

Eco-Turf Talk



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practical approach
proven products

PJC's Ten Turf Tips

for Your Late-Summer & Fall Growing Season. by Sean Breckin

As we transition out of July heat and into prime turf growing season – we want to make sure that you are checking all of your boxes for growing lush green grass – ORGANICALLY! Don't skip a beat these next few weeks and set yourself up for your best growing season yet. Take a look at our Summer Stress Recovery Checklist to make sure you are transitioning out of summer and setting up for a successful fall.

1. Soil Test –

Every 3 years perform a soil test. For accurate results, be sure to test at least 6 weeks after your last fertilizer application. In addition, do so before any late summer product apps. Run your tests through us to make your product recommendations easy & keep your focus on turf.

2. Irrigation Audit –

If you are able to water - test and check all of your irrigation heads to ensure you are maximizing coverage on your lawns and fields. Water is a precious resource. Accordingly, watering efficiently will help give your established turf and germinating seedlings the best chance to take root and push tall shoots. [Check out our 1-2-3-2-1 Method Here.](#)

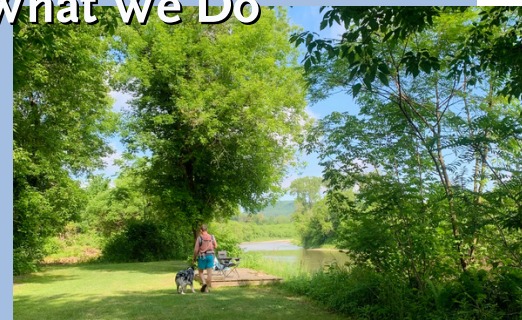
3. Sharpen Mower Blades –

After 8 hours of use, be sure to sharpen your mower blades! This prevents damage to grass blades. If you notice your grass has white tips it's an indication that your dull mower blades may be tearing the grass. Also remember to keep grass height at 3 1/4" to crowd out weeds.

4. Core Aeration –

You can start as soon as August 1st on irrigated lawns, or as early as August 15th on non-irrigated ones. Core aeration is one of the best methods of alleviating soil compaction there is! Be sure to use hollow tines as solid tines only perpetuate compaction problems. (continued p. 2)

What We Do



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.



PJC's Ten Turf Tips

continued...

5. Overseed –

Take advantage of those aeration holes and introduce a new crop of turf. Late summer overseeding provides the best window for seedling germination and establishment – giving you a more diverse and resilient turf stand year after year. Grass seed is your weed control!

6. Charge Your Soil! –

Apply PJC ProHealthy Turf CHARGE-S3 to prime your soil and turf for the upcoming season. Applying directly after aerating puts precious nutrients directly into the root zone – priming the biosphere for a long-term feed.

7. Feed Your Turf! –

Apply PJC ProHealthy Turf Organic Fertilizers within a few weeks of Charge S3. This will provide balanced nutrition for soil microorganisms and your soon-to-be flourishing turf. We provide a wide range of fertilizers to make sure you achieve your annual fertility needs.

8. Overseed Again –

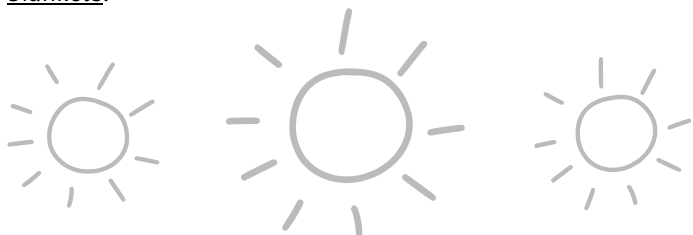
We know, you just wrapped up this critical cultural practice, but for our High Performance Customers – taking advantage of this incredible weather window is critical to the success of high-use fields. We recommend this in the form of another aeration and overseed or a slice seed. Find out more about tiered programs here: Landscapers, and Schools & Municipalities.

9. Apply Calcium –

An oft forgotten but essential macro nutrient. Calcium is integral to a healthy turf plant and a nutrient dense soil. Whether you are looking to increase a low pH, alleviate compaction chemically, chelate essential metal ions for plant uptake or increase cation exchange capacity—we have the product set for you! Use High Efficiency Lime, Gypsum or Humic+ respectively to achieve different calcium needs for your soil – the added humate in all three helps with CEC. Be sure to apply these before the ground freezes. October 15th is usually a safe closing window.

10. Turf Blankets –

Now that we've helped you through a successful growing season – keep that effort growing by overwintering with turf blankets.



Pest Spotlight: GRUBS



by Pam Newcombe

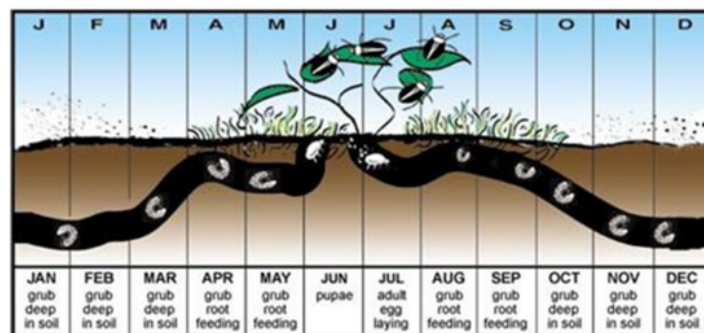


diagram source: University of Minnesota Extension Service

The beetles are flying and a sure sign that grubs are coming...Dun dun dunnn...

In the Northeast, there are four species of grubs that cause problems in turf: European Chafer, Asiatic Garden Beetle, Oriental Beetle, and the Japanese Beetle. Beetles feed on the plants in your garden. They then lay eggs in your yard that turn into grubs. The grubs feed on the grass roots before cooler temperatures move them deep in the soil.

The best time to scout for, and treat grubs, is the end of August through mid-September when they are small and in their first instar. Before treating you should first determine you have a problem. Cut a square foot of sod on three sides with a shovel, fold it back to expose the soil and count the grubs checking both the root system and soil. If the turf is dense with a good root system, then it can withstand pressure of up to 8 grubs per square foot.

Should you have an infestation that merits treatment, we have had success using both hB nematodes and cedar oil. hB nematodes are semi-aquatic; relying on soil moisture to move about in the soil hunting for their grub hosts. Given the moderate to severe drought conditions being experienced in the Northeast—particularly along the coast—we are leaning towards cedar oil this season. You don't need to spray the entire yard, just the affected area and edges using a pump or backpack sprayer.

Cultural practices also help to minimize infestation:

- remove the attractor plants
- add shade trees since beetles like it hot and sunny
- improve organic matter to support bio diversity
- and promote deep grass roots by watering deep and mowing high.
- Areas that have been damaged should be top dressed and over seeded in the fall.

Over the years we have found that we had to treat very few instances of grubs on our organic properties. The reason for this is that while the beetles may have laid eggs; they never grow into white grubs because there is a healthy predator/prey relationship and the eggs are eaten by ants, springtails or earthworms.

PJC PRODUCT RECOMMENDATIONS

f o r l a t e - s u m m e r / f a l l



PJC ProHealthy Turf 7-0-2+

Our 7-0-2+ formula is made up of soybean meal, blood meal, and molasses – providing short, medium and long-term food sources for the soil microorganisms. Additionally, the “+” designation indicates PJC ProHealthy Turf inclusion of soil amendments with the fertilizer. In this case – the “plus” includes humic acids which improve cation exchange capacity. Humic acids chelate Calcium, Magnesium and Iron ions making them more bioavailable for the turf grass. Don’t miss out on this two-for-one fertilizer this fall!

[contact us](#)

Calcium Products (Lime, Gypsum, Humic+)

You’ve heard us talking a lot about the importance of calcium this month – the plant macro nutrient plays a major part in soil structure and soil chemistry. Typically applied in two forms: Lime (calcium carbonate) or Gypsum (calcium sulfate dihydrate). Lime is used primarily to increase soil pH while simultaneously increasing calcium presence in the soil. Gypsum is used as a calcium additive for soil that does not impact pH – but does improve soil structure by putting strong calcium ions onto soil particles – increasing soil porosity and decreasing compaction. Humic+ is a calcium carbonate based product with a high humic acid concentration. Delivering bioavailable calcium ions and making other plant nutrients more bioavailable.

[contact us](#)



Cedar Cure

Late Summer marks the start of grub season. Anecdotally, our long-term organic lawns don’t show a lot of grub pressure. The soil ecosystem is in much better balance with our practical approach. However, grubs can still be a pest and one that we like to manage with cedar cure. This cedar oil based product has proven effective in spot treatments of grubs in the late summer and fall season.

[contact us](#)



IN THE NEWS



City of Norwalk, CT Passes Pesticide Ordinance

June 28, 2022 - In response to the public's desire for more conscientious care for their community and environment – lawmakers voted to cut the cord on use of toxic pesticides. "The City of Norwalk recognizes that the health and safety of the people must underlie municipal action. It is also in the best interest of the City and its residents to protect the ecological integrity of the Long Island Sound and Norwalk's rivers and streams and to improve and protect water quality throughout the region."

The ordinance recognizes the adverse effects pesticides have on soil microbiology, wildlife, water resources ... and more importantly pregnant women, children and pets. The purpose of creating the ordinance is "to promote a healthy environment that protects its residents, waterways, and wildlife from the risks inherent in pesticides by prohibiting or restricting their use on all City-owned grounds." City of Norwalk follows nearby Stamford, CT who passed an ordinance September 2021. City of Norwalk's new regulations go into effect January 1, 2023.

Source: [City of Norwalk Ordinance](#) (page 121-124).

See [Beyond Pesticide's website](#) for more info.

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"Forever Chemicals"

PFAS chemicals (perfluoroalkyl & polyfluoroalkyl substances) have been dubbed "forever chemicals", because they are extremely persistent, lasting thousands of years in the environment, as well as build up in our bodies. It has been shown that PFAS, even in low amounts, have been connected to a host of health problems.

Information about PFAS contaminating our soils is making it into the news. [Patagonia ran a story](#) on Dandelion Spring Organic Farm in Bowdoinham, Maine who is facing a threat to their livelihood and health of the community due to sludge that was spread on the fields by the previous owners. University of Maine is investing in PFAS research to understand the extent of PFAS pollution in Maine and [find solutions](#).

This past March water tests at a composting facility in Westminster, MA revealed the highest amount of PFAS ever detected in a private well in the state – at least 218 properties in the surrounding area may have contaminated drinking water ([boston.com](#)).

These highly toxic chemicals were common in conventional agricultural practices and have been wreaking havoc for decades – disrupting the now organic farms that have since taken over the land. Many organic turf care principles are founded on what we have learned from our brothers and sisters in agriculture. The urgency to switch to organic management systems for our turf and food is as apparent as ever. Providing sustainable, healthy food sources for the next generation starts with stable and healthy soils.

Account for the Drought — SEVERE DROUGHT IN THE NORTHEAST

Visit the [Drought Monitor](#) for updates on rainfall conditions.

