

## **Creating a beautiful Lawn**

Imagine with me for a minute that you are sitting out in your back yard. It is a beautiful summer day. The kids are playing in the sprinkler and you are enjoying some lemonade on a lawn chair. The sun is shining, the birds are chirping, and you are sitting out there soaking up the beauty of the lush green grass and the world around you. It is a perfect day. The grass looks so inviting so you slip off your shoes to feel the cool blades between your toes. Your feet reach the ground and to your dismay you wake up from your lovely dream and realize that your lawn is anything but lush and green. It had all been a lovely dream, but the reality is that your lawn is full of moss and looks anything but healthy. But don't fear the dream can become a reality this summer with just a few steps your lawn can be all that you dream.

The first step is to de-thatch your lawn. Thatch is the build up of old grass clippings and grass that has been pushed flat against the soil due to snow and winter rains. Over the season thatch will build up in your lawn choking out new shoots, and cutting off the circulation of air around the base of the blades of grass. This lack of circulation creates a prime breeding ground for harmful fungal spores. Yearly de-thatching is an important part of good lawn maintenance.

The next step is fertilizing. Your lawn should be fertilized 3-4 times per year to keep it healthy. Moss can move into an unhealthy lawn quite quickly in our climate and choke out what's left of the grass. There is a good moss control fertilizer that can be applied in the spring that will kill your moss and stimulate your lawn, but only regular maintenance will keep it out.

Aerating your lawn should be done when the soil becomes compacted. Aerating prunes the grass roots and loosens the soil surface. Keeping air in the soil is important for healthy growth. Knowing the pH of your soil is also important. It will help you to know what needs to be added to help it grow probably. Sometimes lime will need to be added if the soil is acidic. You should not add lime if the pH is neutral or basic because the lime will do more harm than good. Test kits can be bought at a reasonable price or a lab can test it for you. It is best to test for pH rather than just guess.

A healthy beautiful lawn can be more than just a dream this summer! Come see us and let us help you make it a reality.

