

How to Control Moss

One of the most common lawn care problems facing our area is moss invasion. Every spring we de-thatch several lawns that are literally more moss than grass. Once a lawn gets to this stage it takes a lot of work to bring it back to a healthy state. A commercial de-thatching machine can be rented or a landscape contractor can be hired to look after the problem. A lawn with a lot of moss generally cannot be easily de-thatched with tines on the lawn mower blade because the moss bunches up under the mower and stalls it out. Once the moss and old thatch is raked up and removed, aerating is a good idea and fertilizing is a necessity, preferably with a moss control ingredient. The fertilizer used for a spring application should be high in nitrogen as this will not only stimulate lawn growth but will slow down moss growth. As moss loves a sour soil, this brings us to the topic of liming. While lime does act as a soil sweetener, once a lawn is infested with moss the lime will not kill it out it will simply help to prevent more moss growth. Before running out and adding lime you should check the pH of your soil. Lime should never be applied unless your soil pH is lower than 7.

If a lawn is bordered with coniferous trees one will likely notice heavier moss growth under or near the overhanging limbs. Cleanly pruning off a few of the lower limbs will let in more light which is an asset to a healthy lawn as well.