

Grow It Green

Natural Lawn Care Newsletter

Repair and Prepare Your Lawn for Winter

Don't forget about your lawn this fall! Topdressing, overseeding, and buying fertilizer are three important lawn care actions to do right now. These steps will help ensure a great looking lawn next spring.

Topdressing and Overseeding

Topdressing and overseeding in early/mid September will help repair any damage from the summer and improve the health of your lawn. Topdressing adds organic material to your soil, which is important for healthy turf growth. Overseeding makes your lawn thicker and helps crowd out weeds.

To Topdress:

- Buy a weed free compost or triple mix (not "black earth"). Free compost is available from the Region of Waterloo on September 20, 2008, at the Cambridge Transfer Station or the Waterloo Landfill. For information, call 519-883-5100.
- Rake the compost or triple mix onto your lawn, adding $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to $\frac{1}{2}$ inch of soil over the entire lawn or on problem areas. Don't smother the grass blades.

To Overseed:

- Buy a high quality grass seed that contains mostly perennial ryegrasses and fescues, which are drought and insect resistant.
- Spread the seed with a spreader or by hand over the entire lawn. Or mix the seed with your topdressing in a wheelbarrow and apply the mixture to your lawn. Visit our website for a video demonstration of this technique.
- It is very important to keep the seed moist for several days.

TIP - Fall Fertilizer

Buy fall fertilizer now. Stores often stop carrying fertilizer after September, but a late October fertilizer application is needed for a healthy lawn in the spring. Look for products specifically made for fall applications. These fertilizers have a higher ratio of nitrogen compared to the phosphorous or potassium content. For example, 22-14-4 (22 represents the nitrogen content).



For more information visit www.letscurbpesticides.ca
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