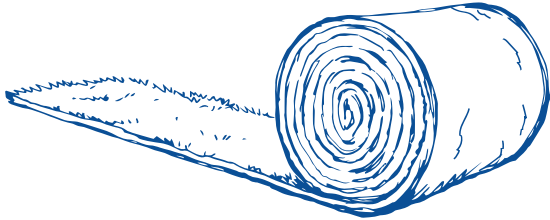




CARING FOR YOUR LAWN

WHAT TO KNOW

● — SOD



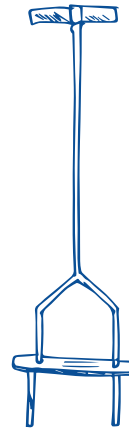
New sod should be watered at least twice a day, more or less depending on weather conditions. Keeping foot traffic off the new sod is optimal so the sod can make an established root system. We recommend mowing your lawn after three weeks and trying to keep it longer if possible. This will give your sod enough time to establish a root system and keep it dense for continued growth.

● — CUTTING & MOWING



Grass should never be cut more than 1/3 of its current height. It is generally better for grass to be kept longer as it will help with overall health and ability to absorb more water.

● — AERATION

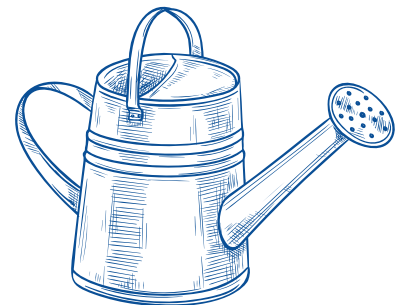


Aeration is very good for keeping your lawn healthy. It can help break up unwanted thatch and allow for better soil health. Once you have finished aeration, you can allow the plugs to break down, rake them up or mow over them. Aerate your lawn once a year; in early spring is the best time.

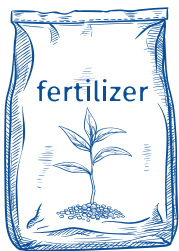
● — WATERING

Watering your lawn at night or in the early morning is best. This will allow ample time for your soil to soak up as much water as possible. You should always adjust how much/how frequently you water based on the weather conditions.

It is not necessary to water your lawn in the winter. We do recommend watering your trees in the winter on warmer days, making sure the water fully penetrates the soil.



● — FERTILIZING



The best times to fertilize are spring, summer and in the fall. Each of these fertilization applications have different purposes for the health of your lawn during each season: Fall fertilization will help with how green/healthy your lawn will be after being dormant during winter; fertilizing in early spring will help your grass for the growing season once it fully comes out of dormancy and is ready to flourish; summer fertilization will be supplemental to keeping your grass looking very healthy.

Lawn fertilizer should be selected based off nutrient analysis, time of fertilizing, convenience and price. There are many different fertilizers and factors to consider for fertilizing, so it's good practice to do some research to find out what works best for you.

TURF SAFE WEED KILLERS

Grassy weeds are nothing more than types of grasses that you don't want in your lawn or flower beds. They can be either annual grasses like crabgrass or perennial grasses like fescue. When killing weeds in a lawn without killing grass, check the label and be sure to select an herbicide that targets the weeds in your yard and is safe for your turfgrass species.

HERE ARE A FEW THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN PICKING A WEED KILLER:

Which stage of growth is the weed in?

It's best to apply weed killer at a particular stage commonly referred to as "emergence."

Is the weed killer temporary or longer lasting?

More temporary weed killers degrade in soil within a few days to weeks, which means you'll need to reapply the product more often than a longer lasting weed killer that will stay in the soil and keep new weeds from growing.



Is it a selective or non-selective weed killer?

Selectivity is the ability of a weed killer to destroy weeds but leave the surrounding plants unharmed.

Which process does the weed killer use?

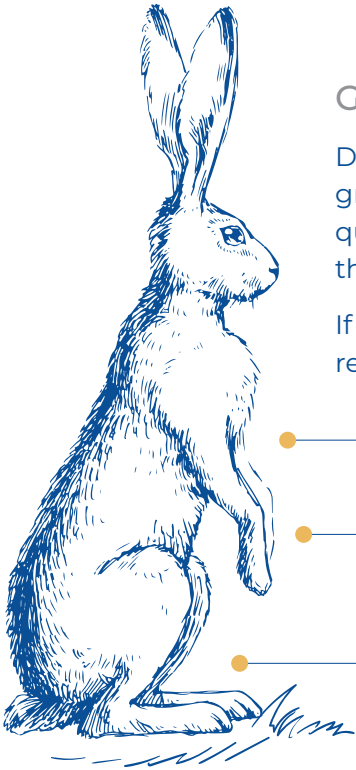
- Translocation describes the movement of the product within the weed and how it's taken up through the leaves, stems or roots of the plant.
- Contact weed killers don't move through the weed once they enter it, they kill the plant by destroying the part where it was applied.
- Systemic weed killers move within the weed after it's absorbed and kill the plant from the bottom up.

TREATING BUGS IN YOUR SOIL

If you notice dead patches or spongy areas in your lawn, you may have an invasive insect problem. The four main culprits in Colorado are billbugs, white grubs, mites and chinchbugs.

To prevent these insects from damaging your lawn, the most important thing you can do is keep it healthy and well-watered.

- A 1% soap concentrate spray works well on bugs such as mites, aphids, mealybugs, white flies, soft scales and thrips. Use pure water and liquid dish soap when mixing your soap solution but avoid using soaps with degreasers or anti-bacterial agents. Add soap and water to a spray bottle and spray over the affected areas to help deter bugs.



GETTING RID OF RABBITS, NATURALLY

Did you know that, similar to dogs, rabbits have highly acidic urine that can kill your grass? A family of rabbits can cause widespread damage to your yard and with their quick rate of reproduction (wild rabbits have been known to have up to 50 kits a year!), this can become a huge issue for homeowners looking to keep their lawn in good shape.

If you're seeing urine burn in your grass, there are a couple things you can do after reseeding the damaged areas to keep rabbits from returning.

- **Red pepper** – Rabbits hate spicy food, so red pepper flakes can be sprinkled on the affected area to keep them from coming back.
- **Irish Spring soap** – Fill small drawstring bags of Irish Spring soap shavings and hang them around your garden, or near the grassy areas where the rabbits have been munching.
- **Chicken wire fence** – Plant the fence six inches into the ground to deter burrowing under, and make sure it's at least two feet high.

REMOVING VOLES

Voles are small mammals that cause damage by girdling seedling and mature trees in orchards, shelterbelts and forests. They also damage field crops and frequently construct runways in lawns. They seem to create the most damage in Colorado landscaping after years of heavy snowfall. To treat this problem, there are a few options:

- To protect trees and shrubs, wire or plastic-mesh cylinders deter voles. The barriers should project 18 inches above ground and 3 to 6 inches below the surface.
- Voles can be trapped using mouse snap traps – traps baited with peanut butter and rolled oats or apples work well.