

Which? Local

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A lush look for the lawn

Some simple lawn care this spring can help your grass look greener this summer. Colin McKinnon of Hertfordshire-based Lawn Restore offers some tips

MOW



As the grass begins to grow in spring, adopt a little but often approach to mowing, rather than cutting the lawn back severely. This avoids damaging or weakening the grass. Start with cutting 1cm away and, when the grass begins to grow quickly toward the end of spring, gradually cut away more for a neat finish. Aim for blades of grass about 2.5cm high.

FEED AND WEED



Apply a feed and weed treatment to make the grass look greener, strengthen roots and

control existing weeds. A further feed and weed treatment in summer will help keep the lawn in good condition. It's best to treat lawns in spring and autumn, the active growing seasons. See our Best Buys at www.which.co.uk/feed.

TACKLE MOSS AND THATCH



Spring is an ideal time to apply a moss control. The treated moss will darken about a week after application, so the lawn will benefit from scarifying – removing moss and thatch (dead grass). Scarifiers can be hired for a day (for about £60) or we have Best Buys at www.which.co.uk/scarifiers. You can also use a spring-tined rake to remove debris by



hand. Raking lifts blades of grass up slightly, giving a better cut. Choose a dry day and remember the lawn will look worse at first, but strong growth will follow.

OVER SEEDING AND TOP DRESSING



Bare patches or holes can be filled and revived by scattering grass seed (over seeding) and spreading a thin layer of a mixture of sharp sand, sieved compost and soil

(top dressing), to help the seed to germinate.

AERATING



Pushing a garden fork into the grass at 20cm

intervals will improve drainage and allow air to reach roots. You could also use a scarifier with an aerator function.

PROFESSIONALS

A professional lawn care company will cost from £15 per treatment. You can find recommended firms on Which? Local.

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- Advice on tackling common household jobs

- Forum where you can ask for advice from other Which? members

Which? Local



GO ONLINE Do you have a petrol lawnmower? We asked a garden machinery expert for tips on the jobs you need to do to get it ready for the growing season. Discover more by visiting www.which.co.uk/local/mowercare. And visit www.which.co.uk/grasseeds to read the results of our test of 22 lawn seed mixtures and six lawn-repair kits, all suitable for a general-purpose back-garden lawn.