

Get the Outdoors Ready for Spring

As spring approaches, everything green reawakens. Here's how to get your lawn ready for the changing seasons.

KNOW YOUR LAWN

The care and feeding of your outdoor space depends in large part on the specifics of where you are and what you've planted. Every type of grass is different, with some more tolerant to less water. Others do better with full sun. Similar considerations apply with plants and trees. If one of yours is obviously under stress, consider moving it to a different location in the yard where conditions may be more favorable. Spring is the best time for transplanting. Avoid cutting your grass when it's wet, especially early on, because it could spread weeds and disease.

CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT

Late winter is the time to take a good look at your lawn equipment, beginning with the mower. Dull blades will rip your grass, leaving unsightly jagged edges and opening the door for various pathogens. Sharpen your blades before the arrival of spring, or switch to your



© ADOBE STOCK

twigs and leaves. That smooths the way for the mower, of course, but also provides an open space for herbicides and fertilizer.

Choose a damper day when your aerator can best perform, and punch a series of small holes if needed so more oxygen, water and fertilizer can reach the roots.

Providing extra nutrients and protection against pests is particularly important in the spring, when plants are in their most fragile state of regrowth. Pre-emergents will help limit crabgrass and weeds into the summer. Be on the look out for grub worms, which can create wilted brown patches.

OTHER TIPS

Put down new mulch once temps rise. Don't over-fertilize, or you'll risk a thatch build-up. Your grass will become more robust, to the point where mowing twice a week may be required.

You should never remove more than a third of any blade of grass. Tall grass puts down deeper roots, while also crowding out most weeds. Be careful when considering soil amendments.

First, take a sample to the local cooperative extension office, where they can determine your soil's acidity.

Consult a local lawn care pro for more advice and tips.

REAL ESTATE 101

Curb Appeal Is Critical to Sales

Almost 95% of the top agents said curb appeal plays a direct role in getting a higher offer on your home, according to one study. Something as simple as every-day lawn care has a return of more than 265% of upkeep costs at the time of sale. Learn more at bit.ly/3riDOVd.

sharpened back-up blade. Check the spark plugs and the air filter, while refilling both fresh gas and the oil. Old gas is a particular hazard, since

moisture may have accumulated in the tank and that can damage the mower's engine. Check the handles on your rakes and shovels, and get

new line for your trimmer.

FERTILIZING AND AERATING

Clear away any remaining



© ADOBE STOCK

Get the Outdoors Ready For Spring

As spring approaches, everything green reawakens. Here's how to get your lawn ready for the changing seasons.

KNOW YOUR LAWN

The care and feeding of your outdoor space depends in large part on the specifics of where you are and what you've planted. Every type of grass is different, with some more tolerant to less water. Others do better with full sun. Similar considerations apply with plants and trees. If one of yours is obviously under stress, consider moving it to a different location in the yard where conditions may be

more favorable. Spring is the best time for transplanting. Avoid cutting your grass when it's wet, especially early on, because it could spread weeds and disease.

CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT

Late winter is the time to take a good look at your lawn equipment, beginning with the mower. Dull blades will rip your grass, leaving unsightly jagged edges and

opening the door for various pathogens. Sharpen your blades before the arrival of spring, or switch to your sharpened back-up blade. Check the spark plugs and the air filter, while refilling both fresh gas and the oil. Old gas is a particular hazard, since moisture may have accumulated in the tank and that can damage the mower's engine. Check the handles on your rakes and shovels, and get new line for your trimmer.

FERTILIZING AND AERATING

Clear away any remaining twigs and leaves. That

smooths the way for the mower, of course, but also provides an open space for herbicides and fertilizer.

Chose a damper day when your aerator can best perform, and punch a series of small holes if needed so more oxygen, water and fertilizer can reach the roots.

Providing extra nutrients and protection against pests is particularly important in the spring, when plants are in their most fragile state of regrowth. Pre-emergents will help limit crabgrass and weeds into the summer. Be on the look out for grub worms, which can create wilted brown patches.

OTHER TIPS

Put down new mulch once temps rise. Don't over-fertilize, or you'll risk a thatch build-up. Your grass will become more robust, to the point where mowing twice a week may be required.

You should never remove more than a third of any blade of grass. Tall grass puts down deeper roots, while also crowding out most weeds. Be careful when considering soil amendments.

First, take a sample to the local cooperative extension office, where they can determine your soil's acidity.

Consult a local lawn care pro for more advice and tips.

REAL ESTATE 101



Curb Appeal Is Critical to Sales

Almost 95% of the top agents said curb appeal plays a direct role in getting a higher offer on your home, according to one study. Something as simple as every-day lawn care has a return of more than 265% of upkeep costs at the time of sale. Learn more at bit.ly/3riDOVd.

HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

No doc loan: Also called low doc loans — little or no documentation loans. Generally used for the self-employed and small business owners. Also used for nonprofits, specialized companies and individuals. SOURCE: MLS.com

AD SPACE