

## Wake Up Your Lawn for Spring

In many parts of the country, the end of daylight savings time brings the arrival of spring. And along with the sun comes the return of leafy trees and the greening of winter-worn lawns. Wake up your lawn for spring with these tips.

How you care for your lawn depends on what type of grass you grow. Understanding the type of grass you have as spring dawns will help you keep it growing and healthy all year long.

Depending on your weather, say the experts at House Logic, your grass begins growing in earnest in spring. Approaching your first mowing, avoid cutting wet grass. It may spread disease and you'll clog your lawn mower.

### GET YOUR MOWER IN SHAPE

Before you get started, sharpen your mower blades for clean cuts. Dull blades rip at grass, leaving behind jagged edges that discolor and invite pathogens, according to House Logic. Having a sharp



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### REAL ESTATE 101

#### Lawn Care Increases the Value of your Home

In one survey, 94% of top agents said that great curb appeal equals money in your bank account at closing — and you don't have to break the bank to wow buyers, either. Regular lawn care — mowing, applying fertilizer and weed control — recovers an estimated 267% of the cost of upkeep at the time of sale. Learn more about that green value from HomeLight at [bit.ly/3wxLN1U](https://bit.ly/3wxLN1U).

back-up blade on hand is also helpful.

Remember, your mower will likely be a little “out of tune” in the months its spent without use. Install new spark plugs and an air filter, along with fresh oil and gas. Don't start up using old gas. Winter moisture can accumulate and harm your mow-

er's small engine. Dispose of it properly and fill up with a new tank.

#### TIDY UP YOUR LAWN

Cleaning up your lawn will make it easier to mow. Break out the rake and get rid of leaves and twigs that have accumulated over the winter. Clearing debris will open

your lawn for fertilizer and herbicides.

#### FERTILIZING

If you didn't fertilize in the fall — and you should, especially in colder climates — now's the time.

You'll know it's time when your grass begins its first growth spurt.

#### AERATION

Aerating will punch small holes in the lawn to allow water, fertilizers and oxygen to seep into grass roots. Choose a damp day when an aeration machine can perform most efficiently.

#### HERBICIDES

Use pre-emergent herbicides to prevent weeds and crabgrass. Using a soil thermometer, say experts, is the perfect tool to determine when to use herbicide (58 degrees to halt crabgrass, for example).

#### BEWARE GRUB WORMS

Warm weather brings grub worms and other beetles to feed on your lawn, causing brown and wilted patches. To inspect, pull back sod and look for white, C-shaped grubs, say Home Logic experts. More than 10 per square foot and you should treat with a chemical pesticide. Milky spore is an environmentally friendly way to control some species of grubs.

#### CUTTING TIP

As summer approaches, your grass will begin growing faster. It might be necessary to cut more than once a week. But to keep your lawn healthy for the long, warm weather ahead, mow often enough to remove no more than a third of the grass blade.



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#### HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Distress sale:** A distress sale occurs when the sellers must sell the property very quickly and are willing to decrease the price as an incentive to potential purchasers. SOURCE: MLS.com

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