



How to Create a Great Lawn

Thank you for your purchase

You have master resale rights to this e-Book: you may resell it and providing you make no modifications to it, retain all the profit,

For an extensive library of e-Books

[Click here](#)

Bargain e-Books and other premium e-books I have on offer?

[Click here](#)

Table of Contents:

Introduction.....	3
Planning a new lawn.....	3
Seed or Turf	3
Type of Grass.....	3
Ground Preparation.....	4
When to set a lawn.....	4
Sowing seed or laying turf.....	4
Mowing the lawn.....	5
Scarifying the lawn	5
Feeding the lawn	5
Watering the lawn.....	6
Weeding the lawn.....	6
Controlling moss.....	6
Lawn Edging.....	7



Introduction

This book will help you plan and create a great lawn. It will not help you produce a bowling green, but it will assist in helping you produce a lawn that is good to look at without you becoming a slave to it. A bit of careful preparation before you start then regular care, is all that is required.

Planning a new lawn

Before you start digging, or calling the turf company, think about what you want to achieve. What shape are you looking for? Are you going to have a traditional square shape, or a unique one with nice long sweeping curves? The latter will make mowing easier as it will minimise the number of times you have to stop and turn the mower. Are the kids going to play ball games on it, or are you looking for a quality lawn that isn't going to be walked on often? Is the lawn going to be in the shade? Can you get the lawn mower to the lawn easily? What kind of lawn edge are you going to use? Are you going to use stepping stones in some areas?

All these factors need to be taken into consideration before you start.

Seed or Turf

Decide which method you are going to use. Having quality turf laid by professionals is expensive, but you get an instant lawn. However, you need to make sure that the turf is in fact quality turf and this may not be easy to recognise. Having the turf delivered and laying it yourself, is cheaper but back breaking. Seed is cheap, but it will be a while before you can walk on the newly prepared lawn and you will inevitably have little dips and hollows in it, but that is easily sorted. Take into account birds love grass seed!

Type of Grass

The finest grasses will look better, but will need regular mowing, feeding and watering to remain so and, will not tolerate hard usage. This kind of grass is a little more expensive but ideal if all the kids are grown up and the football world cup isn't going to be re-enacted every weekend.

An everyday utility grass containing rye is very hard wearing and requires little maintenance in order to remain healthy. Maybe not Wimbledon, but a well cared for nicely edged green rye grass lawn can still be the envy of neighbours.

There are some grasses that claim to be resistant to drought and others that will tolerate little sunlight, but a lawn constantly in the shade will require much more maintenance.

Only purchase lawn seed from reputable suppliers. [Click here](#) for top quality guaranteed seed. Prices are very reasonable and there are no post and packaging costs.

Ground Preparation

If the ground is covered with weeds, it may be easier to treat with a glyphosate weed killer and leave for a few weeks, but whether you are sowing seed, or laying turf, the ground needs to be prepared properly. For a well drained lawn, you will need at least 6" of top soil. Less than this and the area will become swampy. If necessary the sub-soil will need to be broken up and sharp sand incorporated. Dig the area over, removing perennial weeds such as dandelions and couch grass. A bit of hard work at this stage will pay dividends later.

Rake over the area to get it as level as you can, removing large stones, then firm in with your heels, or the back of a spade. Do not use a roller as this will compact the soil, encourage moss and cause oxygen deprivation. You are not trying to create a cricket pitch.

Rake again very lightly before you sow the seed. Do not incorporate any kind of fertiliser at this stage, it is totally unnecessary.

When to set a lawn

Grass seed doesn't germinate well in hot dry weather and turf should not be laid in drought if it can be avoided. September is usually the best time of the year to set lawn seed, when the ground is still warm but not too hot and there should be sufficient rain which is required to establish the roots.

Sowing seed or laying turf

It is recommended you use 50 grams of seed per square metre, providing you protect the sown lawn from the birds. The easiest way to judge the amount without doing a great deal of measuring, is to lay 4 canes about a metre long, on a corner of your prepared ground and create a square with them. Measure 50 grams of seed into a cup then scatter evenly within the square of canes. You will then have an idea of how much seed to sow in a space approximately the size of a square metre. Put the canes to one side and sow the seed all over the lawn. It's not fatal if you exceed the dosage, just a little more expensive!

The most effective bird deterrent is to crisscross the lawn with black thread.

If you are using turf which comes in rolls, try to stagger the joints when laying it. Once laid, whack the turfs down with the back of the spade. Give the turf a good watering and if it doesn't rain within two days, water again. In really dry weather, water as necessary until the grass is established.

Do not create the edges of the lawn until it is well established, as until there is a decent root growth, the edges will crumble.

For all your gardening equipment, [Click here](#) Thousands of products suitable for the novice as well as the expert gardener. It's not just garden tools either; patio heaters, garden furniture, barbecues and even swimming pools are available on this site

Mowing the lawn

The first mowing should not be made until the new lawn (grass and weeds) is a good 2" high. Set the mower to the highest setting and use a grass box to collect the clippings, rather than a rake. It is at this time you will see if your lawn is level or not. Hollows, providing they are no deeper than 2", can be filled with sharp sand and the grass will grow though it without any problem. Deeper hollows will need to be filled with top soil and re-sown. Leave the weeds alone until the lawn is well established, which may be the following year.

Once the lawn is well established, you must mow the lawn regularly at least once a week. For the first and last cut of the season, use the highest settings. Never cut the lawn too close to the ground, as you will encourage moss, weeds and disease and to be honest, a shaven lawn doesn't really look that good.

Occasionally leave the clippings on the lawn to break down and create a bit of humus in the soil. It's good to do this in really dry weather as it provides a kind of protective mulch for the grass. However, leaving the clippings all the time can create a thatch of dead grass which will need to be removed with a rake.

Start mowing your lawn in March/April when it's obvious it has started to grow and stop mowing in October as soon as the cold weather arrives.

Scarifying the lawn

Use either a spring tined rake or a scarifier after the first cut of the season in order to remove the dead grass left by the winter and any moss that has accumulated. It's also a good idea to scarify again in July and once more in September just before the last cut. Remove the debris and compost it.

Feeding the lawn

A lawn should not be fed during the first year. Once an established lawn is growing well in late May or June, you should give it a proprietary spring and summer feed. This mixture has a high nitrogen and potash content to green up the lawn and encourage strong growth. A tired looking lawn can benefit from a very high nitrogen booster feed, but don't use too much or feed too regularly otherwise you might be watching the grass grow!

In September apply an autumn feed, which is high in phosphorus, to toughen up the grass for winter.

Always feed the lawn either while it is raining or just before it rains in order to prevent any grass burn. If it doesn't rain within a few hours of an application, get your hose pipe out.

See below for information on combined weed and feed mixtures.

Watering the lawn

A lawn can go quite a while without water, but after a few weeks of drought it will start to turn brown. If and when this occurs stop mowing. In order to recover from this state, a lawn requires enormous amounts of water. Two or three days of rain will do the trick, but if that's not going to happen, unless you can put the hose pipe on for a couple of days, you are wasting your time. A sprinkler system will help prevent the lawn from drying out in the first place, but it will need to be working on a daily basis for at least two hours (mornings only, before the sun gets too hot) or water merely evaporates on the surface.

Weeding the lawn

There are a number of ways to keep a lawn weed free. A new lawn will probably contain thousands of weeds and the only way to eradicate them once the lawn is established, is by using a selective weed killer. Selective weed killers, which kill broad leaf plants and not grass, can also be used on lawns where the weeds are too numerous to be taken out manually.

Where there is only the odd weed here and there, you can either dig them out with a sharp knife, or use a spot weed killer. With this you "paint" the centre of the weed with the weed killer which contains a growth hormone. Thereupon, the weed grows like mad and burns itself out after about a week.

More and more people today are using a combined weed and feed mixture, some mixtures also containing a moss killer. The best time to apply this is a damp day in June or July using a lawn feeder.

Controlling moss

Moss thrives on any lawn which is very wet, where the soil is compacted, or where grass is constantly kept too short. You can eradicate it by applying a proprietary brand of moss killer, or sulphate of iron, but if the conditions are not permanently addressed, the moss will return year after year. Sometimes, the only solution is to replace the lawn with a moisture tolerant grass. Spiking the lawn with a fork or a lawn aerator late in the year will let the air in and reduce moss growth and it's not a bad idea to spike a healthy lawn anyway to prevent moss becoming established.

If you use Sulphate of Iron (ferrous oxide) to kill the grass, keep it off any concrete or stone paths as it will turn the concrete a permanent rust colour.

Gardening resources for gardeners!

[Click here](#) to visit a leading gardening store offering advice and gardening tips. Featuring sheds, garden furniture, garden ornaments, garden lighting, water features, gardening tools, garden fencing and much more.

Lawn Edging

Once a lawn has become well established it's time to decide what to do with the edges. You can lay bricks, insert a plastic edging strip, or simply dig the edge using a spade. A lawn looks really good with neat edging no matter which method is used.

Paving bricks are very expensive, but they do set the lawn off nicely and it's easier to cut right up to the edge with the lawn mower. The bricks really need to be set on sand or fine dolomite, and a good half inch below the level of the lawn.

Plastic edging strip can also be expensive, but it prevents the edge from crumbling and once fixed, requires very little maintenance. Grass will need to be trimmed with long handled shears or a motorised trimmer.

The easiest way to set a lawn edge is to simply use a spade, or a half moon which is a proper lawn edging tool and dig vertically about 3"- 4" and take away the excess grass turf. (Lay it upside down on the garden for it to rot down and add humus to the soil). The depth of 3"- 4" will need to be maintained and you will need to keep away from the edge so as not to break it. If you do, simply cut out another edge.

That's all there is to it!!! One last item; grass clippings make excellent compost mixed with other garden waste. If you don't have a compost bin/heap, some local authorities have reclamation sites for re-cycling grass, etc and some will even collect.

Enjoy your lawn!

Thank you for your purchase

You have master resale rights to this e-Book: you may resell it and providing you make no modifications to it, retain all the profit,

For an extensive library of e-Books

[Click here](#)

Bargain e-Books and other premium e-books I have on offer?

[Click here](#)