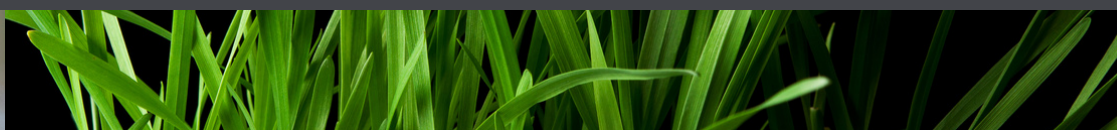


# Eco-Turf Talk

## ORGANIC LAWN CARE NEWSLETTER



## WHAT WE DO

PJC Organic is the manufacturer of ProHealthy Turf Organic Products & distributor of soil amendments. We provide product and 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.

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## SPRING TURF TIPS by Sean Breckin

It seems that Winter barely showed its face this season, and we're already prepping for these Spring organic turf care tips. Take a look at our top 10 list to get your season off to a great start!

### 1. Equipment Preparation.

You likely overwintered your equipment, but time is running out for final details of your equipment. Check and adjust your grass trimmer line as needed. Sharpen your mower blades. Fill your portable gas tanks. Exercise the engines in the parking lot before loading them into your trailers.



### 2. Finalize Seasonal Product Volumes for Early Commitment Pricing.

Your customers should be sending back their signed contracts by now. Keep track of each customer, the program they signed up for, and update your product volumes. Being disciplined on your administrative work pays massive dividends for your operational work. Reach out to PJC Organic pre-season to firm up your early commitment pricing for seasonal product savings and streamlined deliveries. (cont'...)

## SPRING TURF TIPS continued...

### 3. Soil Test.

A must for any organic turf care customer. Soil test results provide the starting point for program recommendations. Take the guess work out and keep the sale objective. Soil tests show your clients information on how to best influence their underlying soil conditions. Or better yet, run your soil tests through PJC Organic and we'll provide you with the collateral needed to make your sales even easier.

### 4. Spring Clean-Up.

No matter how much time you spend on fall clean-ups, winter has its own plans. Repair any damaged areas from winter puddles or snow plows, remove any wet leaves (don't aggressively rake), pick up fallen sticks, prune trees and shrubs, edge and mulch your garden beds. Set the stage for a successful growing season and get ready to enjoy the spring weather.

### 5. Remove your turf blankets.

If you follow along with our seasonal turf tips then you know the time is near to remove your turf blankets. Even though this winter was mild – the turf blankets are still doing their work for early spring green up. Be mindful of temperatures to time your removal for best early spring production.

### 6. Mow High.

Once you've finished debris clean up, repairs and removed turf blankets – mow high or perform a “clean-up” cut. This helps encourage your turf to stand up straighter. In addition, this practice chips up any leftover organic matter missed in your spring clean-up. It also gives you a chance to see if anything needs to be adjusted or repaired on your mower. Once your cleanup is done lower your height of cut to 2 ½” for the first couple of cuts to push lateral growth, raising HOC to 3 ½” by mid-May. Be sure to return clippings to get the organic matter back into the soil.

### 7. Apply Lime according to soil test results.

Spring is a great time to apply lime. The overnight freeze-thaw cycles help work the calcium into the soil profile and gives you a jumpstart on raising soil pH based on your soil test results.

### 8. Boost your Turf!

PJC Organic's newest product, Boost+S3, is designed to meet the turf grass and soil's needs coming out of winter. Its high mineral composition is meant to decrease compaction and increase nutrient holding capacity. All the while, chelated iron increases chlorophyll production in the turf plant. The soil microbes are still waking up from winter, so give your turf a head start this spring with Boost+S3!

### 9. Remove Weeds.

Dandelions will be starting to pop as soon as temperatures allow. So, be proactive and pull weeds. Broadleaf weeds do a great job of greening up before turf. Therefore, these weeds grab foothold on local soil nutrients and crowd out turf plants before they can grow. The best management practice in an organic turf care program is mechanical removal of weeds. Take a few minutes a day to enjoy the outdoors and pull some dandelions (try the Fiskar 4-claw Weeder). Another benefit of an organic lawn is that you can fry these dandelion greens up with some bacon fat for breakfast the next day—a win-win!

### 10. Fertilize Your Turf with PJC ProHealthy Turf All Natural Organic Fertilizers.

Now's the time to get ahead of your workload. Take into account these Spring organic turf care tips and plan their implementation for the weeks ahead. Looking for more info on our practical approach and proven products? You can always reach out via email or phone. We love to talk about how you can take organic turf care to the next level.





## SOIL AMENDMENTS

### BOOST+S3

PJC's newest product, designed to meet your soil's needs coming out of Winter! BOOST+S3 is a soil conditioner and bio stimulant used to improve soil chemistry, soil biology, and soil structure. It is made from plant proteins and essential minerals (calcium, sulfur, and iron) plus 2.75% humate. Its high mineral composition is meant to decrease compaction and added humates increase nutrient holding capacity. All the while, chelated iron allows early mineral uptake increasing chlorophyll production in the turf plant. The soil microbes are still waking up from Winter, so give you turf a head start this Spring with BOOST+S3. (Apply March-April)

### CHARGE-S3

PJC's CHARGE-S3 is made from biochar, molasses, kelp, animal and plant proteins. Use throughout the season to improve soil chemistry, soil structure and soil biological activity (S3). CHARGE-S3 is a steady food source, increases nitrogen fixation, nutrient retention and cycling; while making Ca, Mg, K, P and other micronutrients more bioavailable. It aids in water retention and absorption of inhibitory compounds, all while adding a carbohydrate source to help soil bacteria proliferate! (Apply May-June)

Adding these products to your program can enhance early season turf response; enabling you to meet the demands around commencement, spring athletics or simply high expectation clients. The Spring sets the stage for your lawn's success in the upcoming months.



## PJC PRO HEALTHY TURF® All-Natural Organic Fertilizers

PJC ProHealthy Turf Fertilizers are formulated to feed soil microbes, improve your soil and keep the environment safe. Our lineup features different products to meet different needs

### OMRI listed 6-0-6

OMRI listed 6-0-6 is an amazing product for home lawns and parks, the medium length nitrogen feed keeps turf happy for 6-8 weeks

### 7-0-2+

7-0-2+ is a 2-in-1 fertilizer and soil conditioner that has added humates which increase soil nutrient holding capacity while also providing a short and medium nitrogen feed for the turf

### OMRI listed 8-0-6

OMRI listed 8-0-6 has medium and long nitrogen food sources for the turf and is a mainstay on our high-performance athletic field programs.

PJC continues to add to its product line with the goal of further encouraging microbial activity, providing nutrients and enhancing soil chemistry options available while building on its core product offerings to create **HEALTHY TURF®**.

## PRODUCT PROMO

Not sure where to start?

Read more about our Soil Testing and Organic Turf Care Support Services for Landscapers, Schools & Municipalities on Page 6...

# —WEED SPOTLIGHT—

# CLOVER & DANDELIONS

by Pam Newcombe

In the spring the first competitors to show are clover, followed by dandelions. Weeds tell a story about what is going on in the soil so to understand what to do about them let's take a look at why they're there.



## CLOVER

Clover is a cool-season perennial that spreads by seed and creeping branched stems. It is more likely to establish itself during a cool, wet spring before the turf grass starts growing. Some consider clover to be a weed. However, clover can be a beneficial plant because of its ability to obtain nitrogen from the atmosphere and 'fix' it in nodules on its roots. Clover will germinate in soil temperatures as low as 45° while cool season grasses prefer soil temperatures in the 60° – 65° range. It does well when there is not a lot of nitrogen available in the soil. Additionally, when turf grass is thin, light can reach the soil surface and encourage the clover to germinate. Because clover seeds have a hard coat they can survive in the soil for long periods of time until conditions are right to encourage their germination. The presence of large areas of clover in a lawn or athletic field indicates the area is not receiving adequate fertilization and more nitrogen is needed. Some things that you can do: Increase Turf Coverage through more vigorous over-seeding program; Fertility review your fertility program and increase delivery of nitrogen; Lime to maintain pH of 6.5 to 7.0 which is critical to desired soil biology and fertilizer effectiveness; Organic Matter focus on improving levels of OM to help buffer soil conditions. Higher height of cut, deeper roots, add to OM.



## DANDELIONS

Dandelions are a perennial broadleaf with thick taproot. It spreads by seeds and new shoots from roots. It can be difficult to control since their seeds travel via the wind. Maintain a dense stand of turf to prevent the dandelion seed from finding its way to the soil. To eliminate areas where dandelion seeds can get a foothold, thin areas of your lawn should be regularly over-seeded. Dandelions also like soils that are slightly acidic and low in calcium. Large dandelion rosettes are an easy indicator of low levels of calcium in the soil. It is important to have your soil in the proper pH range (6.5–6.8). Use a calcitic lime to improve calcium levels while raising pH to favor the growth of grass. Once pH is in range gypsum may be used to continue to increase calcium levels. If possible, bag grass clippings when dandelions are in flower to prevent spreading the seeds.



As our Organic Turf Care Calendar outlines: It can't be overstated enough to work in the Spring and Fall to establish dense and healthy turf that will out compete annual weeds.

# INDUSTRY NEWS

## **HAPPENINGS** CT NOFA's Winter Conference | Middletown, CT

**March 11th, 2023**

Sean from PJC Organic will be presenting at the NOFA-CT winter conference. He will be educating on the principles of organic turf care through the lens of our "Healthy Turf Circle." We take a deeper dive into soil health and the best products to grow high performance turf grass. [Learn more →](#)

## **HAPPENINGS** NEPA Spring Meeting | Worcester, MA

**May 11th, 2023, 10am-2pm**

Includes great educational and training opportunities for Parks and Recreation, Sports Field Managers, School Maintenance, Municipalities, Universities, and more! [Learn more →](#)

## **Senate to Consider Legislation to Protect America's Children From Toxic Pesticides**

by Fred Newcombe

On February 2nd, Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ) reintroduced legislation in the form of the Protect America's Children from Toxic Pesticide of 2023. This was done to increase protections for frontline farmworkers, children and agricultural communities from harmful, potentially lethal pesticide exposure. Why is this so significant to PJC?

Almost five years ago, Pam and I attended the 36th National Pesticide Forum put on by Beyond Pesticides in Irvine, CA. Whenever possible we make the choice to eat organic. But after lunch on Saturday there was a talk on Farmworkers, Families, and Health given by Raul Garcia, Lety Lopez, Lupita Gonzalez, Gustavo Martinez and moderated by Angel Garcia (community organizer for Californians for Pesticide Reform). All were young adults that had spent many years working in the fields of Tulare County, the most productive county in the U.S. in terms of agricultural revenue. Their presence and words highlighted the dangers of pesticides on farm workers and their families. It helped drive home that by seeking out organic food options each of us can have a direct impact not only on our own health but on the health and well-being of farm workers and their children.

So, Why Organic Fertilizers?

There is growing concern regarding the use of synthetic (chemical) fertilizers and pesticides and their effects on our children's health, our health, the health of our pets and our environment. These fertilizers contain mostly water-soluble nitrogen (WSN) and are activated by water. Nutrients are released faster than the plant can take up or the microbes can break down for storage in the soil. Therefore, there is leaching and run-off which is wasteful and harmful to the environment. The salts from the chemical fertilizers also adversely affect the organisms in the soil that provide the healthy environment your plant needs to grow. While chemical fertilizers can meet some nutrient needs of the plant that is all they can do. Your plant becomes dependent on the chemicals to grow rather than getting the nutrients from the soil.

The basic principle of an organic fertilization program is to feed the soil biology and let the soil biology feed the plants. PJC's ProHealthy Turf All-Natural Organic Fertilizers provide the organic materials and nutrients that make it possible for indigenous soil microorganisms to thrive and proliferate. It is these microbes that break down the organic materials and nutrients into a form which allows them to be stored in the soil. Then, in response to a signal of specific need from the plant, they release the appropriate nutrient in a form and at a rate which allows the plant to take it up. After the nutrients are consumed or stored, the husks of organic matter remain. This helps to improve water retention and soil tilth, therefore creating an environment from which spring vigorous healthy plants.

# FEATURED PJC ORGANIC SUPPORT SERVICES FOR 2023

———— practical approach  proven products ————

*Want to implement an Organic Turf Care (OTC) program but don't know where to start? We've got you. Step by step ...*

## 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.

## ORGANIC TURF CARE PROGRAMS for LANDSCAPERS



*Property maintained by Complete Land Organics using PJC products and Organic Turf Care Program.*

Whether you're looking for organic products or you want help developing an organic fertilization program, we offer quality products and business resources to seamlessly integrate organics. Our approach is not a franchise or quasi – franchise. We assist in putting together an All-Natural Organic Turf Care Program that works, is profitable and suited for your business.

- **ORGANIC TURF CARE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**
- **ORGANIC TURF CARE PROGRAM AUDIT**
- **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**
- **EMAIL & TELEPHONE SUPPORT!**

## ORGANIC TURF CARE PROGRAMS for SCHOOLS & MUNICIPALITIES

Schools and municipalities are showing their students and the community the importance of environmental stewardship. How to make the change can be challenging while trying to juggle your other responsibilities. PJC Organic works with your maintenance team and/or service provider to tailor an All-Natural OTC program that is easy to follow, effective, and fits your budget.

- **ORGANIC TURF CARE TRANSITION TRIAL**  
(up to 2 fields)
- **ORGANIC TURF CARE FULL PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT**  
(up to 10 fields)
- **ON DEMAND SERVICES:**  
Site visit & assessment, Operations Guide, Staff Training
- **EMAIL & PHONE SUPPORT!**



*Stamford, CT utilizing PJC products & Organic Turf Care Program.*