

Eco-Turf Talk



Spring 2022

PJC Organic is the manufacturer of ProHealthy Turf Organic Products & distributor of soil amendments.

We provide product, & support to landscapers, schools & municipalities that want to transition from a conventional approach to an All-Natural Organic Turf Care program for the maintenance of their lawns & athletic fields.



Turf Blankets for 2023

Yes, it's spring, but as grass seed prices have significantly increased we want to get you thinking about how you can look your best this time next year. Turf blankets are a great option to increase the success rates and viability of turf over the winter. They help fields recover from end of season play and get off to a strong start in the spring.

Turf Blankets:

- Warm the soil and air temperature while allowing light to pass through.
- Promote faster growth and green-up in the Spring.
- Allow for turf repair and overseeding of goal mouths and damaged areas.
- Shield the grass from harsh winter conditions.
- Minimize unwanted foot and animal traffic in the off season.

Turf blankets are relatively inexpensive and can be used year after year with great results. Reach out for pricing info!

Spring Turf Tips by Fred Newcombe

It appears that Spring 2022 is heading in the right direction. Average temps reported at the NOAA Boston station in March were a high of 50° and low of 33°. So far in April, average highs have risen to 54° and lows of 39°, as one would expect. Rainfall for March was over an inch; with over 1/2" received in the first six days of April. Hopefully conditions continue to improve smoothly, without the sudden spike in temperatures as experienced in May – June 2021. Take advantage of these ideal spring conditions to set yourself up for a successful 2022 season.

1. Soil test before applying amendments to get a baseline on your soil's pH, buffer pH, OM, CEC & Ca:Mg. Apply soil amendments as soon as practical in the season; lime can take up to 6 months to have an effect. PJC can assist with your soil testing needs ([link](#)).
2. Fertilize with PJC ProHealthy Turf All Natural Fertilizers once temps are consistently in the 50's (usually by the 1st week of May and a 2nd application mid to end of June).
3. Remove leaves and sticks to avoid smothering and killing the grass as it begins to grow.
4. Do not be quick to dethatch! Over the winter, grass naturally dies and goes dormant which can be mistaken for thatch in the spring. Aggressive raking can damage crowns of dormant grass, remove valuable organic matter, and create a thin lawn where crabgrass will take hold later in the season. Lawns maintained organically rarely have thatch because the soil biology is constantly breaking it down.
5. Remember where the snow was piled because this promotes soil compaction. These areas are more prone to weeds with short, fibrous root systems (like plantain or crabgrass). Relieve compaction and overseed.
6. Applications of snowmelt on walkways and driveways can become tough on grass. If these areas are looking stressed, apply gypsum to counteract salt damaged areas. Top-dress and overseed with perennial rye to help re-establish the lawn.
7. Bare soil is the first-place weeds take hold. Once soil temps are over 50°F, slice seed or top dress and overseed thin areas that need a thicker stand of turf.
8. Sharpen mower blades. Mow at 2.5" for the first couple of cuts to push lateral growth, raising height of cut to 3.5" mid-end of May.
9. Irrigation: If you have an irrigation system, check for damage over the winter. Replace any heads that may have been broken. Be sure to check your watering schedule and coverage. Water deep and in the morning to encourage root depth 1"/week.



Product Promo: PJC ProHealthy Turf 7-0-2 +

Contains quickly available water-soluble nitrogen and water-insoluble nitrogen from plant and animal meals. This means longer feed and quicker green up in spring when soil is still cool and late summer for drought recovery. Additionally, it contains 2.75% soluble humate – which helps improve nutrient holding capacity of the soil.



Weed Spotlight: CLOVER

Clover is a cool-season perennial. Clover is more likely to establish itself during a cool, wet spring when the soil temperatures remain in the low 50s. Clover thrives when there is not a lot of available nitrogen in the soil and when turf grass is thin. This allows light to reach the soil surface and encourages the clover to germinate.

It should be recognized that clover is a beneficial plant and at one time was included in grass seed mixes. Clover is a legume that can fix free nitrogen from the atmosphere and share it with turfgrass. So, the presence of clover can actually be a good thing for your lawn as you strive to improve soil conditions. So far spring in the Northeast has been pretty balanced so it seems too early to get a read on this year's clover crop.



In the News: “Neonic” Pesticides to be removed from retail stores in Massachusetts

by Fred Newcombe

What does this mean for the lawn care industry?

Homeowners will not be able to use or purchase neonicotinoid turf insecticides for their lawns, trees, shrubs, ornamentals, vegetable or flower gardens beginning July 1, 2022. The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources passed this ruling in March 2021—after six years of advocacy work by a broad coalition of individuals and organizations to protect pollinators and ecosystem health in Massachusetts.

The most common use of these products in turf is for the preventive control of white grubs. These neonicotinoid pesticides include imidacloprid, clothianidin and thiamethoxam. Bayer CropScience manufactures imidacloprid and sells it under the trade names Merit, Kohinor, Admire, Advantage, Gaucho, Confidor, Hachikusan, Premise, Prothor, and Winner. Clothianidin is also manufactured by Bayer and sold under the trade names Arena, Poncho, Prosper, and Votivo. Thiamethoxam was developed by Syngenta. It is contained in a number of residential products including Tandem® Insecticide, Caravan™, Flagship®, Bonide® Rose Shield™, and Raid® Ant Gel.

“Massachusetts now joins Maryland, Connecticut, and Vermont in restricting consumer uses of these hazardous insecticides. But it is evident that these victories must only be the first step toward broader protections for pollinator populations.”¹

Sources: [UMASS](#)
[1Beyond Pesticides](#)



Fred, President of PJC, celebrated his birthday April 16th and now has THREE grandkids.

Practical Approach Proven Products

Whether you are just starting an Organic Turf Care Program or looking to improve your existing program—utilizing a practical approach with proven products is critical to your success. A solid program requires more than simply swapping out a bag of synthetic fertilizer for a bag of organic fertilizer. Healthy turf depends on the positive interactions between soil chemistry, soil biology, soil structure, and cultural practices.

PJC Organic can assist with whatever level of need you have - from soil testing with product recommendations, and a master product application chart ... to developing a complete Organic Turf Care Program. Our services help you to be successful in implementing an All-natural Organic Turf Care Program that is easy to follow and tailored to meet your needs.



Yes, when we say “Wherever possible, we look to minimize the number of miles our product travels”...we mean it.

All PJC products are made in the U.S.A.
No supply chain issues here!

Check out our

[Instagram](#) & [Blog](#).

We provide weekly updates regarding seasonal practices, industry news, business development, and more!

Soil Testing

Take any course on organic lawn care, view an article on the internet or read a book, the first thing you are told to do is take a soil test. So, you dutifully take a soil sample, send it off to a lab; get the results back – then what? If it’s not Greek to you, it may be to your clients.

PJC Organic can provide you with soil sampling supplies, the report and product recommendations in an easy-to-understand format.

