



Lawn care

How many plants can withstand being repeatedly cut down and walked all over?! If you want a really good quality lawn you're going to need to look after it.

Lawns benefit from a work over in the autumn, in 3 easy steps:

1. Rake – remove old “thatch” (dead grass) and moss. Use a springy rake to clear the congestion that has built up. Be firm, even brutal. The lawn may look messy for a short while afterwards, but it's really important to remove as much of the thatch and moss as you can.
2. Aerate – to improve drainage and help protect against a buildup of moss. Use either an aerator designed specifically for the job, or a garden fork. The more holes you can get into the lawn, the better, particularly in our London clay.
3. Fertilize – a thin layer of lawn dressing (a combination of top soil, sand and fertilizers) or autumn lawn feed should be raked or brushed over the entire area to fill the holes created by aerating. This will improve drainage and avoid waterlogging, especially in heavy clay soils.

If your lawn is in very good condition already, you may just need to feed it with a lawn feed, and/or use a lawn weed killer to control perennial weeds.

There are a number of different types of lawn feed, primarily for different times of year:

Spring

Grass doesn't really get going until the temperature reaches about 13°C which for us is around late March; this is the best time to start feeding. At this time of year you should give your lawn a balanced feed that will give it a boost as well as encourage a bit of root growth to fill in any damage suffered over the winter. Products such as **Green Force Lawn Gold Classic** or **Miracle Grow Lawn Food** are the ones to go for.

Summer

This is when your lawn is doing most of its top growth so it will need a high nitrogen feed. For this it's best to use **Green Force Lawn Gold Summer Green**, or **Green Force Instant Green Lawn Tonic**.

Autumn

Autumn is the time when we want to discourage top growth and encourage root growth, so that the lawn is prepared for the winter. That means using a fertiliser low in nitrogen and high in potassium. For this we recommend **Green Force Autumn Lawn Feed**.

Winter

Whilst the grass is dormant over winter, this is the time that moss can start to out compete the grass, especially in wet or shady areas. One way of helping the grass out in winter is to apply a fertiliser high in iron, such as **Green Force Lawn Gold Winter**. This creates an environment which discourages moss. When the grass starts growing in spring, the grass will absorb the iron, giving you a good green colour.

How and when

When applying spring or summer feed, it's best to cut the lawn 3-4 days before you apply the fertiliser. Use a fertiliser spreader to get even coverage, making sure to check the require dosage.

High doses of fertiliser can scorch grass, so it's advisable to apply fertiliser on cooler, overcast mornings when the dew leaves the grass moist. If no rain is forecast, you should also be prepared to water it in.

If the weather is very hot and dry in summer, the grass will stop growing. It's best to stop feeding now, and wait until you get some good rain to start feeding again. During the summer, feed roughly every 6-8 weeks.