

Lawn Renovation

Time for a makeover?

If your lawn is old, neglected and generally unhealthy, a lawn renovation can restore it to health and beauty. A combination of cultural practices and the introduction of new seed with the implementation of a continuing turf care program is often all that is needed to turn a shabby lawn around.

What makes a lawn unhealthy?

Before taking corrective action, it is important to identify and understand the underlying causes for the lawn's current condition. Once the causes of the problems have been identified, the renovation work may commence. Certain problems related to site or soil conditions should be addressed for improved turf quality. If the problems that led to the lawn's decline were maintenance related, then the owner must commit to a maintenance regimen to assure the newly renovated lawn does not slip back into a neglected condition. Lawn Lad offers Turf Care and Turf Management services to assist homeowners with the long-term care of their lawns.

What kinds of conditions can cause lawn quality to deteriorate?

- Poor drainage
- Compacted soil



- Poor soil quality
- Too much thatch (more than 1/2")
- Heavy shade
- Incorrect turf type for site
- Competition from surrounding trees
- Not enough moisture
- Low fertility
- Improper pH (reduces nutrient availability for the plants)
- Insect infestation
- Disease activity
- Mowing the lawn too short or with dull mower blades

Options for turf renovations may include several of the following practices depending on the condition of the lawn, the site conditions and the goals for the lawn.

- Aeration
- Verti-cutting or de-thatching
- Soil testing to determine nutrient levels and pH
- Lime applications based on soil pH
- Top dressing lawn with organic matter
- Incorporating new seed into the lawn through slit-seeding, over-seeding or hydroseeding
- Apply appropriate pesticides to manage existing insects, disease and weeds
- Maintain fertility and long-term health of the turf through a continuing Turf Care program

Makeover plans

Often the fastest method to turn a lawn around is to incorporate new seed into it. Slit-seeding is the mechanical process of slicing the soil and sewing the seed directly into the existing lawn, a good method to thicken up a thin area of turf or to repair a damaged area. Top dressing after aerating can be very beneficial when a lawn needs more organic matter. Over-seeding or broadcasting seed is an inexpensive method, but not nearly as successful as hydroseeding, which provides mulch for increased moisture retention increasing the germination rate of the new seed.

The method that is used to renovate your lawn is dependent on your site conditions, budget and expectations for the quality of the turf.



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