



Box 1676  
Camrose, AB  
T4V 1X6  
(780) 678 6450  
[sales@scottsqualitylawncare.ca](mailto:sales@scottsqualitylawncare.ca)  
[scottsqualitylawncare.ca](http://scottsqualitylawncare.ca)

*“Your Home Turf Advantage”*

---

## WHY IS MY GRASS SO THIN? WHAT CAN I DO TO MAKE IT HEALTHIER?



Many of you have read some of our other helpful information docs regarding various lawn care issues or turf problems. Some of what follows may be what you've heard before and that's not surprising. Most of the solutions for addressing the most common lawn issues have a lot in common when it comes to the fixes.

Here at Scott's Quality Lawn Care we're growing like crazy! That means we're signing up a lot of new clients every year. That's exciting for us but especially for those we're providing our services for.

Our passion is “helping you make your lawn the envy of your neighbours”. We'd of course love to do it for everyone but not everyone wants to spend the time to beautify their yards and do the routine lawn maintenance to make it so. We respect that everyone has different values and while looking after their yards and their lawns for some is immensely gratifying and great outdoor therapy, you might say; for others, they perhaps just don't have the time to spend on such activities. But of course, we can even help them out, too, so that they don't have to look after their lawns... but we can for them.

With that being said, here's a couple scenarios this article is going to focus on ---

**“Why is my grass so thin?” is a common question we get asked regularly, and of course, the answers to this can apply to much more than just these particular scenarios as you'll soon see.**

**It's at the crux of these two scenarios ---**

**SCENARIO 1** - Let's say you just bought a new used home and the previous owner doesn't appear to have spent much time nor effort maintaining the grass... and it desperately needs some TLC. You love your new home but you can see that the lawn is in dire need of being revived, to say the least. The grass is struggling and it's thin and patchy at best... You can see that it's not very healthy... Weeds are already encroaching everywhere and you know you've got to do something to help it before it gets worse.

*“Your Home Turf Advantage”*

**SCENARIO 2** - Or maybe it's not a lawn you just inherited, so to speak, but it's your own lawn where you've been living for years and... you just haven't been able for whatever reason, to spend a lot of time on your yard, and your lawn in particular. So many of us are so busy these days and we all have our own priority lists, too... But let's say that this year, you've decided enough is enough and you want to get your lawn back in shape! Sometimes that's perhaps with a slight tinge of guilt as you can see that so many of your neighbours' lawns are lush and weed-free and yours is well... thin, not looking too great... and a bit too adorned with dandelions galore...

Any of the above sound familiar? We can surely help you and it might not be as difficult nor as costly as you might think.

Hey, it might not even be the above scenarios... It could be due to nothing more than the weather not cooperating this year... perhaps too little or too much rain. And don't forget about those notorious heat waves or drought spells like we've had in recent summers that can set a lawn back big-time. Mother Nature seems to kind of do her own thing independently of what we might need or want, right?

Or maybe it's just the normal wear & tear of lots of activity on the lawn, kid's playing or sports activities, or roughhousing with the dog, or you name it... Any of these normal activities can eventually lead to thinning, struggling grass that is prone to being more susceptible to typical if not common lawn challenges or problems.

## SO WHAT DO YOU DO?

- ☹ Do you rip out your lawn and start over from scratch?  
Let's hope not something that dramatic is necessary.
- ☺ Do you over-seed it?  
This is more likely what is needed depending upon a few things.
- ☺ Likewise, so can a whole lot of other possible measures help get your lawn looking great again!

## LET'S LOOK AT THESE MEASURES ONE BY ONE ---

It's not like you have to do all of them to see results, though that surely will only make things all the better and would be our best recommendation for you. However, doing as many of these as you want to and can do, will all contribute to helping your lawn thicken up again and begin exuding that healthy lush look that it maybe once had back at the beginning.

It's totally understandable - I think most of us have been there at one time or another...

- Over time, your grass gets old and the fact is... worn-out lawns invite weeds.
- Soil can get depleted over time of the necessary crucial nutrients.
- Or... if we get too busy to have time to look after our lawns as much as we'd like to, they can fall prey to our neglect, or Mother Nature not always lending a helping hand, right?
- Sometimes lawns are in such poor condition that they may even need to be replaced... Hopefully, we never let it get to that state.

Hence, **OVER-SEEDING is a fast, inexpensive way to help bring your lawn back to its lush, green self without tearing everything out and starting over** [More about that shortly].

***“Your Home Turf Advantage”***

## **MOST LAWN CARE IS COMMON-SENSE AND IT'S ALWAYS PROPER ONGOING ROUTINE LAWN MAINTENANCE THAT WILL KEEP YOUR GRASS HEALTHY AND STRONG. IT'S DEFINITELY THE BEST PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE FOR YOUR LAWN.**

Conversely, if left only to Mother Nature to attend to, that's not something that will always work in your favour. That's especially so in recent years with what seems to be more climate change and more variable if not sometimes extreme weather.

**When it comes to lawns like so many other things in life, there's no avoiding the fact that "What you put into it will be the measure of what you get out of it".**

### **SO WHAT DO YOU START WITH?**

**Firstly, you need to know what you're dealing with. So do a good "walk-through assessment" of your lawn, noting what may be obvious or not... You don't have to be an expert to do this... But asking these basic questions will steer you in the right direction for what to focus on and where to start.**

**Here's the most common things to check out ---**

- What does the grass feel like to walk on?
  - Is it hard & compacted? Bumpy or uneven? Squishy or too wet?
- Are you seeing lots of thatch?
  - Thatch is that tightly inter-woven compacted layer of living and dead grass shoots, decaying roots, and other organic debris between the layer of actively growing grass and the soil underneath it.
  - A thicker thatch layer can also potentially become a breeding ground for harmful insects and disease organisms [More about that later...]
- Directly related to that, when was the last time you had your lawn power-raked (de-thatched) or core-aerated, if ever?
  - This is one bit of lawn maintenance that sadly some homeowners do so infrequently, and for some, not at all, and yet it can make a huge difference for you if you do it every year.
- Is your lawn looking rather worn? Is the grass thin or bare in places?
  - Some people use their lawn a lot; for others, it's more ornamental and barely gets any foot traffic on it or usage...
- Are there any totally dead spots or dried-out or browning patches?
  - Are there any possible causes for this that you're aware of or is it more of a mystery as to why?
- Are there any fungal diseases infecting your lawn?
  - Is something affecting your grass that you're guessing might be some other suddenly appearing or chronic issue needing attention?
- Any mushrooms or other fungi appearing on the lawn?
- Have any critters been digging in your lawn, which may be indicating the possibility of grubs below the surface?
- Do you have a dog that loves to dig? Or one who's caused you to essentially give up your backyard to him or her? (Yah, I know... we still love em' but we sure wish they wouldn't do that to our lawns, right?)
- Are you seeing any ant hills? Or any dew worm mounds?
- What about weeds?
  - Are there any dandelions? Or other weeds you're not familiar with?
- Do you have any large overhanging trees or large shrubs that are constantly shading the grass?
- Do you have any large evergreen trees wherein you perhaps haven't been regularly removing the fallen needles below them on the grass?
  - Some mature pine and spruce trees can have such large canopies overhead that they may be not only stealing the nutrients and moisture from the ground but also hindering the sunlight from getting to the grass below them.

***"Your Home Turf Advantage"***

**Of course, any of the above can also indicate something more specific that needs to be addressed. However, generally, many of these can contribute to your lawn being unhealthy and struggling, or thinner than desired. You'll know it when you see it, because a thinner lawn is invariably a struggling lawn...**

And if it's a fungal disease you may have, or you're unsure about that, don't hesitate to give us a phone call and we can offer some specific advice or possible solutions for that.

**It's worth mentioning right up front, too, that if you have a lot of weeds appearing it's likely because your lawn simply isn't very healthy, nor lush and thick. The fact is, "weeds don't like competition", as in healthy thick grass. Vibrant lush lawns won't give much foothold for any weeds to take place. But thin lawns are weaker and weeds will readily take up residence amidst any grass that is struggling.**

Your answers to the above will indicate what you need to do next. Give us a call once you've done your assessment and we'll discuss some possible options and steer you in the right direction for how to get your lawn back in shape.

**In this info article we're going to focus mostly on OVER-SEEDING your lawn as it's the best approach to thickening up your grass. But before we talk about over-seeding your lawn to get you on the road to it being revived and thriving again, you need to prepare it via the following measures.**

**This is going to pertain both to <sup>1</sup> over-seeding existing thin lawns to thicken them up, as well as to <sup>2</sup> re-seeding any bare spots or dead areas.**

- 1. More often than not, power-raking and a core aeration is needed first before anything else is done, and ideally early in the spring rather than during any hot and dry summer months.**
  - The top 1 to 1½ inches of soil in lawns tends to inevitably become compacted over time from foot traffic, mowers, high clay content, and even the impact of rain, just to name a few reasons.
  - Power-raking and aeration will loosen any compacted soil in your lawn and break up excessive thatch which would otherwise potentially strangle or choke your grass roots.
    - When lawns are far too compacted and there's more than a ½ inch or so of thatch, the roots can't receive the proper oxygen and moisture.
    - It also hinders the assimilation of nutrients and fertilizers - They get blocked from getting down to the roots where it's needed to ensure proper growth.
  - Running a core aerator over your lawn pulls up small cores or plugs of dirt and grass, thereby creating voids in the soil to provide space for stimulating new root growth, as well as being that more direct path for rain, air and nutrients to get to the roots.
  - Power-raking equipment is typically equipped with vertical fixed knife-type blades or tines or mechanical flails that slice and literally dig out the thatch.
  - These two together help to prepare a thinned-out lawn for re-seeding or over-seeding.
  - We offer both power-raking and core aeration services, so give us a call if you'd like to learn more about these or to book these key services.
    - We recommend these be done annually or as often as needed.
  - **NOTE:** Of course, if your lawn is just so thin and bare or devoid of grass that there's really nothing to de-thatch, or to have previously been mowing, then perhaps redoing your lawn from scratch via preparing the soil and then re-seeding it or planting new sod, would be your only viable option.
    - If you're not sure about whether that's needed or not, give us a call and we can have someone drop by to look at your lawn and give you our best recommendation.
- 2. Next, it's time to do some over-seeding, i.e. spreading grass seed over your existing lawn... Or if it's bare spots, you're essentially re-seeding as though you're planting new lawn in those areas.**
  - Routine over-seeding as part of your annual lawn maintenance is one secret to a great lawn.
  - Spring and fall are the best times to over-seed our region's cool-season northern grasses.
    - We'd recommend that if you're doing some preparatory power-raking and aeration in the spring then do your over-seeding subsequent to that [More about that below].

***"Your Home Turf Advantage"***

- But if you're not needing to do any power-raking or aeration (or perhaps you did a fall aeration, which we do offer, too) then over-seed in the fall.
  - The soil is still warm while the air is starting to get cooler in the evenings, and there are likely fewer weeds for new grass to have to compete against.
  - Plus, since your trees are starting to shed their leaves, there may be more sunlight to help with any new seed germination, too, assuming of course that you aren't leaving any fallen leaves all over your over-seeded or re-seeded grass that you're attempting to grow.
  - Of course, be sure to not do this too late in the year as you'd ideally want any new grass to have had a chance to grow and maybe even be mowed a few times before the colder fall weather or winter was upon you.
- As to which type of grass seed you choose depends on your existing grass type.
  - If your lawn consists of cool-season grasses, as most are in the areas we service, buy those type of seeds (i.e. Kentucky Blue grass, Perennial Rye grass, and Tall Fescue)
  - Oftentimes it's a blend of seed types available at the usual retailers. If you're looking for a very specific grass type that's not a blend, your local UFA is likely to offer that.
  - Also, consider whether your grass is going to be mostly in the sun or partly in the shade as there are specific seed products available nowadays for optimizing that a bit, too.
    - Similarly, there also are some products specially designed to thicken thin lawns, which combine grass seed, low potency fertilizer, and a soil enhancer into an easy-to-use product you apply with a spreader.
    - FYI... Some of these can work well; others seem to be more of a marketing ploy to make you spend more money needlessly as they don't necessarily grow any better or quicker than regular grass seed. So, do your own market research.

**3. It's also a good idea before over-seeding any existing lawn, to cut your grass a little shorter than normal and bag the clippings.**

- After mowing, before you start spreading any seed, raking it a bit will help loosen the top layer of soil anchoring your grass blades, and remove any dead grass and debris.
  - Of course, if you just did your power-raking and/or core aeration then this may not be necessary.
- This will give the grass seed easy access to the soil so it can root more easily after germinating.
- Likewise for any bare spots, rake the soil a bit to loosen and break it up a bit if it's at all compacted.
- It can also help to lightly spread a little compost or weed-free topsoil onto those bare spots you're re-seeding... You want a healthy base for your seeds to grow within, right?
- You can even do the same with your existing lawn if you're over-seeding it.
  - The nutrients in the soil will re-feed the grass too as it breaks down with any watering you'll be doing or any rainfall.

**4. Now comes the easiest part of the over-seeding or re-seeding process: Either use a seed spreader for existing lawns or if it's just for some bare patches you want to re-seed, even using your hand to lightly but as evenly as you can spread some grass seeds, should be fine.**

- A steady hand or a hand-powered spreader is ideal for small lawns or small bare patches while a larger capacity wheeled spreader may be better suited for large lawns... Just fill up your spreader, adjust the setting according to the label directions, and apply.

**5. Once you've spread the seeds you can now spread a very light covering of that compost or weed-free topsoil onto the seeds, not enough to totally cover it or smother it and kill any existing grass, but rather just enough to settle the seeds and hold them in place, you could say... less than a quarter of an inch should be plenty.**

- As soon as you start to water it or if it should rain, those seeds may bounce around a bit from any water droplets or gather up leaving your spread not quite so evenly spread anymore... Hence the reason for a little compost or soil lightly spread on top to keep it in place.

***“Your Home Turf Advantage”***

- It can oftentimes be enough to just spread some handfuls of this by just lightly throwing it on top of what you just seeded.
- If you're over-seeding your existing lawn, the seeds will fall between existing grass blades and reach the soil bed there, too.
  - But it can also help to throw a little of that compost or weed-free topsoil onto the grass, too, and as the watering or the rain breaks it down it will provide some additional nutrients to your newly germinating grass seeds.

**6. Next... Depending how hot and dry your weather is, be sure to keep the soil consistently moist by lightly watering once or twice a day until the seedlings have reached the height of the rest of your lawn.**

- Keep it moist and along with the sun and warmer day time temperatures it should start germinating and taking root fairly soon.
- Germinating grass seed needs constant moisture until seedlings fully emerge and fill in between existing grass.
  - However, once lawns get established, they generally need about 1 inch of water per week, whether that comes from nature or your sprinkler or irrigation system.
  - Deep, thorough irrigation encourages the deep root growth thicker lawns need [More about that later].
- Do not over-water it though wherein you risk washing away the seeds and nutrients.
  - A light watering is key.
  - Common-sense would say to use a fine spray on your nozzle or sprinkler... Any heavy water droplets or too much water pressure is just going to scatter your seeds and then you'll be wondering later why your new grass growth seems so patchy and not uniform.
- ★ **A WORD OF CAUTION at this point --- Do not spray any kind of fertilizer or herbicide on the newly germinating seeds.**
  - It's too young for new seedlings to handle that and in fact, any herbicide will essentially hinder new seed germination.
    - If any weeds are popping up in the interim, just pick them out but don't spray any weed killer on them just yet.
  - FYI... However, there are some new seed products out there that we can't vouch for, that do incorporate some fertilizer within them, but I'd still exercise some caution.
  - A safer rule of thumb would be that once your grass has matured and you've mowed it at least 2 or 3 times, it's likely then more able to handle any fertilizer or herbicide.
    - Alternately, you could do what we call "the pull test" wherein you grab the top new growth of grass and pull gently to see if's well-rooted... If it pulls out, it's clearly not ready.
    - It must take root very well before you start applying any fertilizer or herbicide to this new grass.
    - Conversely, if it seems well-anchored, go for it... It should be able to handle any fertilizer or herbicide, should you need it.

**7. An additional measure you can surely do to enhance the growth of any newly seeded or over-seeded lawn it is to apply some soil enhancer such as our Enrich Soil Enhancer product.**

- Our product can literally be applied at any time before, during or after your re-seeding or over-seeding.
- Our 3-spray **Enrich** program consists of 3 applications (spring, summer, fall) of an all-natural blend of over 50 of the highest quality plant extracts, a super-nutrient feeding, you might say. This can be applied on any soil medium to enhance the soil thereby accelerating the growth of any plant growing within it, or in this case, lawn grass.
- Some of the numerous benefits are:
  - ✓ **It literally awakens and enlivens dormant strains of beneficial soil microbes, thereby increasing microbial diversity and activity —**

***“Your Home Turf Advantage”***

- This aids in increasing the rate of organic matter decomposition so the soil reclaims nutrients quicker.
- ✓ **It also helps restore the soil's pH balance, which in our region tends to be a bit too alkaline ---**
  - A balanced soil pH is key for the most optimal lawn and plant growth.
  - If soil pH is too low, for example, your grass can't take up nutrients it needs.
- ✓ **It helps to unlock tied-up nutrients that are already in the soil but may not be necessarily plant-available ---**
  - It will help increase the uptake of nutrients into your grass or plants.
  - It also enables more effective and efficient assimilation and absorption of the nutrients.
- ✓ **It helps convert man-made fertilizers into plant-available nutrients so that nothing is wasted.**
- ✓ **It enables greater oxygen and water absorption ---**
  - It improves soil water retention and absorption along with better percolation.
  - Healthier soil breathes better, transferring nutrients and moisture more effectively, too.
- ✓ **It creates more plant mass, a healthier root system and increased organic matter ---**
  - If you look below your grass or plants, you're likely to notice a dramatic increase in new fine root hairs, attesting to its new invigorated growth.
  - It also makes your soil less susceptible to any water erosion or runoff.
  - Re: gardens and flower beds --- It results in better, quicker growth and higher-quality yields.
- ✓ **It leads to improved soil structure allowing your grass and plants to root deeper ---**
  - Your enhanced soil will become more porous and soft, no longer compacted.
  - Your soil becomes home to an abundant super-healthy root structure, not the typical blocked or root-bound condition of grass or plants struggling to cope within unhealthy nutrient-deficient soil.
  - This will lead to a lusher, thicker lawn, which feels better on your feet, yet is robust... The grass bounces back/restores very quickly even after repeated usage or severe foot traffic.
- **Enrich essentially enlivens the immune system of your grass. It strengthens it and helps its own biologic processing to make better use of that which it needs to be healthy.**
- In the case of grass, it does an excellent job of not only accelerating the growth of any new grass but as you can see above, it also fortifies it and enriches it, enabling it to be super-healthy from Day 1.

## **OTHER IMPORTANT LAWN CARE PRACTICES ONCE YOUR LAWN HAS ESTABLISHED ITSELF**

We've already mentioned our Enrich Soil Enhancer product. Apart from that, we highly recommend the following to ensure that your lawn becomes not only thick and lush, but continues to grow strong and healthy, being less susceptible to weeds and any potential lawn problems and/or occasional fungal diseases, that might otherwise be encountered.

These of course, are key to all lawn care maintenance practices... Fertilizer & Weed Control, Proper Watering, and Proper Mowing...

### **Fertilizer & Weed Control Regimen -**

Lawn grasses need food, just like any other plants do. However, nutrients in the soil can leach away with rainfall and regular watering. Plus, unless a homeowner is at least periodically applying some weed-free top-dressing or compost to offer some additional nutrients for the grass to take-in, or a product like our Enrich Soil Enhancer, it's going to get depleted over time or at least showing signs that it's struggling and needs some further TLC.

***“Your Home Turf Advantage”***

**A routine annual regimen or program of periodic fertilization and weed control throughout the growing season can help provide the key nutrients your grass needs for thicker, healthier growth ---**

- We offer a 4 application Liquid Fertilization & Weed Control Program. Ours is a combination of liquid fertilizer and liquid broadleaf weed herbicide that we spray at 4 to 6 week intervals between May and September.
- Each application is specially blended to ensure your lawn receives the proper NPK ratio of macro-nutrients throughout each stage of the growing season.
  - As such, each blend of fertilizer is mixed in-house by us. This is important because the blend that we mix is specifically optimized for our region.
  - This is unlike the fertilizers you may buy in retail stores which are typically nationally distributed and not necessarily optimized for our area.
- Given that weeds, of course, compete with your grass for sunlight, water and nutrients... the more weeds you have, the less fertilizer and other resources your grass receives.
  - Controlling weeds eliminates the competition so that your lawn can stay thick and well-nourished.
- Regarding the weed control component of our program, our herbicide is a “non-residual” “contact” broadleaf weed herbicide.
  - This means that upon spraying your lawn, whatever broadleaf weeds are already existing, which our spray makes contact with, shall be affected and ideally killed.
  - You maybe lucky enough for 1 or 2 applications to do the job. But sometimes, it may take 3 or 4 applications to totally eradicate your weeds depending upon how serious your weed problem is or the type of broadleaf weeds.

**Proper Watering or Irrigation -**

It always concerns us when we sign up a new client who says they never bother watering their lawn... It's perhaps not surprising then as to why they're asking for some help.

One of the most common lawncare problems is improper watering and/or the lack of watering. Your lawn needs water to grow. Mother Nature doesn't always provide what is needed when it is needed.

**As a general rule of thumb, you should always be putting down an inch of water on your lawn once per week (or more if it's a very hot and dry season).**

Some homeowners will turn their irrigation system or sprinkler on for 10 to 15 minutes, 3 to 4 times per week, or in the evening once they come home from work. This is actually a very poor practice and encourages a shallow root system, which can subsequently be one of the causes for other lawn problems or fungal diseases.

**It's better to be watering less frequently during each week but putting more water down for a longer duration when you're watering. This will encourage deeper rooting.** Deeper roots will show on the surface in the form of a lush green lawn. Your grass will grow thicker and be more drought-tolerant.

The health of your lawn always depends on what lies below ground. Having a strong root system is key and proper watering plays an absolutely crucial role.

**Routine Lawn Mowing -**

Knowing how to properly mow your lawn can make the difference between a lawn that you're proud of versus one that looks weak and stressed. When properly mowed your lawn will look somewhat manicured and attractive, you could say. It will help your grass grow thick and lush, and stay that way throughout the entire season. Whereas if improperly mowed or not mowed very often, your lawn is likely to be more susceptible to not only weeds but environmental stresses such as heat and drought.

***“Your Home Turf Advantage”***

**1. Regular routine mowing is important to a healthy lawn. Firstly, your lawn needs to be mowed frequently ---**

- If you're not wanting to or you're unable to mow your lawn yourself, we do offer a Weekly Mowing Program wherein we mow your lawn once per week.
  - If it's not growing enough to need it that week, you only need to call us and we'll skip it for that week, etc.
- Likewise, if it's excessively hot and dry, we would likely want to hold off till weather and lawn conditions are more favourable.
- It can potentially do more harm than good to be mowing during extreme temperatures or drought conditions.

**2. Your lawn cutting height is a crucial determining factor for how well your grass is going to grow and how lush and healthy it will be.**

- We'll start with a **WORD OF CAUTION** -
  - It's a bad practice to cut your grass excessively short as though you're trying to make it look like a manicured golf course putting green...
  - Your grass type is not likely that grass type. We simply do not have those types of grasses in our region.
  - Nor would the typical homeowner want to necessarily spend the time, expense and effort required to attempt to make his lawn look like the putting greens where he or she goes golfing.
    - Golf course lawn care shares some common practices, but there's considerably more involved than what is ever required to obtain a great looking residential lawn.
  - Grass cut so short would be potentially susceptible to numerous common lawn problems.
- Conversely, if your grass is left un-mowed till it's become over-grown and then you decide to mow it, that can be very stressful on the lawn.
- As a general rule, you should never be removing more than 1/3 of the blade/leaf structure when mowing your lawn.
  - Cutting more than that reduces the carbohydrates that support healthy grass growth.
  - If you remove too much at once, your lawn will become more vulnerable to stress from weather, insect pests, possible fungal diseases, as well as weeds.
  - Always mow when the grass is dry, too.
- Normally, you should be mowing at 1½ to 2 inches height on your first mow.
- Then during periods of warm weather for the summer months, gradually increase the cutting height up to 2½ to 3½ inches.
  - Opting for the higher mowing heights will help shade grass roots, support deeper root growth, and help retain the moisture better during these dryer months.
- Gradually lower your mower blades back to lower mowing heights as temperatures begin to cool in late summer to early fall.
- Reduce your mowing frequency in the fall once your grass appears to be slowing its growth and reduce the height down to 2 inches or so.
- Then, come late September to October, when doing a final yard cleanup of any fallen leaves, etc, do a final mow at a lower height (around 1½ to 2 inches or so) in preparation for winter months wherein the grass will lie dormant till the snow's melted and spring returns again the next year.
- If you leave your grass at a higher height during the winter, there's a good chance you could incur some winter kill, snow mould, or even vole damage by the time the snow's melted.
- We can look after all of these details for you with our Weekly Mowing Program, if you're interested.

**3. Be sure to keep your mower maintained well so its blades are sharp enough to cut cleanly instead of tearing at grass.**

- When grass is torn rather than cut cleanly, it's more susceptible to common lawn diseases and insect pests, which will hinder your lawn from lush, thick growth.
- Be sure to switch your mowing pattern regularly, too, which will also help keep grass straight and thick.

**\*\*\* Guidelines for when to mow a new lawn after seeding or when to mow new sod are different than for established mature lawns -**

- Newly seeded lawns may take 1 to 2 months to get well-rooted before they're ready for mowing.
  - Be sure to wait before mowing new grass until all of the seed has sprouted and it reaches at least one and one-half times its recommended height.
  - That will have given it enough time to root well and gain some momentum with its growth.
- For new sod that was laid down as your lawn, check with a "pull test" to make sure it's anchored itself well.
  - You may start mowing about 2 weeks after it is laid if it seems well-rooted.
    - If not, wait a bit longer...
    - Also, be sure there are no gaps between sod pieces and that the edges are well-seated and not exposed to drying out, etc.

**We trust all of the above information will help you "thicken" your lawn. As we said earlier, "over-seeding" is key to an ongoing healthy lush, and vibrant lawn. We dare say that if you heed the above advice, there's no reason you shouldn't be able to have a lawn that you can be proud of, one that may be a prime example of exactly WHAT TO DO in reinvigorating your lawn, and giving it the new life it deserves.**

**Good luck with this year's lawn care!**

---

**\*\*\* SPECIAL NOTE \*\*\***

***We love helping our clients have great-looking lawns! Of course, we always welcome your inquiries, but we also want to help educate you, too. So many of you have told us how much you appreciate the articles we make available to you.***

***If there are any questions you may have about your lawn or any challenges or problems you may occasionally encounter with your lawn, don't hesitate to give us a call. As with the above info article you've just read, we also have other highly beneficial lawn care articles, too...***

***Here are some we've created to support you with your lawn care efforts. They can help you identify any problems as well as offer some possible solutions for some of those occasional challenges lawns can encounter.***

***These info articles are not meant to be one-time definitive cures for whatever might ail your lawn. We all wish it was only that simple... But, there are no magic "spray this once and your lawn will be perfect thereafter" solutions... Unfortunately, those don't really exist, as much as we might all like them to. However, there are many things you can do to get your lawn in great shape and keep it that way. We encourage you to glean what you can from any of the following articles that may interest you. And for what you're not sure about, give us a call, let's talk about it, and we'll do what we can to help you.***

***"Your Home Turf Advantage"***

**You may reach us at 780-678-6450 if you'd like to receive any of these via email. It would be our pleasure to do our part to help you "make your lawn the envy of your neighbours"...**

From Our **"PROACTIVE LAWN CARE"** Series Of Articles —

***7 Steps To A Great Lawn***

***Caring For Our Lawn Over The Winter***

***Proactively Preparing Your Lawn For Drought Conditions***

From Our **"WHAT YOU'RE NOT TOLD"** Series Of Articles —

***What You're Not Told About All-Natural & Organic Lawn Care Alternatives***

***What You're Not Told About Bats & Their Guano***

From Our **"WHY?"** Series Of Articles —

***Why Is My Grass So Thin?***

***Why Dead Spots On My Lawn?***

***Why Am I Getting Mushrooms In My Lawn?***

***Why Are The Pine Needles Killing My Grass?***

From Our **"HOW TO GET RID OF..."** Series Of Articles —

***How To Get Rid of Ants***

***How To Get Rid of Dew Worms***

***How To Get Rid of Fairy Rings***

***How To Get Rid of Quackgrass***

***How To Get Rid of Thistles***

From Our **"DAMAGE BY DOGS & OTHER CRITTERS"** Series of Articles —

***Fixing & Preventing Dog Spots***

***Damage Caused by Voles***

From Our **"SEEDING LAWNS"** Series Of Articles —

***Grass Seeding For New Lawns***

***Overseeding For Existing Lawns***

From Our **"DIY"** Series Of Articles —

***DIY\_Alternate Ways To Remove Weeds In Gravel Areas***

From Our **"COMMON LAWN FUNGAL DISEASES"** Series Of Articles —

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases (Compendium Of All Common Ones)***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_The Usual Causes***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Snow Mold***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Leaf Spot & Melting Out***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Ascochyta Turf Leaf Blight***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Brown Patch***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Summer Patch***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Pythium Blight***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Red Thread***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Rust Diseases***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Powdery Mildew***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Dollar Spot***

***Common Lawn Fungal Diseases\_Fairy Ring***

...See more on next page...

***"Your Home Turf Advantage"***

## **INFORMATION ON OUR FIVE PRIMARY LAWN CARE SERVICES —**

### **FERTILIZER & WEED CONTROL:**

*Our Fertilization & Weed Control Program*  
*Possible Reasons For Still Having Weeds*  
*Ten Reasons Our Program is Different*

### **ENRICH SOIL ENHANCER:**

*Our Enrich Soil Enhancer Program*  
*Different Soil Types Have Different pH Levels*

### **WEEKLY MOWING:**

*How The Weekly Lawn Mowing Works*  
*Our Quality Control Program*  
*Ten Reasons We Are Different*

### **CORE AERATION:**

*Why Aerate Your Lawn?*

### **POWER RAKING:**

*Why Power-Rake Your Lawn?*

***“Your Home Turf Advantage”***