

# Lawn Care Definitive Guide

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Once you've created your ideal outdoor space and chosen the perfect soil and grass for the area, how are you to keep it looking its best? Follow these simple steps and keep a regular maintenance routine to avoid having a dull, weed-infested lawn ever again!

Many of these techniques are best applied on an autumn lawn and in the spring, allowing the grass the best chance to repair and grow throughout the summer.

## 1. What Type Of Mower Should I Use?



Mowing is one of the most important things you can do to maintain a beautiful-looking lawn. When making a choice as to which lawnmower is most suitable for your lawn, there are a number of factors to take into account:

- The size of the lawn
- How high you want the grass to be
- Is the ground even or not
- Is the ground sloped or flat?
- Ease of use

A rotary mower is a great all-rounder that will suit most domestic lawns and can come in different sizes and price ranges. Hover mowers are often easier to use as they are lighter and can provide a reasonable cut on uneven ground. Cylinder mowers are suited to lawns that are perfectly flat and will give a fine, low cut but are often difficult to use and need to be serviced regularly to maintain their quality.

Don't forget to keep your mower well maintained by cleaning grass clippings from the underside after use and keep the mower blades sharp to ensure a nice clean cut – essential to the health of the grass blades.

## Question: How often should I mow my lawn?

**Answer:** Your lawn should be mowed as regularly as possible, at least once per week during the main growing seasons of April – June, and September – October and do not be frightened to mow your grass in the winter as long as the ground is not waterlogged or frozen.

Cutting your lawn regularly at the correct height will encourage healthier growth from the roots to the tip.

## Question: How short should I mow my lawn?

**Answer:** Mowing the grass too short will cause the grass to dry out and lose color therefore never cut the grass lower than 25mm (1 inch). As a guide, Greensleeves recommends removing no more than one-third of the leaf.

## Question: What's the best way to cut my lawn?

Make sure you mow your lawn in a different direction each time you cut it. This will strengthen and improve the quality of the grass. Remember to remove any clippings or debris from the lawn each time you cut as this can encourage thatch build-up and moss to grow.

Check out our Latest: [Best Lawn Mower Reviews And Buying Guide](#)



## 2. Remove weeds



### What Are Weeds?

There are many different types of lawn weeds or broad-leaved weeds as they are sometimes referred to, and they can leave a lawn looking very unsightly. They tend to produce flowers and seed heads at different times of the year ruining the uniform green of a lush, well-maintained lawn.

### Why Have I got Weeds In My Lawn?

Weed seeds will be carried into a lawn from a number of different sources: from birds overhead, cats, dogs or other mammals that roam freely or from people carrying them on their clothing or footwear. A seed will quickly develop into a

full-blown weed if left unchecked so it is important to remove any weeds as soon as they are visible.

## Question: What can be done to reduce lawn weeds?

Greensleeves use an exclusive herbicide that contains more than one active ingredient and will kill a broad range of lawn weeds. We are usually able to reduce the number of common weeds in your lawn by more than 70%.

Weeds are best treated when they are actively growing, which is usually any time from April – June and then again in September – October. Hand weeding can be a very difficult task and in some cases, such as dandelions, can actually worsen the weed problem.

Some weeds are a little more troublesome than others but we are confident that we are able to correctly identify weeds and control your lawn weed problem effectively.



### 3. Remove thatch



#### What Is Thatch?

Thatch is a layer of fibrous organic matter made up of dead leaves, grass, and root stem that develops between the green leaves of the grass and the soil surface. All lawns have thatch and a small amount of thatch is considered healthy in a lawn as it aids water absorption and protects the grass from extreme temperatures, however, excessive thatch can be a problem as it can affect the health of your lawn.

A thick layer of thatch can stop moisture and vital nutrients from penetrating the soil and grassroots, preventing healthy growth and providing an ideal breeding ground for unfriendly bacteria and fungi that are likely to cause disease.



## Question: How do I spot thatch?

Thick thatch prevents new grass growth. It can be easily identified as it creates dead patches in the lawn and makes the lawn feel very spongy. A simple core extraction will easily display the depth of the thatch layer in your lawn.

## Question: How can I treat thatch?

The levels of thatch in a lawn can be controlled through scarification which is the process of mechanically raking the lawn removing much, although not all of the thatch which eases soil compaction allowing air and nutrients into the grassroots to grow healthier.

Your lawn may also benefit from hollow tine aeration to open up channels to allow air and moisture through the thatch and allow the bacteria that break thatch down to develop.

In addition, you can help too much thatch from building up throughout the year by keeping your lawn clear of debris such as grass clippings and dead leaves.

## 4. Remove Moss



### What Is Moss?

Mosses are resilient and versatile non-flowering plants that are, for many, the worst of all lawn problems. Moss will thrive in areas of excessive moisture, shade, and poor turf quality. If left unchecked moss will increase, reducing the ability of the grass to grow and will eventually 'choke' out the grass completely.

## Why Have I got Moss In My Lawn?

Moss is a symptom of poor lawn quality and is prevalent in lawns either due to excessive moisture or weak turf. These in turn are caused by a number of factors that can include:

- Shade
- Clay soil
- Poor drainage
- Excessive thatch
- Drought
- Grass left too long over winter

## Question: What can be done to remove moss?

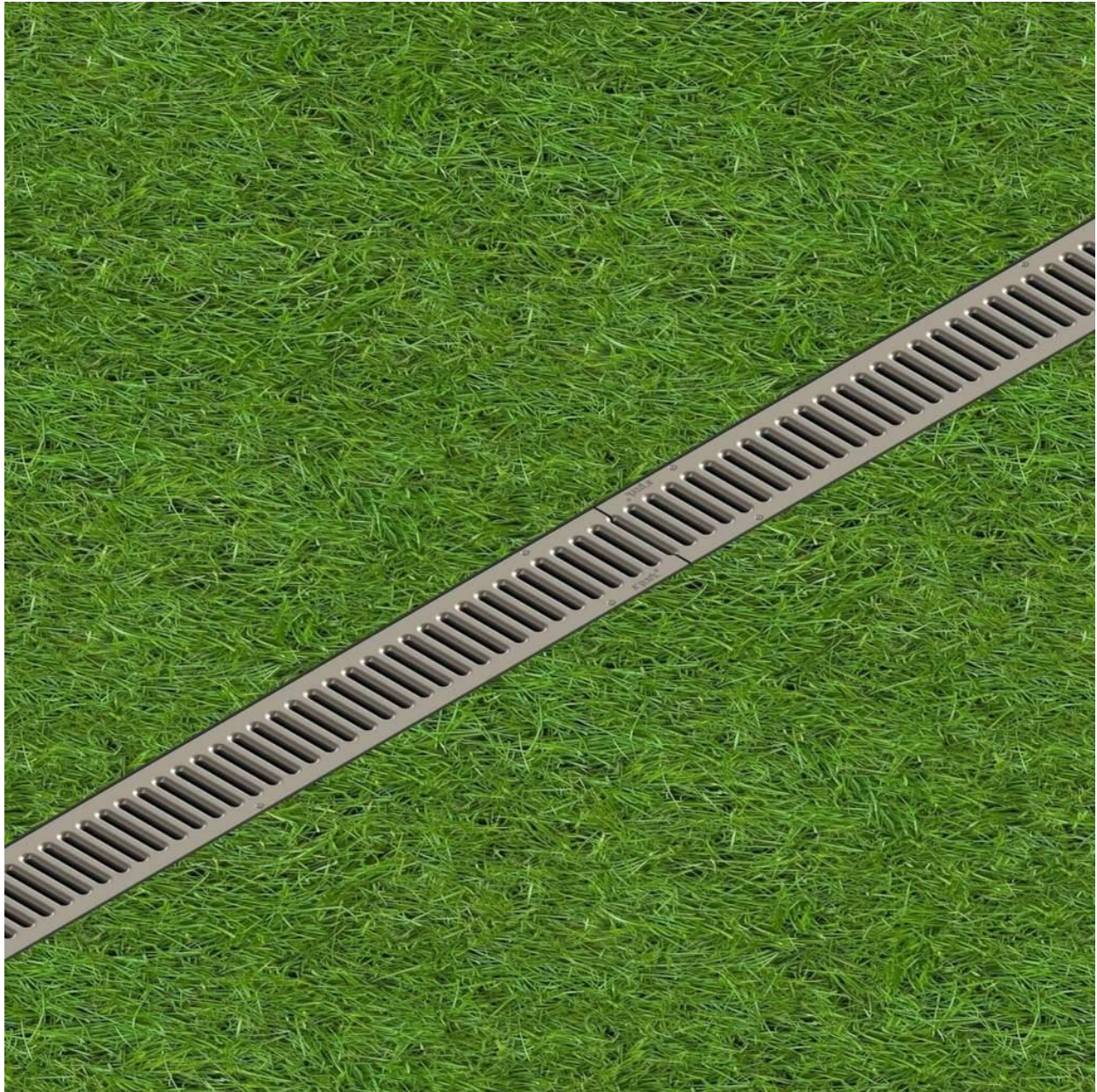
To successfully remove a moss problem it is important to identify the primary cause and remove it to reduce its impact. The first thing to do is to try and identify the cause of the moss problem. Once identified the source of the moss Greensleeves can then target the problem with a specific moss removal program designed to maximize the effort against moss and reduce its impact as much as possible.

Greensleeves will treat the moss problem with a specially formulated product. By doing so we will not only reduce the vigor of the moss but we will apply our lawn feed which will encourage the turf to grow and thrive.

If needed, Greensleeves can remove the moss by scarification giving the grass the opportunity to grow through and dominate again. If the cause of the moss is due to excessive moisture, Greensleeves hollow tine aeration will help to improve surface drainage and prepare your lawn to withstand any future moss invasion.



## 5. Improve drainage



Lawns with poor drainage often become waterlogged for hours or even days. This can lead to other complications for the health of your lawn if drainage is not improved.



The two most common causes for water build-up are the soil's ability to absorb the water and the landscaping of the garden.

## Soil permeability

High levels of clay in the soil, thick areas of thatch, soil compaction, and layers of roots can all contribute to the prevention of water absorption.

Depending on the extent of the problem, aeration can improve the flow of water and air to reduce surface build-up.

Alternatively, changing the nature of your soil can assist in getting the desired drainage levels. This can be done either by using suitable plants for the existing soil type or gradually adjusting the soil with organic materials.

## Garden topography

The shape of your garden should naturally drive water away from the house with a shallow, level slope. Any dips can allow water to pool in one spot, which can damage the grass and roots. It is important that you try to prevent waterlogging in your garden.

When this occurs fitting gutters and drains to direct excess rainfall away from the lawn, adding a selection of wet plants that thrive in water, or re-shaping the area and adjusting the gradient are effective ways to improve the drainage.

## 6. Aerate



This process allows better penetration of air and water to the root zone of the grass, which is essential for gaining the right nutrients to grow. It is a good way to manage lawns that are affected by drought or waterlogging.

Aeration is performed by creating small holes in the soil at certain intervals and depths, and can be done using a garden fork or specially made tools and machines - even aerating shoes are available!

Lawn aerating shoes with spikes

For most gardens, this will only need to be done once every few years. Small patches of lawn can also be treated individually if required.

## 7. Over-seeding



Over-seeding rejuvenates tired and worn-out lawns by covering the entire space with large quantities of seed mixed with fertilizer. This fills in damaged and thinning areas, whilst improving the color and reducing the chance of weed and moss invasions.

Before the seeds can be applied the lawn will need to be scarified or aerated, mowed, and well-watered. Spreaders are available to buy to help get an even distribution of seeds.

Once seeded the lawn will need to be kept moist to encourage germination and a top dressing will need to be added to protect the seeds and provide nourishment.

This can be performed annually to maintain a healthy lawn.



## 8. Mowing and edging



When mowing your lawn it is best to only remove one-third of the grass's length. How often you need to mow will depend on the time of year and current weather conditions.

When the weather is colder, especially during frost, the amount of mowing required will be reduced. Summer mowing becomes more frequent with the warmer weather as the grass will begin to grow quicker.

Avoid mowing when the soil or grass is wet as this can cause damage to the lawn and prevent healthy growth in the future. If you have a mower with a roller, the direction of mowing will need to be alternated each time.

Borders and edges can also be maintained and tidied using a half-moon edging tool or edging shears after mowing.



## 9. Feeding and watering



There are a variety of grass feeds and fertilizers available from most gardening shops. The type required will depend on the existing soil and weather in your location. Most of these will have recommended instructions for application, so it is best to follow their guidelines for the product.

Generally, it is advised to treat twice yearly, once in the spring with a nitrogen-rich lawn feed and once in the autumn with a fertilizer with high levels of phosphate and potash.

Alongside feeding, watering is essential to all lawns. A lawn lacking water will start to change color and lose its spring, causing the grass to stay flat if walked on.

The amount and frequency of watering will again depend on the type of soil and weather conditions in your location. as you also do not want to overwater.

It is best to water the lawn at the beginning of the day in cooler temperatures to get better results.

## 10. Topdressing



This is used to build up and improve the quality of the existing soil, providing additional drought resistance and drainage, whilst evening out any imperfections.

As with all other maintenance, the soil type for your garden will need to be checked in order to get the correct materials and consistency when creating your top dressing.

Using these top tips to regularly check and maintain your lawn along with removing any unwanted surface debris such as dead leaves and twigs, and cutting back any areas that create excess shade, will keep your lawn looking lush and healthy!





If you have any questions regarding any of the above lawn care tips feel free to send us an email at [mowerslab@gmail.com](mailto:mowerslab@gmail.com)

You can also see all of our lawn care tips and mower reviews at <https://mowerslab.com>