

Care
Guide



The easy
way to a
great lawn

Lawn Care *made easy*



www.haskins.co.uk



HASKINS
for garden pleasure

Did you know?

The lawn was originally a status symbol of the aristocracy and gentry – it showed that the owner could afford to keep land that was not being used for food production or a building. It was only in the 18th century that the lawn became a space for visual or recreational purposes, eventually finding its way into suburbia.

Good Lawn Care

It is fairly easy to keep an established lawn in good order. By following our advice, you'll be able to keep your lawn looking good for years to come.

- Keep the lawn at a good length during the growing season through regular mowing. Try not to scalp the lawn as this weakens the grass.
- Ensure the lawn is well fed by using a lawn feed in the spring. Avoid high doses of nitrogen fertiliser in late summer or autumn, opting for a formulated autumn lawn feed instead.
- Improve drainage by forking the lawn or better still, use a solid-tine or hollow-tine aerator in autumn.
- If your lawn feels 'springy' then it's time to scarify. Use a spring-tine rake in autumn to remove thatch, moss and any other dead material.
- Wherever possible, water your lawn through extended dry spells, preferably with collected rain water.
- Disposing of grass clippings will reduce thatch build up and help keep the lawn healthy. Mix clippings with lots of shredded paper, leaves or straw in your compost heap.



Utility Lawns

Choose a seed mix or turf that contains a high proportion of Rye grass as this will withstand the rigours of regular foot traffic, pets and children's playtime.

Don't mow below 10°C



Ornamental Lawn

With a blend of very fine lawn grasses to form a dense, close lawn surface, this type of lawn is more for visual appeal or occasional use. Needs regular mowing with a cylinder mower and annual scarification.

Shaded Areas

Most turf grasses require four to six hours of full sun each day. For shadier parts of the garden and around mature trees use a pre-packaged seed mix blended for low light levels.

Grass Alternatives

Open spaces don't have to be laid to grass. If you're after a low-maintenance alternative, consider clover or camomile. Both are green all year round and require mowing once or twice a year, usually after flowering.

If maintaining a lawn is too much, then why not create a garden feature instead? Great alternatives include a meadow, fruit garden, gravel garden or veg patch.

Maintenance Schedule

Autumn

- Rake out moss, debris and thatch.
- Spike to improve drainage and air circulation.
- Apply a top-dressing to improve soil structure and drainage.
- Stop mowing when temperatures regularly drop below 10°C.
- Repair or cut new edges.

Spring

- Catch up on preparations if you missed the chance in autumn.
- Remove weeds and control moss with lawn sand.
- Apply seed or turf when the temperatures start rising.
- Feed your lawn from mid to late spring.
- Start mowing with a high cut then reduce height over coming weeks.

Summer

- Mow every week to encourage the lawn to thicken.
- During hot weather, water at the end of the day and preferably with collected rain water.
- Trim edges for neatness.

Repairs

The best time to make repairs is in April or September. Loosen the soil in the area to be repaired and apply your seed or turf. If seeding, sow a wider area to help blend the colour of the new seed into your lawn. Water in and protect from birds and pets until established.

Typical Problems

Moss

A sign of compaction or poor drainage. Improve the situation by spiking and adding a top dressing.

Weeds

Dandelions are a sign of compaction as their long tap root is designed to break open dense soils. Clover is a sign of nutrient deficiency whilst speedwells are a plant that wants to stabilise loose soil. Remove weeds manually or with a lawn-formulated weed killer, then remedy the situation.

Fungi

Mushrooms or toadstools in your lawn generally indicate a healthy soil. Remove them before mowing and dispose appropriately.

Fairy Rings

This fungus attacks grass roots, forming a brown ring of dead grass with brown toadstools in summer. Replace the turf and soil within the affected patch.



Red thread

A fungal disease that appears in nitrogen deficient lawns. It produces brown patches, especially during a wet summer and during the autumn. It rarely completely kills the grass with the patches recovering with good lawn preparation and care. Affected grass produces a reddish tinge, later becoming light brown.

Brown patches

The common culprits are scorching from animal urine or a buried object close to the lawn's surface. Dilute urine with water or remove the offending object. If you have tried this and patches persist, it could be a fungal problem where you should seek specialist advice.



Diseases can be kept under control or prevented by practicing good lawn care



Algae and Lichens

Improve drainage to help eliminate this.

