



# 10 Steps to an *Organic* Lawn

## 1. Soil Test

SEND SOIL SAMPLE TO SOIL TESTING FACILITY. A soil test provides necessary information to establish a realistic turf management program. Test for pH, buffer pH, Organic Matter, Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) and calcium:magnesium ratio.

## 2. Soil Chemistry: adjust pH and Ca:Mg

Turf grass and the **soil biology** necessary to support growth, do best when soil pH is 6.5 - 7.0. Correct pH and Ca:Mg imbalances by applying lime or gypsum. PRODUCT, RATE AND FREQUENCY IS DETERMINED BY SOIL TEST RESULTS.

## 3. PJC ProHealthy Turf Fertilizers

APPLY AN ALL NATURAL ORGANIC FERTILIZER EVERY 7-10 WEEKS. Organic fertilizers feed the **Soil Biology** that in turn feed the plant. Use products that contain water insoluble nitrogen and low or no phosphorous.

## 4. Soil Structure: improve OM and CEC

APPLY SOIL AMENDMENTS ACCORDING TO SOIL TEST RESULTS. Improve Organic Matter and Cation Exchange Capacity using humates, biochar & compost, products. Calcium helps break up clay soils. Create 6" soil depth by top dressing with loam/compost mix.

## 5. Mow Right: 3 to 3 1/2 inches

**MOST IMPORTANT CULTURAL PRACTICE!!!**  
Mow High - 3-1/2 inches to encourage deep roots and shade the soil. Cut no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time. Avoid mowing wet grass. Sharpen mower blades after every 8 hours to prevent tearing grass blade. Damaged grass blades lose moisture and are susceptible to disease.

## 6. Return Grass Clippings

ADDS ORGANIC MATTER AND IS A NATURAL FERTILIZER (additional 1lb "N" in a season). BAG clippings when weed seeds and flowers are present (ie. crabgrass, dandelions) to mitigate further spread of seeds.

## 7. Water: 1 to 2 times week in morning

DEEP, INFREQUENTLY AND IN THE MORNING. 3/4 - 1 inch of water a week (1-2X week). Newly seeded areas and during extreme heat water more frequently for shorter periods. Over watering leads to compaction and disease.

## 8. Core Aerate: fall

RELIEVE SOIL COMPACTION. Aerate when grass is actively growing to allow grass roots to spread and improve air circulation in the root zone. Fall is the best time.

## 9. Over-seed: spring and fall

CREATE A DENSE STAND OF GRASS TO CROWD OUT WEEDS. In SPRING seed slice thin lawns. Top dress and over seed trouble spots. Broadcast grass seed when aerating in the Fall. Water to establish.

## 10. Scout for Weeds & Pests

WEEDS ARE AN INDICATION OF UNDERLYING SOIL CONDITIONS. Work at creating the environment grass requires to grow (steps 1-9) and in 3-5 years weeds diminish. In the meantime, manually pull weeds and re-seed bare areas, treat grubs with hB nematodes, grub gone or cedar product. Low pH, low calcium, over watering & improper mowing contribute to weed pressure.



ALL NATURAL  
turf programs

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