Typical examples of Broad-Leafed weeds are Bindi Burr, Clover, Dandelions, Capeweed, Cudweed and Thistles.

Many traditional pre-emergent herbicides containing the ingredient Dicamba work well with lawn types such as Kikuyu and Couch but can be detrimental to new lawns and varieties like Buffalo.

myhomeTURF recommends two types of pre-emergent herbicides – Oxafert and Embargo – both well respected products of LawnPride Australia.

Oxafert is a combination product containing fertiliser and pre-emergent herbicide for the control of



Crowsfoot Grass, Summer Grass, Winter Grass and Oxalis.

Embargo is an effective pre-emergent control of certain grass and broadleaf weeds in Buffalo turf including Crowsfoot Grass, Summer Grass, Winter Grass, and other grassy weeds.

For non-Buffalo lawn types we recommend other LawnPride Australia pre-emergent herbicides.

For more information refer to Common Lawn Weeds Fact Sheet.

Winter lawn care



Fertilising

Late August is the perfect time to feed your lawn and, these days, the availability of slow release lawn foods means this task is much easier than it used to be.

LawnPride again has a good selection of these new feeds packed with nutrients, including slow release turf, organic, grain and liquid fertilisers.

Another option is a good Organic Booster Fertiliser that is pH neutral, using aerobically composted poultry manure. Organic Booster is a natural manure fertiliser to boost your soil.

For more information refer to [Fertilising Your Lawn Fact Sheet](#).



Aeration

At the end of winter soil's often compact so the lawn will benefit from a good aeration.

Do this by energetically pushing a fork, or aerating shoes, as far as possible vertically into the soil or, if you're really keen, hiring a mechanical aerator.

Also, always be careful of any underground irrigation lines when aerating. If it's been a dry winter, adding a wetting agent that attracts water to the soil and improves your lawn's health is a good option.

For more information refer to [Aeration Fact Sheet](#).



Mow higher and less frequently

When the cooler months set in, you will notice that the grass grows slower.

During this period, it is advisable to raise the mowing height to prevent damaging the grass which can result in scalping and browning.

Repeated scalping weakens the grass and leaves it vulnerable to the onslaught of diseases and weeds.

In mowing your lawn, do not cut the grass lower than 2.5cm.

And instead of mowing the grass every week, mow your lawn once every three to four weeks, depending on the type of lawn on your property.



Less watering

Unless the grass looks very dry and the leaf is wilting, don't water your lawn. If you must water your lawn, do it early in the morning.

Over-watering your lawn during the winter only leaves the grass vulnerable to fungi.



Spring lawn care



Spring lawn care means it will then be beautifully set-up to get through the coming summer months. [Here are six easy tasks to perform...](#)

Cleaning up your lawn

During winter not only do weeds litter your lawn but thatch starts to build up.

Thatch is a layer of dead and living grass shoots, stems and roots that shows up between the soil and the grass blades in your lawn.

Raking and removing all leaves is the first step in the spring-cleaning process! But while you are raking your lawn you are also dethatching especially if you dig the rake in deeply.

Raking also removes all the dead matted patches where grass blades are stuck together. Raking is a two-fold effect and achieves more than just leaf removal. A wire or metal rake is more effective than a plastic one.

For more information refer to [De-thatching Fact Sheet](#).



Spring lawn care



Aeration

Lawn compaction occurs during the year, especially in high traffic areas. It is also a result of a wet winter where the ground has been moist, and the soil has compacted.

The solution is easy – lawn aeration. You can either aerate your lawn manually with a fork, aeration shoes or hire a lawn core machine at your local garden centre. It's a winter job that rarely gets done but adds so much benefit.

For more information refer to [Aeration Fact Sheet](#).



Fertilising

Lawns can be easily organically fertilised using a mulching mower or by adding compost.

Alternately using a chemical fertiliser purchased from your local garden centre is also advisable, or our partners at LawnPride. The trick is to not “over feed” too early during spring as this only encourages weeds so be sure to read the label for to how much to apply.

For more information refer to [Fertilising Your Lawn Fact Sheet](#).



Watering

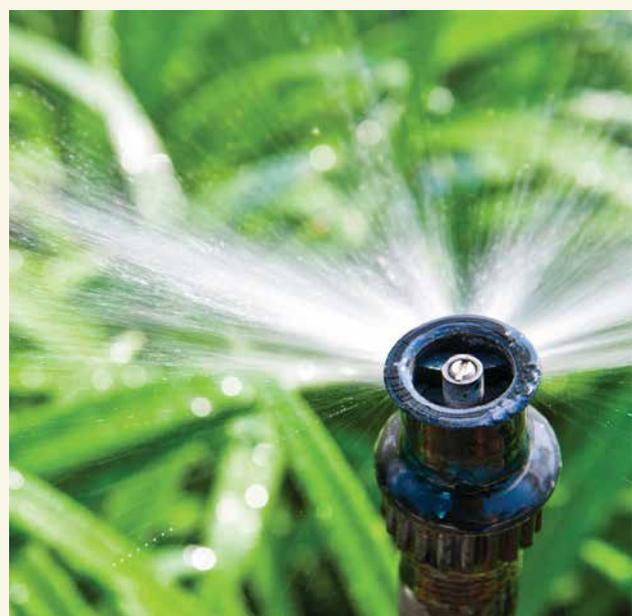
As we move into spring the soil is yet to warm up properly and the nights are still cool. Therefore, any deep watering may sit on top of the lawn/soil longer than expected.

To check if your lawn requires water burrow your finger into the lawn and if it is damp don't water.

As you then move into summer when watering is an issue, you want to make sure you're using water wisely.

Water early in the morning for about 15 minutes so the lawn can absorb the moisture more effectively. Alternately, water parts of the lawn that are most in need (drying out more) or the areas you want to stay green.

For more information refer to [Watering Fact Sheet](#).



Spring lawn care



Weeds

Springtime is also about removing the pesky weeds from your lawn. Depending on whether the weed is an annual or perennial will depend on which pre-emergent or post-emergent herbicide you use.

For example, if you have a problem with annual weeds, such as Crabgrass, then fertilising in spring would go hand-in-hand with the application of pre-emergent herbicides. Pre-emergence herbicides, as the name suggests, addresses weed control before their seedlings can emerge.

Post-emergent herbicides are used on perennial weeds, such as Dandelions. You can first try removing these perennials by hand, ensuring you remove the whole weed and its roots.

Alternately you can purchase a post-emergent herbicide from your local garden centre or



LawnPride. If purchasing a herbicide be sure to check the chemical is suitable for your variety of lawn.

Please read the label on any herbicide you may purchase as some are not suitable for Buffalo grasses.

For more information refer to [Common Lawn Weeds Fact Sheet](#).

Mowing

Springtime gives you the perfect opportunity to not only revitalise your lawn but also your lawn mower.

During spring grasses such as Buffalo, Zoysia, Couch and Kikuyu like to be kept shorter so aim for between 2 and 4cm in length.

Be sure to check the blades, as sharp blades are the key to healthy lawn mowing. Either replace the blades or grind them back yourself or seek the services of your local mower shop.

Also, make sure the engine and other key elements are working smoothly. Want more mowing advice?



For more information refer to [Mowing Tips Fact Sheet](#).

