

## **Spring Lawn Care Tips**

### **Identify Lawn Problems:**

1. **Poor soil:** Improperly balanced soil pH, low organic matter levels, compaction and drainage can adversely affect even the most well cared for lawn.
2. **Insects and disease:** Non-beneficial fungi and insects are always present but not necessarily in sufficient numbers to cause damage. Properly timed controls as needed, resistant grass varieties, and healthy turf and soil are the best defense against these pests.
3. **Nutrient deficiencies:** lawns requires regular fertilizer treatments to replace nutrients utilized by the plant or not readily available from the soil. Get a lab test of the soil for a comprehensive analysis of soil health and nutrient content.
4. **Improper mowing and watering:** Lawns mowed too short can lead to scorching and lawn thinning, inviting weed and crabgrass infestations. Too much or too little watering impacts both plant and soil health.

### **Build a Healthy Lawn:**

1. **Lawn Treatment Programs:** The best lawn treatments are customized to fit the exact needs of each specific lawn. Additionally, the program needs to be aligned with a homeowner's preference for traditional versus 100% organic lawn treatments. For Spring, apply a lawn fertilizer treatment containing both quick and slow release nitrogen. Use a starter fertilizer formula if the lawn has been seeded.
2. **Lawn Repair:** Core aeration followed by organic compost topdressing will improve soil drainage, structure, nutrient availability, and reduce thatch levels. For many lawns, lime application is required to get the pH in balance.
3. **Tree Pruning:** Thin and raise tree canopies to allow more light on lawn areas affected by excessive shade.
4. **Weed and Crabgrass Controls:** Catch crabgrass early by applying a preemergent crabgrass control to inhibit weedy grass germination. For weed controls, liquid products will provide better coverage to small weeds than granular materials. Apply while weather is cool and wind is still. Do not use non-selective weed controls such as Roundup in lawn areas. Always follow label directions when using lawn products.
5. **Monitoring:** Lawn care is never a one and done. The lawn treatment service company should offer regular service calls to stay on top of changes in the lawn throughout the growing season. This approach ensures the lawn gets the right treatments or service at the right time to achieve optimum health.

Professional lawn evaluation, customized lawn treatment and repair services and careful monitoring by PA Certified Lawn Technicians are the essential actions homeowners can take now to build and maintain a healthy, thick, green lawn.