

REPAIR & RENOVATE YOUR LAWN

Even with the best care, bare, thin, or weedy patches occasionally develop in certain areas. The BEST TIMES TO RENOVATE YOUR LAWN ARE MID-SPRING OR EARLY FALL.

IMPORTANT: Try to determine why your lawn has declined. If you don't determine the cause, fixing your lawn could be a waste of time. Could it be a fertilizer spill, pet urine, grubs, light conditions, or a chronic disease? Correct these first, or repairs will be short-lived.

1. **REMOVE THATCH** (if necessary): Thatch (the stems and above-ground roots of the grass plant which accumulate above the soil) is a brown fibrous layer in a lawn. If your thatch layer is more than 1/2 inch thick, it can reduce aeration and keep water from soaking into the soil. Rake, rake, rake! To encourage breakdown of thatch, top dress with compost in spring and fall, apply less nitrogen, use slow-release, natural fertilizer products, and leave clippings on the lawn after mowing.
2. **AERATE:** Aeration removes plugs consisting of soil and thatch. It improves drainage and oxygen content. Leave the cores/plugs on the lawn and rake them if you need to speed up their breakdown.
3. **TOPDRESS:** Compost improves soil structure, encourages breakdown of thatch, improves soil fertility, and increases resistance to disease. Apply up to 1/2 inch after you've aerated your lawn to fill the core holes. Existing grass should stand up through the compost; don't bury it or bend stems over.
4. **OVERSEED:** The best dates for seeding in the Northwest are April/early May, September/early October. Depending on the size of the area, you can use a spreader for a more even application. Spread half the seed in a north/south direction, then turn around and apply the other half in an east/west direction. You can also use a roller to press seed into the soil. Top-dress with a thin layer of compost.
5. **FERTILIZE:** You can use Organic Lawn Fertilizer and lime at the same time. The organic nutrients will work it's way into the soil and break down slowly to create a healthy root system. Lime (dolomite) will add calcium and magnesium to balance the ph of highly acidic soils. Add lime if soil pH is below 6.0. Do not use lime around acid-loving plants like rhodies and camelias.
6. **WATER GENTLY:** For the first couple of weeks, keep the soil evenly moist to help your seed germinate and to prevent it from blowing away.
7. **MOW HIGH:** You can mow the new grass when it reaches about 3 inches in height. During the growing season, set your mower as high as it will go, around 3-4 inches.

The best way to combat weeds(other than elbow grease) and disease is to improve the health and reach of your lawn grasses!

