

STEP BY STEP LAWN CARE



1. MOWING

KEEP SHARP—Have your lawnmower blades sharpened each year so that they will cut grass blades cleanly rather than tearing them.

MOW HIGH—Set mower blades high so the grass is left tall enough (6-7cm [2.5-3"]) to shade out weeds and conserve soil moisture.

MOW REGULARLY—Never remove more than 1/3 of the grass blade. Mowing too short stresses the grass plants.

Tip: Leave clippings on the lawn. Clippings can provide up to 1/3 of the lawn's nitrogen needs over the growing season.

2. WATERING

- Water deeply, about 2.5cm (1") of water per week.
- Watering too often and too little causes shallow root systems that are greedy for water.
- Watering deeply and less often encourages grass plants to send their roots down deep in search of water.

Tip: Scatter 3 or 4 low tin cans on the lawn when you sprinkle to gauge how long it takes to gather 2.5cm (1") of water in the cans. Then you will know how long to time your sprinkling sessions.

3. LIMING & FERTILIZING

- Liming your lawn helps to reduce soil acidity which in turn makes nutrients more available to grass plants and encourages soil microorganisms and earthworm activity.
- Apply Dolopril Lime spring and fall according to package directions.
- Fertilize 2 or 3 times a year to promote a strong, healthy lawn.
- Use a slow release or natural organic fertilizer formulated for lawns.

4. TOP DRESSING & OVERSEEDING

- Spread a thin layer of soil over the whole lawn and overseed with an appropriate grass seed.
- Overseeding ensures a thick lawn that can crowd out unwanted weeds.

5. AERATING

- Aerating relieves compacted soil, improves drainage and stimulates new growth by allowing water, fertilizer and air to penetrate to the roots of lawn grasses.
- Rent a mechanical aerating machine or purchase a manual aerating tool.



6. WEED CONTROL

- Promote a strong, dense lawn to prevent weeds from getting established in the first place.
- Physically remove weeds from the lawn before they become a problem.
- Use a Corn Gluten product to prevent broad-leaf weed seeds from germinating. Apply early in the spring before weed seeds start to grow. Corn Gluten will not suppress already established weeds.

Note: Clover is not a weed, but an important companion plant that takes nitrogen from the air and 'fixes' it into the soil where grass roots can absorb it.

7. MOSS CONTROL

- Improve growing conditions by aerating, applying lime, improving drainage & reducing shade.
- Try substituting grass with shade-loving groundcovers. e.g. Leptinella, Wood Sorrel, Corsican Mint, Pachysandra, European Wild Ginger and others.
- Moss control products provide only temporary control but if you decide to use them...
 - » Apply them according to package directions.
 - » When moss turns black rake it out by hand or rent a power rake.
 - » Overseed with an appropriate grass seed to fill in bare patches.

maple leaf garden centres

West Van Location

2558 Haywood Avenue
Telephone: 604 922 2613

North Van Location

1343 Lynn Valley Road
Telephone: 604 985 1784

www.mapleleafgardencentre.ca

Printed in Canada on 30% post consumer recycled stock

