12-MONTH LAWN CARE PLANNER



LAWN ASSOCIATION

YEAR ROUND LAWN PLANNING?



A healthy lawn needs attention throughout the year. However, with a little forward planning and retrospective record-keeping, you can make your work more effective – and more enjoyable too! Key to success is:

- Understanding what you're working with (the grasses, soil conditions, the weather)
- Monitoring the impact of the weather
- Experimenting to discover what works -and what doesn't (hence the need for good record-keeping).



"In my experience it can take 2-3 annual cycles to establish the best programme for your lawn, and if the environmental conditions evolve, then so too will your programme. This 12-month planning guide will help you to develop just the right programme to maintain your lawn the way you want it.

Here's wishing you a fulfilling, enjoyable and successful year of lawn care!"

David Hedges-Gower

WHAT TO DO WHEN

On the next page you will find a simple chart showing the times of year that are suitable for each main intervention. For example, if you suddenly realise you haven't scarified for a whole year, this will help you decide when you might programme it in. Please note - with the exception of mowing this is NOT a guide to the frequency of intervention, just to the choice of months!



Keeping Lawn Care Records

I hope you will feel motivated by your lawn care planning to create your own record. This is particularly useful if you are planning to undertake any major change – whether an improvement project or large-scale redesign in the garden – and similarly if you experience an extreme weather event which throws your routine maintenance off-course.

Your programme is always evolving. When you finally enjoy that well-deserved break – mid-summer on the lawns with a cooling drink, or mid-winter from the warmth of the house - you can review your records to help you refine the next part of your 12-month programme.

You'll find tips on keeping your lawn care records at the end of this guide.

WHAT TO DO WHEN

12 Months at a glance	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Mowing Per Month	1	1	2-4	4-6	4-8	4-8	4-8	4-8	4-6	2-4	2	2
Feeding	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weeding			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Scarification			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Aeration	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Moss Control	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Seeding			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Disease Control	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Turfing	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pest Control	Many of the toxic treatments of the past are no longer available. However, beneficial species of nematodes (microscopic worm-like insects) are gaining interest as a natural way to eliminate pests, but they require certain conditions (temperature, etc) and research into their efficiency is ongoing.											
Top Dressing			✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	

NB: The timing of some interventions such as scarification and aeration are governed by the prevailing weather conditions, so you need to allow for some flexibility in your programme.

TWO EASY STARTER PROGRAMMES

If you are completely new to the idea of a maintenance programme, you might find one of these simple programmes helpful - one is for a utility/everyday lawn and the other for a luxury lawn. You can use these as your starting point and then, by observing what happens - what works well and what doesn't - and making notes (e.g. you may decide you do not need to use herbicide as the lawn is very healthy), you can adapt this programme year by year. You will soon become an expert on your own lawn!

UTILITY LAWN

Jan-Mar	Hollow -tine aeration - removes cores from surface
March	Scarification - Light maintenance or renovation type
March	Moss Treatment - A liquid application works best
March	Spring Feed & Weed Treatments - Use seperate products to improve outcome and reduce waste)
June	Summer Feed & Weed Treatments - Use seperate products to improve outcome and reduce waste)
Sept	Autumn Feed & Weed Treatments - For more resistant weeds - Use seperate products to improve outcome and reduce waste)
Dec	Winter Feed - A low nitrogen (2-4% feed with iron and potassium

LUXURY LAWN

January	Hollow -tine aeration - removes cores from surface
March	Scarification - Light maintenance or renovation type
March	Moss Treatment - A liquid application works best
March	Top Dressing Application (Sand/Soil) - Use 70/30 type mixture
March	Spring Feed & Weed Treatments - Use seperate products to improve outcome and reduce waste)
June	Summer Feed & Weed Treatments - Use seperate products to improve outcome and reduce waste)
June	Preventative 'red thread' treatment - Use fungicide spray
June	Top Dressing Application (Sand/Soil) - Use 70/30 type mixture - Light application
Sept	Scarification - Maintenance only
Sept	Top Dressing Application (Sand/Soil) - Use 70/30 type mixture - Light application
Sept	Autumn Feed & Weed Treatments - For more resistant weeds - Use seperate products to improve outcome and reduce waste)
Oct	Hollow -tine aeration - removes cores from surface
Dec	Winter Feed - A low nitrogen (2-4% feed with iron and potassium

TIPS FOR KEEPING LAWN RECORDS

The secret to creating truly helpful lawn care records is to become a detective!



Most observations that you record may not, by themselves, mean very much. but once you start to look into a problem you've encountered and begin pulling together pieces of evidence, you can work out what caused what, and how to prevent it in the future.

On the final page you will find some suggestions – not exhaustive, but enough to help you layout your chosen form of records (digital or hand-written).

Good luck and happy record-keeping!

WHAT TO RECORD

Weather	It makes sense to monitor and record the weather month by month- rainfall, average temperatures, frost & snow, especially if you are monitoring different interventions year on year.
Grasses	Monitor the leaf blades each month for any discolouration or other stress signs (excess of thatch, suggesting a need for more frequent scarification etc).
Thatch	Check the thatch every three months. You're looking for an increase in thatch production, especially after prolonged wet or dry periods.
Soils	Keeping notes on soil can be a good incentive to stick to your aeration schedule. A few months after aerating, check you have strong root development.
Nutrition	To make the most of your fertiliser, capture all the obvious information- application dates & rates, product details, speed of signs of positive response and how long they last - as well as application information (problems with the spreader, the weather conditions etc).
Watering	If you water, you must avoid waste. So it's helpful to monitor both the temperature and wind conditions (and water quantity if possible) as well as the results you achieve.
Disease	As part of your disease vigilance, make a note of when it first appears, the general conditions at the time, the action you took and how quickly the problem was cured.
Pests	It can be useful to note when daddy long legs appear in your lawn. If you want to deter larger pests it is useful to note what time of year they first appear.
Weeds	You can record when weeds appear, but the most useful information is about what action you take, what you used and how and what you want achieved.
Moss	It is helpful to record when moss occurs, particularly in relation to your thatch management programme.

We hope you found this guide useful

If you want to enjoy the many effective lawn care techniques that will ensure your lawn is both healthy and beautiful, why not take our online lawn care course? Visit our website for more information.

Get in touch

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