

How to...

Recover a Waterlogged Lawn



After continuous wet weather, lawns become waterlogged and the water drains slowly. It is more likely to be a problem on compacted or clay soils.

To improve your lawn after water-logging, follow these five easy steps.

1. Slitting / Spiking

Use either a garden fork or powered slitting machine to make holes in the grass around 10-15cm deep. Fill in the holes with a free draining material such as lawn top dressing or sand.

2. Aerating

If the lawn is particularly bad, you may need to aerate it using a hollow tine aerator. This has hollow spikes and removes plugs of soil that are swept up and removed. Lawn top dressing or sand can then be brushed into the holes to aid drainage.

3. Drainage

On most lawns, step 2 above will improve drainage sufficiently. However, in severe cases, usually with clay rich soils, a drainage system may need to be installed. You should seek professional help with

this process which consists of trenches being dug in a fish-bone style, with drainage pipes leading to a sump filled with stones at the lowest part of the garden.

4. Feed

Apply a lawn fertiliser in spring which will help the grass to recover from winter damage and grow a stronger healthier root system which is better to withstand flooding. Feed again in autumn with a phosphate rich feed to promote good root growth before the winter.

5. Remove Moss

Use a moss killer to remove moss as soon as it appears as this helps to retain water and weakens the grass. This process can be done in the spring and then again in autumn, to ensure your lawn is at its best and ready for the winter.