



# GREEN THUMB GAZETTE

Lawn Doctor Newsletter

Vol. 1 No. 3 Fall 2020

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## Ian's Turf Talk: Ultimate Seeding Guide

*Ian Tlasek is LD's Operations Manager and our all-knowing grass master. He says fall is the best time to seed your lawn. Whether it's to repair damage, expand your lawn or just to thicken things up a bit, here is his ultimate seeding guide.*



**Prep Work-** Control the weeds. Ridding your lawn of weeds will keep them from suffocating baby grass. Although weeds tend to die out in the fall anyway, we can't be sure of the weather. In some years, temperatures stay high enough for weeds to thrive well into September. We recommend consistent weed control from spring through fall. Another thing you should check for is your lawn's

soil quality. It cannot be compacted, rocky or sandy. If that's all you see, we recommend spreading at least a couple of inches of topsoil before seeding. Lastly, pick up around the yard and mow the grass. Excess debris can suffocate your seed and since you won't be able to mow for a few weeks, it's good to mow beforehand.

**Choosing Seed-** Take a good look at your lawn and make note of which areas need seed. Is it a section that gets full sun all day? Shady areas in the back? Different types of grass thrive in different environments. (continued on page 2)



Seed on loam for best results



Bluegrass and fescue grass types



## Employee Spotlight: Taylor B.

Taylor is an expert Customer Service Specialist and Lawn Doctor's Talent Recruiter. She balances her responsibilities efficiently and in just a few months, has proven to be an essential team member, especially when we're looking to expand the team. Taylor attended Assumption College in Worcester, MA and earned a degree in Human Services which helps her carry out her LD duties.

### Q: Dream car?

» A Tesla Model S would be really cool.

### Q: What was your first job?

» Bussing tables at Isaacs on the Waterfront in Plymouth when I was 16

### Q: Describe the perfect day at work.

» I like to stay busy so a balanced day is best. Bigger projects earlier in the day then transitioning to smaller tasks later makes the day go smoothly. Each day is different which keeps it interesting. Plenty of cuddles and playing with our office pups helps to break things up and relieve stress!

### Q: Number one bucket list item?

» Travel to and spend time in Australia

### Q: What do you normally do on your commute to work?

» I like to use my commute to fully wake up for the day - so grabbing a coffee from Dunkin and listening to a true crime podcast to get my mind moving is my go-to.

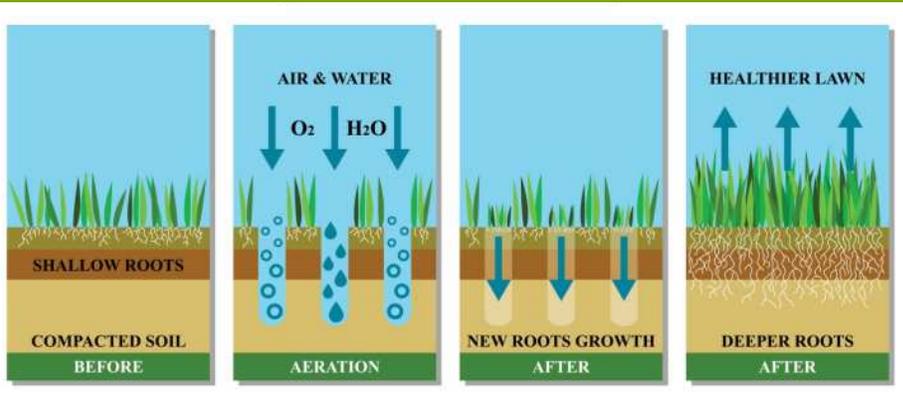
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# Core Aeration

Aerating is a way to reduce compaction and thatch in your lawn by disrupting the soil. **Core Aeration** uses a machine to pull 1-2" plugs from the lawn as opposed to spike aeration. Spike aerations create holes, but leave the soil surrounding the hole more compacted than it was before because it simply pushes spikes into the lawn. Core aeration creates more room in the lawn's soil for water, oxygen and root development by actually removing compacted soil material and sections of the thatch layer. Extremely

**compacted soil** can be as hard as concrete

and almost impossible to cultivate a lawn in. And **thick thatch** layers create suffocating barriers between grass roots and the water, oxygen and nutrients they need. With Core Aeration there will be improved drainage in your lawn so that instead of puddles, the soil and grass roots will absorb water better. This will also increase fertilizer and oxygen intake. Core Aeration is highly recommended for all Lawn Doctor customers as it is a maintenance service that can prevent a lot of common lawn problems.



## (Ultimate Seeding Guide cont.)

The best seed to use and what Lawn Doctor uses, is a New England seed blend. The mixture includes Perennial Ryegrass, Fine Fescue and Kentucky Bluegrass and germinates well in sun, shade and combo areas. These grass varieties are good for our climate because they come out of dormancy in cooler temps. In other words, your lawn will be greener early in the spring all the way through late fall as opposed to warm weather grass types like Zoysia and St. Augustine that only green up in the Massachusetts summer.

**Where To Seed-** You may need to seed your entire lawn if it is very thin or bare. Lawn Doctor's Power Seeding is the perfect, full coverage seeding method for this. Or you may just want to touch up some areas that are struggling. Be sure to seed areas where you noticed a lot of weeds in the summer. By fall the weeds should be gone, but anywhere the grass is thin or bare is an opportunity for them to creep in the following summer. Now is a good time to rake up any pesky moss and repair the bare spots left behind with new grass. If your lawn is relatively thick, you may want to just over seed the entire lawn to fortify it even more. This works best when preceded by an aeration, another very beneficial fall lawn service.



Bare and weedy areas should be seeded.

**After care-** Water your seed every day for the next few weeks to keep the top 1" of the soil moist at all times. Depending on when you seed, this may mean having to water 1-3 times a day. Luckily in the fall, temperatures are not too hot and it will be easier to care for. Between the morning dew and rain, you may not have to water very much at all. Mowing should be done when the new grass reaches 3-4 inches in height. This will take

a few weeks, be patient. The most important thing that you can do for your baby grass is feed it! Fertilizing regularly is a crucial component of growing grass, especially when it's new and not yet established.



Keep the top inch of soil moist

**Results-** This guide provides an outline of how to achieve the best seeding results with factors under our control. Unfortunately, we cannot control the weather, surrounding environment, wildlife, and unseen factors. It may take a couple of attempts to get grass filled in 100%. When using seed blends, it's important to wait the full germination time of the grass type in the blend that takes the longest to germinate before assessing the success of the seeding. And remember, fall is the best time to seed your lawn. The grass types that thrive in our New England climate should have cool temperatures to grow in. The cool weather allows for root development over shoot development. Establishing strong, deep roots before tall green blades is the only way to cultivate a thick, healthy, sustainable lawn as the roots are where the water, oxygen and nutrients are all absorbed. So, although it may not seem like your newly seeded lawn is thriving, trust the process and don't give up. With proper care and a lot of patience, you'll finally get the lawn you've always wanted.



Before and after LD's Power Seeding

(Employee Spotlight: Taylor B. cont.)

**Q: If LD team played a sport, what should it be?**

» I would like to see the LD staff play on a soccer team.



**Q: Favorite movie?**

» The Book of Henry - make sure you have your tissues for this one!

**Q: What's your favorite thing about what you do here?**

» Working with our applicants and finding talented people to join

our team. I love to see their growth from a new employee to a lawn care professional. Helping people find a career they enjoy is rewarding and in turn makes mine enjoyable too.

**Q: What motivates you?**

» I find most motivation and inspiration through my environment and surroundings. So being surrounded by hard working people gives me an extra push to keep growing myself personally and professionally.

**Q: What skill or talent would you most like to learn?**

» I would really like to master an instrument. I took piano lessons when I was a kid but never kept up with practicing which I regret now.

**Q: How do you unwind after a long day of recruiting/customer service at LD?**

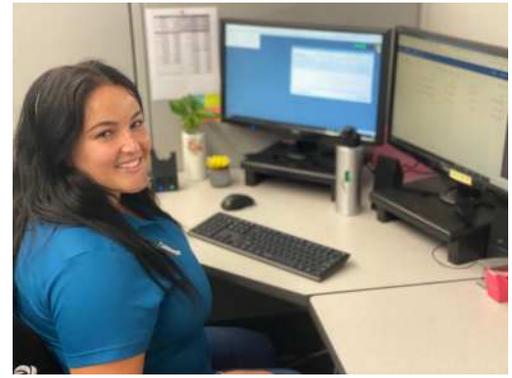
» I like to spend at least a little bit of time outside after being in the office all day. Fresh air always helps me to refuel after a long day.

**Q: What's your favorite place in Massachusetts?**

» Saquish Beach in Plymouth. I've spent every summer there since I was born which makes it special to me.

**Q: When lunch is on LD, what's the best thing to order?**

» Steak tip Caesar salad from The Meadow Brook Restaurant in Hanson.

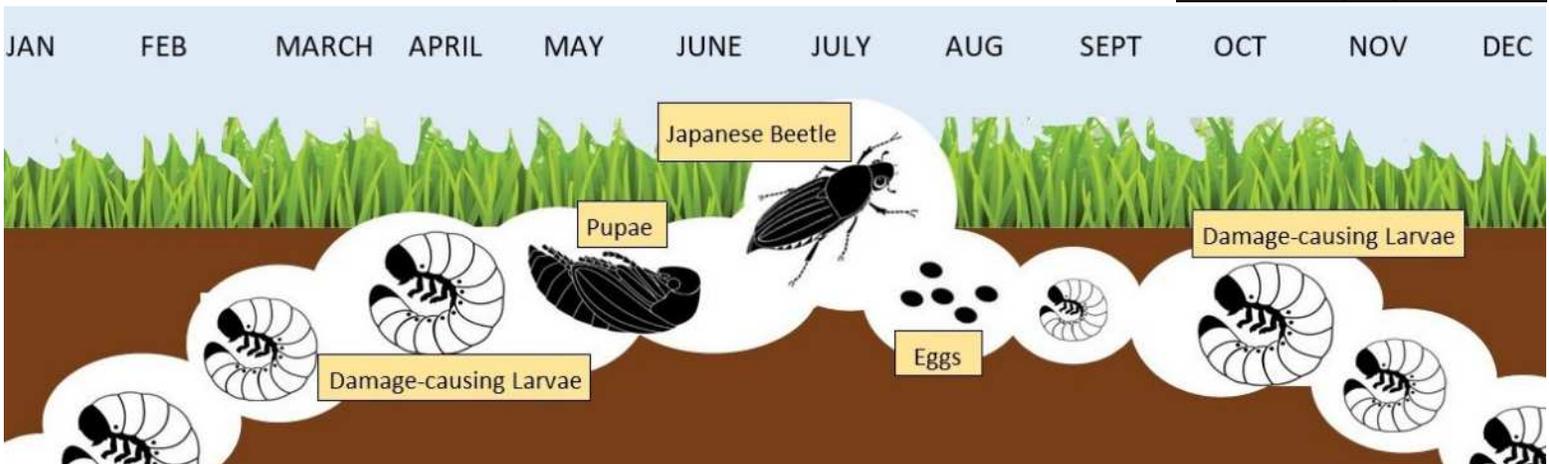


## The Grub Cycle

Remember those pesky summer beetles that crash every backyard barbecue in July? Those are **Japanese beetles** and can pose a big threat to your lawn. The beetles lay eggs in July, these eggs become **grubs** in the fall. Now that the adult beetles are gone, the grubs are feeding on the roots of the grass. When the weather starts getting too cold for them, they'll burrow deep into the ground where they'll stay all winter only to resurface and wreak havoc in the lawn again in the spring. After chewing on the grass roots in the spring, they'll mature into adult beetles and start the cycle over again. Its important to apply an annual grub preventative when they're eggs in the summer to cut off the cycle and protect your lawn from damage.



Grub feeding on grass roots





# LAWN DOCTOR®

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## Did you know?



Surprisingly, leaves can be good for your lawn. It's tough to keep the leaf coverage to a minimum during Autumn months, but don't let that ruin the season for you. Simply go over them with your lawn mower and mulch them into your lawn. The organic material we get from leaves becomes food for the microbes in your lawn's soil. If there is an excess of leaves on your property, a periodic raking or leaf blowing may be necessary. And if you're expecting a service from Lawn Doctor, don't worry! Our product chemically binds to the soil and is delivered through carrier pellets. This means once the product touches the ground, it cannot be blown away if your clean up is the following day. Our technicians are instructed to inspect every property before servicing it to determine if the leaf coverage will affect the application. If not, they'll complete the service. If so, we'll let you know and come back after a clean up.

## We're Hiring!

Lawn Doctor is looking to expand our team of hard-working, fun-loving employees. This is a great opportunity to grow alongside a successful, local business. We're hiring Sales Associates, Customer Service Reps. and Service Technicians. Spread the word!



## \$50 Referral Credit

As a trusted, family-owned lawn care company, LD wants to help your family and friends as well! New customers get a **FREE Fall Lime Application** and you get a **\$50 credit** on your account for every friend or neighbor that you refer!

## Contact Us

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