

# Spring Lawn Care



Spring is a very important time of year for lawn lovers everywhere. By the end of August or September (depending on where you live), the days will be getting longer and the grass should be getting longer and greener too!

A simple rule of thumb is when the nights get warmer and you no longer need to light the fire or turn on the heater, it's spring time for the lawn and for your garden.

Once the temperatures overnight warm up, soil temperatures increase and your lawn starts to grow. In cooler regions your lawn will come out of its winter dormancy and in the warmer climates your lawn will grow faster. In both cases, mowing frequencies should be closer.

Spring is the ideal time to get your lawn ready for the season ahead and usually involves the following three steps.

## SPRING CLEAN YOUR LAWN

Just like your house your lawn will benefit from a good spring clean. During the winter months, when lawn growth slows down and you don't mow as regularly, weeds may grow.

In some older grass varieties you may have to consider spraying weeds out, but if you have a modern type of lawn that competes well with weeds, like a Sir Walter lawn, generally a close mowing will assist in cleaning up the winter weeds. If your lawn is affected by invading grasses it's best that these are selectively removed by hand or with a weed wand. In any case a good close mowing to knock down weeds and remove unwanted thatch and winter debris build-up is ideal for

your lawn when spring growing conditions return.

## TIME TO DETHATCH

Some lawn species build up a spongy thatch layer over summer and into the winter period, so when spring returns, it's a good time to give your lawn a close haircut to dethatch it. If you have an older type of lawn, such as couch, you may need to use a scarifying machine (available from most hire outlets), if it's a type of buffalo however, a very low and close mowing will usually reduce the thatch build up. In a lot of areas it can be beneficial to do this annually, if it's a soft leaf buffalo lawn set your mower to one of its lower settings and really cut it down low — try and reduce it to 25mm or less in one or two passes.

## GIVE YOUR LAWN A FEED

Spring is an ideal time to apply fertiliser. Many leading brands provide all purpose lawn food and one that is used or supplied locally will usually do the job well. In a lot of climates it's a good idea to feed your lawn at the start of spring then again in four to six weeks in order to get your lawn ready for the summer ahead. Check the label for application rates.

