

Skill Level: BEGINNER These how-to's are suitable for people who are new to DIY and who have a basic knowledge of tools. If you've painted a room or re-potted a plant, you can probably complete one of these projects by yourself in a few hours or less.

✓ MATERIALS

- Lawnmower
- Garden Rake, Leaf Rake or Thatching Rake
- Garden Spreader
- Protective Eyewear
- Work Gloves
- Weed Killer/Fertilizer
- Starter Fertilizer
- Grass Seed—use the appropriate seed for your region

Your lawn gets a lot of attention during the summer, but it also deserves attention during fall. Autumn is a critical time to prepare your yard for colder months, and to have it look just as great when spring rolls around. No matter what region you live in, North or South, these simple fall maintenance steps will help keep your yard beautiful and healthy.

BASIC MAINTENANCE

Leaf Control

- Raking and blowing leaves off your lawn will give your grass the sunlight and air it needs to stay healthy.
- Start a mulch or compost pile with the leaves that you collect from your lawn.

Dethatching

- By removing the built up thatch of dead roots and grasses at the end of summer, your lawn will get more air, water and nutrients for stronger grass.

1. Mow the lawn short to about 1½" in height.
2. Use a garden rake, leaf rake or dethatching rake to remove the dead thatch and grass roots.
 - Add the thatch to your compost pile.
3. TIP: Use an aerator attached to your riding mower to punch small holes through the layer of thatch, which allows air, water and nutrients to reach the roots.

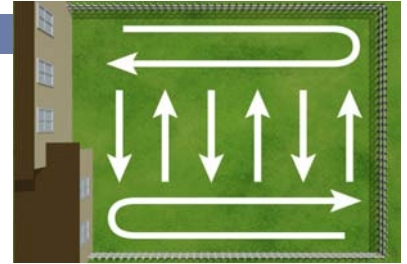


Weed Control, Pest Control and Fertilization

- **Do not use weed control if you are overseeding your lawn. Weed killer can be applied 4 to 6 weeks after over seeding.**
1. Fill the spreader on a paved surface following the package directions carefully. Sweep up and return any spills back to the bag to avoid contaminating any water sources.
 - When you apply weed killer, more is not better!
 - Each product has different specifications for watering, air temperature, and even when you can walk on the grass again, so keep an eye on children and pets.
 2. Decide which way you want to run the spreader back and forth across your lawn.

BASIC MAINTENANCE (cont.)

3. Then make your first two runs along the outside edges in the opposite direction.
 - This creates a convenient turning zone so that fertilizer and weed killer don't spread beyond your lawn.
4. Wash off your shoes and tools.
 - Be sure to clean up away from water sources such as a pond or stream, so there's no runoff.



NORTHERN REGION MAINTENANCE

Lawns in the Northern region are usually cool-season grass varieties, like ryegrasses, bluegrasses and fescues. They stop growing in the winter but they generally stay green.



01 Water these types of grasses through September, October and November, so that they have enough moisture to get through the cold months of winter.

02 Mow your lawn through fall at a height of 2½” to 3”.

- Leaving the grass a little bit longer provides enough surface area to absorb sunlight and water during this last growth spurt.
- Consider purchasing a mulching mower. The grass clippings put organic matter and nitrogen back into the soil, so it's like mowing and fertilizing at the same time.

03 When you make your last cut in the fall, cut your grass short to about 1½” to prevent the growth of mold.

04 TIP: To repair your lawn, overseed with grass seed and apply starter fertilizer formulated for the Northern region.

- Following the manufacturer's instructions, set your spreader to sow the grass at the rate of about 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
- Work the seed in with a rake.
- Water lightly twice a day to keep the top quarter-inch of soil moist. You should have a greener lawn in a little over a week!
- When next spring arrives, just cut the ryegrass very short, so your original grass can start taking center stage again.



SOUTHERN REGION MAINTENANCE

Lawns in the Southern region are generally St. Augustine grass, Bermuda grass, or Zoysia grass. Consider overseeding your lawn, because many of these Southern grasses turn brown over the winter. By overseeding with an annual ryegrass, you can keep your lawn looking lush and green. It might also take care of any bare spots.



01 Cut the grass short to about 1½".

02 Dethatch the lawn to give the grass and soil more air.

03 Apply grass seed and starter fertilizer formulated for Southern region grasses.

- Following the manufacturer's instructions, set your spreader to sow the annual ryegrass at the rate of about 10 pounds per 1,000 square feet.
- Work the seed in with a rake.
- Water lightly twice a day to keep the top quarter-inch of soil moist. You should have a greener lawn in a little over a week!
- When next spring arrives, just cut the ryegrass very short, so your original grass can start taking center stage again.

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