

How do I ready my lawn for spring?

Answer: Here are some recommendations for <u>after last freeze</u> 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.



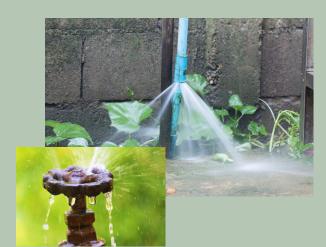
Nice lawn, save money, and conserve water

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

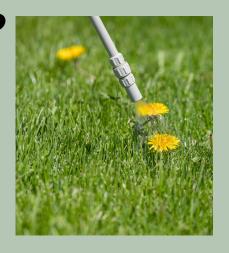
Pre-Emergent Herbicides:



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 <u>after last freeze</u>, if pre-emergent contains fertilizer

Do you have questions about your home landscape and plants?

Contact the Fort Bend Master Gardener Help Desk

Email:

Fort Bendmg@ag.tamu.edu

Phone:

281-341-7068

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

References:

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