

SPRING LAWN RENOVATION

Seeding

If you are planning to seed a new lawn or overseed an existing lawn, it is best to seed as early as possible. It is important to get seed germinated and growing before trees begin to leaf out. This is especially true in shaded areas. Keep the area moist at all times until the roots become established, then you can gradually decrease the frequency of watering. The new grass can be mowed when it reaches a height of about 3 inches.

Rejuvenating a Weak Lawn

Your lawn cannot live without air, water and nutrients. When a thick layer of thatch builds up, water and fertilizer may run off instead of penetrating the soil. Aerating and dethatching can help rejuvenate a lawn by restoring passageways to the soil. Late spring is an excellent time to dethatch cool-season grasses. Thatching rakes can be used. For lawns with severe thatch problems or if you have heavy or compacted soil, aerate the soil and add *Soil Conditioner*.

Bring a small sample of your soil to Primex to determine the pH. We recommend a small handful of soil to a depth of 3. At a pH of 6.8 to 7.0, nutrients are most readily available to turfgrasses, and beneficial microorganisms are

more active to decompose thatch.

Fertilize with a high phosphorus fertilizer like 10-20-15. Top dress with peat humus or cover with salt hay or *Penn Mulch*.

Crabgrass Control

On established lawns that you are not overseeding, apply a fertilizer with crabgrass control that contains *Team* in early to mid April. *Team* can also be applied separately from your regular fertilizer applications. Reapply *Team* in early to mid June for the second germination of crabgrass. Remember, crabgrass seeds start to germinate when the soil temperature reaches 50 to 58 degrees.

On newly seeded lawns and those seeded in late fall or during the winter months, use a starter fertilizer with crabgrass control that contains *Tupersan*. You will need to reapply in four weeks because *Tupersan* is not as long lasting as *Team*.

Insect Controls

Merit applied in May thru mid-June will provide effective white grub control for the growing season. This preventative method tends to give better results than applying insecticides when you notice damage in that it may be too late.

