

# Lawn Care Calendar

A month by month guide to maintaining your lawn to help it thrive and be enjoyed all year:



## January

Sweep up leaves  
Protect frosted and sodden lawns from heavy foot traffic (including pets and children)

## February

Sweep up leaves.  
Remove worm casts  
Protect frosted and sodden lawns from heavy foot traffic (including pets and children)

## March

Rake Lawn to remove debris.  
Roll lawn to firm the ground.  
First mow but not low as this will turn lawn yellow.  
Repair damage and neaten edges. Half moon edging tool is useful for this.

## April

Feed and weed the lawn when the weather becomes warm. Rake out moss 2 weeks after using moss killer. Add a little lawn sand. Mow but keep to not less than 2 inches high as frost damage can still occur.

## May

Mowing regularly and lawn height can be brought down slowly. Mow once a week.  
In dry spells ensure that you spot treat weed problems.

## June

Mow twice a week to thicken the lawn. Rake lightly before mowing to catch any trailing stems. Use long handled shears to keep edges neat. A liquid fertiliser can keep lawn lush and green. Remove weeds.

## July

In hot dry weather raise the height of mower and consider watering in mornings or evenings. Spike the lawn if the ground is hard to allow water to soak in. Check edges for trimming and weeds.

## August

Apply high nitrogen fertiliser. If unable to mow the lawn then remember to reduce height gradually to limit damage to the leaf.

## September

Most important month for lawn care! Allow height of lawn to increase by 25% and only mow as needed. Scarify to remove debris and thatch. Top dressing can be added to improve lumps and bumps. Weed and Feed!

## October

Reduce the mowing and allow the grass to raise its height for winter. Weed, remove worm casts and feed the lawn. Remove leaves as they will prevent grass growing and reduce worm activity.

## November

The last mow should be done half an inch above summer mowing level. All leaves removed. Try not to walk on the lawn if frost or waterlogged.

## December

A final sweep of the leaves and tidy up.

This information is just a guide to help you achieve a beautiful lawn yourself. However, you will find many local companies willing to give advice or provide regular lawn treatment services should you wish to use them. The most important point to remember is that your new turf lawn is a mass of plants that require the correct balance of water, sunlight and food to survive.

# Customer Advice Sheet: Your Lawn and Garden

This booklet has been prepared as a guide to new homeowners on what to expect and how to take care of your lawn. The information is only a guide as there are many factors such as soil type and time of year to be considered but a little time and effort now will reap dividends later on. We have laid high quality turf but creating an attractive and well established lawn will be up to you!



## Walking on your new lawn:

It is important not to walk on your newly laid turf, even for the purpose of watering. We recommend at least two weeks during April to October and four weeks from October to March, as this should give the grass sufficient time to root.

Soil on new developments will settle in time, however this may take several months. If there is a need to walk on your lawn within the first month we strongly recommend the usage of boards (e.g scaffolding boards) to spread your weight and minimise indentations, especially when watering.



## Watering your new lawn:

Correct watering of your new turf is the single most important step to growing a successful lawn. Incorrect watering (both under and over watering) can cause long lasting damage. Gaps that appear between individual turves (rolls of grass) is a sure sign that there has been insufficient watering whilst turf is 'bedding in'.

### Watering Tips:

- \* For an even distribution of water, a hosepipe and sprinkler is recommended, as uneven watering will create an uneven lawn.
- \* A good way of telling whether you have got the water to the roots is to lift the corner of the turf and check that the ground below is moist. Remember it is the roots that require the water, not the blades of grass. Do not rely on rainwater to provide enough, even in the cooler seasons.
- \* Ensure the whole lawn is thoroughly watered, paying

particular attention to the edges. In hotter summer months, the best time to water your turf is early morning and again in the evening. As a general guide, turf laid between May and September will probably require watering twice daily for at least the first two weeks, then once a day for a week, reducing gradually as the roots take hold. Gaps appearing between individual turfs and yellow/browning of the grass is a sign of insufficient watering, not faulty turf.

However, applying too much water may also cause problems as it can cause the soil to become saturated or soggy and will not allow the turf to breathe. When your lawn is well established it will not need to be watered as much.



## Mowing and Feeding



### Mowing your lawn:

Regular mowing is also part of the necessary maintenance procedure with any lawn and must be carried out before the grass gets too long. The maximum height should not exceed 50mm/2 inches. Extra care must be taken when cutting your turf in the first few months.

**First Cut** – Mowing can only begin once newly laid turf is firmly rooted into the soil. This is typically four weeks after being laid. Mowing is a stress on the plant so only mow when the grass is dry, and ground is firm. Mow the lawn once the grass reaches over 40mm/1.5 inches and set your mower to the highest setting. Please ensure that the mower blades are sharp and never remove more than one third of the grass length in any one time.

**Further mows** – Frequent mowing will stimulate growth and encourage regular development of new shoots. Try to mow your lawn in several directions and as frequently as time permits.



### Feeding your lawn:

Nutrients are lost through the soil, and lawns benefit from a slow release fertiliser and weeding each spring and autumn. Feed between March and October, applying evenly and according to manufacturers instructions. Apply the feed before light rain is expected and never during a dry spell.

If there is no rainfall within 48 hours, ensure the lawn is well watered.



### Top dressing your lawn:

Top dressing is a mixture of horticultural sand with silt, clay, loam and grass seed to repair any wear/tear and undulations that may have occurred during the winter or summer months. The most favourable time for top dressing and rolling lawns is April to June and August to September.

You can purchase this mix from most hardware stores or online.

Always remember to remove the clippings as if left, they will smother the growth of the other grasses and build-up may lead to disease of the lawn.

Remember to reduce the height of the grass only fractionally each time you mow, reducing to a minimum of 25mm/1 inch. Do not mow the turf too low as root development will be restricted – especially in its first few months.

Peak periods of grass growth are between spring and autumn and a weekly mow is recommended. This however is only a guide and it will depend on the time of year your turf was laid. In winter, mow if there has been a spell of mild weather that has stimulated growth.

It is recommended only to mow when the grass is dry, however if the weather is continually wet, you should only mow to prevent the grass from becoming too high.



### Leatherjacket pest damage:

Leatherjackets are larvae of the Crane Fly (Daddy Longlegs) and the adult lay eggs between July and September in grass areas. Eggs hatch two or three weeks later and the larvae (leatherjackets) live in the soil feeding on the roots in mild, damp conditions from autumn to late spring.

Patches of turf die back, and birds are seen to peck at the turf in numbers.

Aerating the lawn (by spiking it) will improve the drainage and help prevent infestation, together with regular maintenance/feeding to help the grass remain strong and repel possible outbreaks.



### Maintaining newly planted trees and shrubs:

Any new trees and shrubs need to root and settle themselves as quickly as possible, especially during the hot summer months. Correct watering is the only way to ensure this. Therefore, we would recommend the following:

- \* Thorough soaking after planting
- \* The soil around the plant should be checked every day and watered as required. Preferably water early morning or evening during spring/summer, ensuring the plant is thoroughly soaked.
- \* Do not rely on the rain to do this job for you, especially during the summer months as rainwater rarely penetrates deeper than a few inches into the soil.
- \* Automatic systems are readily available and may make this job easier for you.
- \* Always arrange for a friend or neighbour to continue watering when you go away, even if its for a short time.

## General Maintenance



### Weeding your lawn:

A weed puller tool is really easy way to remove weeds such as dandelions from your lawn.

If your lawn contains lots of weeds then applying either a selective lawn weedkiller targeting just the broadleaved weeds such as clover. A triple action weedkiller will remove a large area of weeds when applied to the whole lawn, and feed the lawn and kill moss.

**NOTE:** Mushrooms / Toadstools may appear in new and long established turf when weather conditions are warm and damp. They do not damage the lawn and can be removed through frequent mowing.

Be aware that trees planted with a girth in excess of 20cm will require watering in dry weather through their second year to ensure survival. Wilting is the most obvious sign of under watering, whereas signs of over watering include yellowing/spotted leaves and rapid leaf drop.

It is essential to keep beds free of weeds as they will compete with trees/plants for water and will affect their growth. Applying crushed bark or leaf mould mulch will inhibit weed growth and help retain moisture.

Trees supplied by Drew Smith have been staked and tied. Please check these intermittently for signs of chafing/tightening as the tree grows and make any necessary adjustments.

Some shrubs such as Bay Tree Cordylines, Phormiums, Hebes, Palms, Camelia, and Pittosporum are only frost hardy to -5 Degrees. You can either bring these inside or wrap in horticultural fleece during extremely cold weather to prevent damage.