

FBMG Help Desk

Question of the Week

How do I ready my lawn for spring?

Answer: Here are some recommendations for after last freeze and before your grass is fully green...



Great soil vastly improves grass health

Aerate and De-Thatch

Aerators remove plugs of soil at intervals to improve oxygen airflow, improve drainage, and reduce soil compaction



Aerators, power rakes, or even manual raking will de-thatch, if there is an excessive thatch accumulation (greater than 1/2-inch thick)



** Thatch is the intermingled layer of living and dead organic matter that develops between the live green grass and the soil surface.*

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Top Dressing

Top dressing is the process of adding a thin layer of material to the grass surface



Fine compost creates a dynamic, bio-active root zone that helps to reduce disease pathogens. Compost will enhance the microbial breakdown of thatch.

- Keep topdressing dry until ready to use. It will spread easier.
- If aerating, don't wait more than 1 or 2 days to topdress or roots may clog holes.
- Spread compost with a spreader or by hand, then rake into a thin even layer (1/8 to 1/4 inch).
- Followed with irrigation to help incorporate the compost deeper.



Nice lawn, save money, and conserve water

Perform an Irrigation System Audit



Irrigation audits consist of three main activities:

1. Site inspection
2. Performance testing
3. Irrigation scheduling



Assure irrigation system is in working order. Avoids over/under watering and waste.



Soak and Cycle Method

Water a short duration, then let it SOAK in.
Wait CYCLE interval, then SOAK again.



Reduces runoff and allows water to reach the desired depth for a nice healthy lawn.

Recommended water depth 6-8 inches and 1-1/2 inches water per week

Don't apply just based on time of year

Pre-Emergent Herbicides:

To Use or Not To Use?

Before you going to to pick up a bag
or two of weed control,
take a good look at your lawn.

Caution: Always read labels

Grasses like St. Augustine spread by stolons (or runners).

*Some pre-emergent herbicides can inhibit root growth causing the grass to take
4 to 8 weeks longer to fill in the bare spots.*



Wait until **after last freeze**, if pre-emergent contains fertilizer

***Do you have questions
about your home
landscape and plants?***

***Contact the Fort Bend
Master Gardener Help Desk***

***Email:
FortBendmg@ag.tamu.edu
Phone:
281-341-7068***

***The Help Desk is manned
Monday thru Friday,
9am-Noon***

References:

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