

Autumn Lawn Care



Autumn is a very important time of year to prepare your lawn to see it through the harsh winter months and to ensure it looks its best in the spring. Always make sure your lawn is raked or brushed regularly to keep it free from leaves and debris, as these can cause problems if left on the surface over the winter months.

Mowing

As the weather starts to go colder, the grass will start to grow more slowly and will need cutting less. Adjust the height of your mower so that it cuts higher and only mow around once every two weeks. This will help to protect the lawn in the cold weather.

Feeding

An autumn lawn feed applied to your lawn will supply it with the essential nutrients it needs to strengthen the grass and roots over the winter. If the autumn has a lot of damp or wet weather a disease called fusarium can occur which can be treated using 'Lawn Disease Control'. If there is moss in the lawn it is best treated in the early autumn.

Moss Killing

Most autumn lawn products contain a moss killer which is applied at the same time as the feed. The

lawn will turn black in around 2-3 weeks and will then need to be raked or scarified out using a spring tine rake.

Scarifying

This process helps reduce the build up of dead grass and roots, and helps remove any moss that may have been killed by the feed and moss killer used previously. Removing this dead matter helps to reduce the stress on the lawn and also helps water to get down to the roots, helping the lawn survive the winter.

Aerating

If the lawn has been used a lot over the summer months there may be areas of compaction which will not drain properly during heavy rainfall in the autumn and winter. The easiest way to aerate the lawn is to spike it with a garden fork to a depth of a few inches. This will relieve compaction, improve drainage and allow more air to the root system helping it to grow.

Top Dressing

Once the scarifying and aerating has been done, you may find some bare patches or uneven areas in the lawn .A top dressing of a mixture of sharp sand and compost is best and is usually used at a rate of between 1-3kg per sqm. Brush in thoroughly to reach the low lying areas. Do this when the lawn and weather is dry. Top dressing also helps to break down thatch and aids drainage.

Over Seeding

Depending on how much wear and tear your lawn has had over the summer, early autumn is a good time to over seed. The grass seed will germinate before the harsh winter weather and give a thicker and denser sward ready for the next year. To re-seed, prick the surface of the soil to a depth of around an inch, then rake the surface to give a fine seed bed. Scatter the grass seed evenly over the ground and cover with a fine layer of compost or sifted soil, pat down gently and keep well watered.