

Eco-Turf Talk



Summer 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.



Summer Turf Tips by Fred Newcombe

This winter consisted of little snowfall, followed by an early spring that has had big swings in temperature. June 21st marks the official start of summer and we are ready for it! So, where should you be in your Organic Turf Care Program?

SOIL TEST—if you haven't already—before applying lime or other amendments. We can [help](#).

PJC PROHEALTHY TURF, All-Natural Organic Fertilizer, 2nd application should be going down before the end of June.

SOIL AMENDMENTS: apply according to soil test results (lime, gypsum, granular, humates, etc.) before the heat of the summer.

MOW PROPERLY! “Mow High, May June and July!”

- o Height of Cut should be up to 3 1/2” inches to shade the soil and improve photosynthesis.
- o Return clippings to build organic matter.
- o Sharpen mower blades after 8 hours of use.
- o Change mowing frequency throughout the season cutting no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time.

Caution: when you're busy the tendency is to mow short and less frequently—this is an invitation for crab grass seeds to germinate!

WATER to encourage strong root growth and help grass withstand drought

- o Infrequently and in the morning to prevent disease and evaporation.
- o 1-2” a week depending on soil type to a depth of 6”
- o When temps stay hot, cool the grass down by watering more frequently for shorter periods. Watch the grass: if it doesn't bounce back when walked upon, or is wilted and turning brown...it needs water!

It's also ok to let your lawn go dormant over the summer, it will bounce back. Watering after cool-season grasses have gone dormant may simply encourage growth of crabgrass.

SEED BARE AREAS. If left unattended, weeds will take root in bare spots. At this time of the season, we recommend seeding with a perennial or annual ryegrass.

Most importantly, enjoy the summer!

Grass Seed Update

We expect a big rush in July and Early August for the fall overseeding season. Therefore, customers that can, should take seed EARLY to ensure supply. Have it on hand when you need it and avoid a run up in prices (as supply runs short between now and when the new crop is in). There is no good reason to delay...

Growers expect perennial rye pricing will come down, but not until the new crop is in the end of September. Creeping red fescue will depend on the harvest. They are projecting bluegrass to increase .50-.70/lb. Between: 1. the perennial rye coming down 2. bluegrass going up 3. and the rising transportation costs—there may not be much change in price this fall. So, plan for a similar budget next year based on this year's prices.



Weed Spotlight: CRABGRASS

As the summer heats up, so does the soil. It's time to turn our attention to crabgrass with our annual reminders:

Crabgrass is a warm season grass. It favors poor soil conditions, low in calcium, low pH and compacted. You will often find this weed in sunny areas, where turf is mowed low, over septic tanks, and along walks and driveways where the soil tends to be poor and radiant heat helps warm the soil. Crabgrass plants are very adaptive and can produce seeds at mowing heights as low as 1/2-inch. A single plant is capable of producing 150,000 seeds. These crabgrass seeds lay dormant in the soil for 15-20 years and overtime work to the surface. This is why it can be so difficult to eradicate.

In an All-Natural Organic Turf Care Program, the best control is to change the underlying soil conditions, along with proper cultural practices (see Summer Turf Tips). Overseeding and irrigation are all critical parts of the weed control program and vary throughout the growing season. Higher mowing helps shade the soil; robbing weed seeds of the light they need to germinate while helping to keep the soil cooler. Overseeding helps to thicken the stand of turf and crowd out weeds. Proper watering reduces compaction and encourages a deep root system so turf bounces back after the summer heat.

Remember, there is a reason crabgrass is growing ... is it low pH - low organic matter – low calcium - shallow soil depth – too much sun? We often say, “it's one thing to kill a weed and another to get grass to grow.” It takes time but work to solve the problem or it will return and a soil test is always a good place to start.



Summer Products

PJC ProHealthy Turf 8-0-6: (June)

An athletic field manager's dream product. Our most recommended fertilizer for high performance athletic fields – our 8-0-6 contains feather meal, soybean meal, and potassium sulfate. Our slow-release nitrogen makes this a perfect product to use in June before summer camps and club tournament play.

Neptune's Harvest Turf Formula 2-0-2 (Liquid). (July)

No phosphorous, all-natural, liquid fertilizer. Designed to help turf grass tolerate environmental conditions—such as high temperature and drought—while offering improved vigor, color and root density. Made with hydrolyzed fish, molasses, humate, seaweed, and yucca extract. It's a good addition to a granular program in July and early August.

PJC ProHealthy Turf Charge S3: (August)

Our proprietary soil conditioner contains Biochar, Blood Meal, Molasses, Kelp, Alfafa and Soybean Meal – creating a diverse food source for soil microorganisms as we transition from summer heat to fall weather. Charge S3 can be used anytime – but we have found Charge to be most effective with Late Summer aeration and overseeding – putting high quality organic directly into the root system while preparing an active food source for soon-to-be seedlings.

[Contact Us](#)

for recommendations
& pricing.

Flowering Weeds - A Shifting Mindset

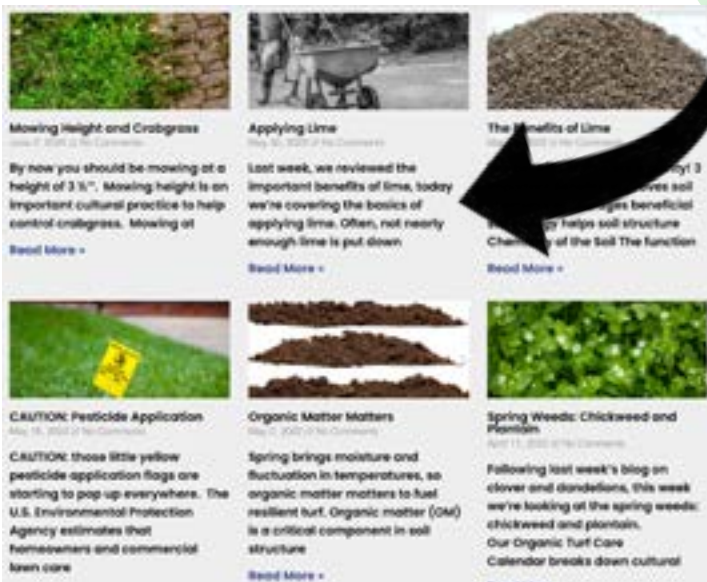
It has been very interesting and entertaining to tune in to Dr. Frank Rossi and his guests on [The Cornell Turf Show](#): The Fastest 30 Minutes in Turf spring webinar series. The April 15th "Better Soil, Cleaner Water" webinar with Doug Soldat and Dr. Rossi focused on soil. In addition, they also introduced the idea: "Don't kill your weeds, don't call them weeds anymore, call them lawn pollinator plants". The idea is to rethink past practices of eradicating flowering plants from the lawn. Most flowering weeds bloom under the canopy, so by implementing relaxed mowing (3" to 4" May, June and July) it allows more flowering plants to thrive in a lawn setting and feeds the pollinators throughout the season. The concept of relaxed mowing will take time as you embrace more diversity in the lawn. As Shakespear puts it: "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet".



Keep up!

Follow us on [Instagram](#) & check out our [Blog](#).

We post weekly updates relevant to the industry, products, and cultural practices!



SUPPORT SERVICES for Landscapers & Municipalities

You asked and we delivered! PJC is increasing our support services offerings for both municipalities and landscapers. Be on the lookout for our new All-Natural Organic Turf Care program and package offerings this July.

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT:

DANA Designs

Dana Millar of [Dana Designs](#).

Dana is a NOFA AOLCP and PJC Customer since 2009. [Check out his feature](#) in ECO RI Spring 2022 Newsletter. Dana dives into the foundation of an organic approach and the resiliency of organic lawns.

Upcoming Summer Events PJC will be at...

[19th Annual New England Turf Show](#)

New England's Longest Standing Annual Turf Show! SFMA and PGMS Join NEPA for a day of Education.

June 22nd 8:00am-2:30pm
Portsmouth Highschool, Portsmouth, NH,
8:00am-2:30pm.

[UConn Turfgrass Field Day](#)

Presentations on cutting edge research in lawn care, sports, and golf turf management.

July 28th 7:30am-1:30pm
UConn Plant Science Research & Education
Facility

Not only do we run a family business, we also love to have FAMILY FUN...

Catch us at Gravel Bike Events this Summer:
-The Ranger: June 12 – Tunbridge, VT
-SBT GRVL: August 14 – Steamboat, CO
-The Overland: August 27 – West Windsor, VT