



GREEN THUMB GAZETTE

Lawn Doctor Newsletter

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5 Spring Tips For a Better Lawn This Year

1. **Clean-up.** Some years are worse than others, but a general clean-up will benefit your lawn in many ways. Too much debris can suffocate the lawn and prevent the emergence of new growth. Raking up even just a few sticks and leaves not only helps get the lawn looking better instantly but it gives you the opportunity to inspect your lawn thoroughly and assess any issues.

2. **Rake.** Raking to clean up is great, but if you have a thick layer of thatch, you may have to rake a little more thoroughly. Thatch is the layer of decomposing plant material that sits on the surface of the soil. When it accumulates and gets compacted it can prevent the roots of your grass from getting water, fertilizer, oxygen and other nutrients.

3. **Manage the moss.** Every winter your lawn will stop growing and go into winter dormancy. Meanwhile, moss continues to grow. In the early spring, moss often looks worse than it is. Once the turf starts to grow moss will become less noticeable.

Under some conditions, such as heavy (continued on page 2)



Raking thatch

Letter From The Owner

I feel very fortunate to have such great people who truly care for our company and for the customers we serve. I'm also very grateful for our customers and the relationships we've built over the last 3 decades. My dad, brothers and I set out many years ago with the intention to build a growing and successful company. We started a family business but we wanted it to be more like a family than a business. Caring and doing the right thing for people whether they be employees or customers has always been our culture and always will be. There's nothing that makes me happier than hearing that one of our employees was able to buy their first home, just got engaged, or is expecting their first child. These are great moments for me knowing that our people are succeeding in life and accomplishing their goals. Ultimately, none of this would be possible without our customers so I want to thank all of you for your business and loyalty. We look forward to delivering you our best service and results ever in 2020!

Sincerely,

Tom Norton



Tom Norton, Owner of Lawn Doctor

(cont.)

shade or habitually moist areas, moss will naturally grow thick and dense. In this case, moss can only be handled by removing it manually with a rake or dethatcher. To help prevent moss and control the spread of it, we recommend a heavy calcitic lime application in the spring and, depending on the soil pH, sometimes again in the fall. Seeding in the fall and proper nutritional care and maintenance can keep the moss from coming back.



Raking moss

4. **Fertilize.** In the early spring, you'll notice that your grass is pale green, gray or even yellow, depending on the variety of grass you have. As it comes out of dormancy, it will naturally green up. To bring it back to life faster and see it grow greener you should have our Lawn Care Program. Our first service consists of a high-nitrogen fertilizer with other essential nutrients as well as weed control and crabgrass preventative. This service will wake your grass right up and make it look like winter never happened!



Crabgrass

5. **Prevent crabgrass.** It may seem too soon to be thinking about crabgrass but it is imperative to get this pre-emergent onto your lawn ASAP. The secret to LD's Lawn Care Program is TWO applications of pre-emergent. Two applications means double prevention and longer-lasting effects. Do not underestimate the importance of pre-emergent.

The Importance Of Soil

Soil health is the most important part of having healthy turf. Having the right pH level allows turf to take in the nutrients more efficiently. Microbial activity in the soil allows those nutrients to break down properly so turf can use them. Soil texture is also crucial. Our New England soil is typically sandy, so nutrients do not hold well in the root zone. Because this issue is so widespread in south-east Massachusetts, we've come up with a solution. Our Soil Enrichment Program utilizes humic acid to keep nutrients in the root zone longer, maximizing the uptake of nutrients. Its custom blend of other organic materials feed microbes that break down unusable nutrients in the soil. Although there are a lot of parts to having a healthy soil chemistry and ecosystem, our soil enrichment program has all the bases covered.

On The Lookout: Spring Weeds

Like all the popular weeds we deal with in New England throughout the year, these weeds are temporary. Our weed control is designed to target these weeds so as long as you're on our Lawn Care Program, you should be good to go!



Bittercress



Dandelion



Clover

We're NOT JUST the **LAWN Doctor**

Our other services include...

- + Tall Tree Spraying for Caterpillars
- + Tree & Shrub Fertilization and Insect & Disease Control
- + Yard Armour Tick and Mosquito Control
- + Lawn and Home Perimeter Insect Control
- + And much more!

3 Reasons Why You Shouldn't Seed In The Spring

1. No root development—Grass knows that spring is time to reproduce. It focuses all of its resources on growing tall, green shoots and seed heads instead of a root system that'll help absorb and retain water and nutrients. All the water in the world will not be enough to protect your grass from summer stress if it doesn't have a root system.

2. Weeds, weeds, weeds! The most important, time-sensitive thing you can do for you lawn is apply a crabgrass preventative, AKA pre-emergent. Pre-emergent stops grass seed from growing too. If you seed, you cannot apply pre-emergent, and if your grass can't make it through the summer, it'll be overtaken by crabgrass.

3. You'll end up seeding in the fall again anyway. Even if you watered and fertilized faithfully, odds are, you'll still end up with patchy, bare areas after the crabgrass recedes in the fall.

Call us to learn about your seedings options with Lawn Doctor for the fall.



Turf Tamer Power Seeder

What's New with LD?

Upgraded Yard Armour

Due to the mild winter and increased tick populations, we've upgraded our Tick and Mosquito Control Program to include a more effective EPA approved insect control. Our new formula will better protect your family and pets.

Budget Billing

Budget Billing is an easy, convenient way to spread the cost of your entire program into 12 automatic, monthly payments.

Greencare For Troops

Greencare For Troops is a program where companies like LD volunteer to provide lawn care to the properties of active-duty, deployed military service members.

The Green Thumb Gazette

Our seasonal newsletter will help keep you informed on all things LD and lawn care. We'll make sure to include seasonal tips, tricks and how-tos to ensure that you get the most out of your programs with us!



Yes, Ticks Are Out Already.

There are a few things you should know about ticks before you can reclaim your property and enjoy being in your own backyard again.

First, it's important to know that ticks are out and looking for a host in temperatures as low as 40 degrees Fahrenheit. However, they avoid extreme heat. This means that they are less likely to be seen during the hot summer months, but will resurface in the fall.

Next, inspect your property for areas of high activity. Because ticks like shade, keep an eye out for wooded parts of your yard. The CDC recommends having a tick-proof barrier like gravel or woodchips between these areas and where you spend the most time outside. Their distaste of heat and direct sunlight will keep them from crossing it. Another tip is to keep the lawn clean and free of leaf coverage and other debris so that they have less places to hide. Mowing the lawn frequently will also help with this.

Lastly, spray your yard with tick control. Some products can only be applied by a state licensed applicator. Call our office today to learn more about our Yard Armour Tick and Mosquito Control Program and how our certified technicians can help protect you, your family and your pets all season long.



Deer Tick



LAWN DOCTOR®

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Our Mission: To provide high-quality, environmentally responsible, and innovative services which enhance the health and beauty of lawns and landscapes.



Lawn Doctor's Managers

- Marissa**
Service Manager
- Jose**
Shop Manager
- Pete**
Service Manager
- Andy**
General Manager
- Meg**
Office Manager
- Tom**
Owner
- Craig**
Sales Manager
- Jeff**
Field Manager
- Ian**
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