



Eco-Turf Talk

ORGANIC TURF CARE NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2023

ISSUE 5

WHAT WE DO

PJC Organic provides 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. We are the manufacturer of ProHealthy Turf Organic Products & distributor of soil amendments.

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PJC'S FALL TURF TIPS

Finish off your landscape season strong and get prepped for winter and next season with our top 10 checklist:

1. Apply PJC ProHealthy Turf Products

Depending on your program, you are in the last application of fertilizer or soil amendments—or both! A fall fertilization is the best way to enhance leaf blade development, encourage a healthy root system, and add necessary food to the soil biome. Try our new soil conditioner BOOST+S3 for your last application. This product was designed specifically for fall as chelated iron helps 'harden' off turf before the winter. The added BOOST comes from the gypsum and humates which improve soil structure and add soil nutrients!

2. Fall Seed

In New England we don't recommend seeding after October 15th. If summer weather continues dripping into fall, you may be able to work in one last seeding. For quick germination this time of year we recommend a Tri Rye.

3. Repair and Regrade

Whether your organic turf care program is supporting sports or backyard barbecues, a level surface is critical to safety. Evaluate areas that need repair and regrading. High traffic areas that always need extra attention (i.e. goal mouths, face off "X", or baseball outfield positions). Always address safety first, regardless of the size of the problem. Then, work within your budget to maximize repairs each year. Be sure to get on top of these areas while the repair is small—these damaged areas are like tooth decay and will not get better on their own. Bare soil, if left unattended, is an invitation for weeds to take hold in the spring.

PJC Organic recommends using a loam compost blend and overseeding with any of our suggested seed blends. For quick coverage – especially in the fall, overseed with a perennial rye blend. Be aware that the Kentucky blue and turf type tall fescue used this time of year likely won't germinate until late next spring. A leveling rake is a great tool and easy way to level the area to the adjacent areas for a consistent playing surface. Remember - Grass seed is your weed control!

4. Adjust your Water Cycle

Follow the 1-2-3-2-1 watering method for your Irrigation System. Fortunately, we can often rely on rain and cool overnight temperatures in the fall. If necessary, give your grass one long water cycle per week and let nature do the rest.

(cont. on page 2...)



PJC'S FALL TURF TIPS cont.

5. Mulch Your Leaves

Leaves can often be seen as a nuisance in the fall, but in an organic turf care program they add value. Mulching leaves allows organic matter to be brought into soil by earthworms and other first level consumers (fungi, bacteria, actinomycetes) that is critical for turf and soil health. Typically, this benefit is accomplished throughout the season by returning grass clippings. When turf shoot growth slows, leaves serve as the next best thing! Be sure to keep the mower deck high, ensure your blades are sharp, mow slowly and chop the leaves into small bits for your soil biology to consume. So, save time, money, energy, and organic matter by mulching your leaves as far into the season as is practical.

6. Lower your mowing height

We love to Mow High – May, June, July. Although, when we head into winter, we want to gradually take that mowing height down. Decrease height from 3 ¼" all season to about 2.5" Pre-Winter. This process can take a few mows, so be conscious of it starting in October. The 2.5" height should be done for your last two mows of the season and once all the leaves are off the trees.

7. Irrigation Blowout

Make any final adjustments and repairs to your irrigation system before you blow out the system. Irrigation systems are a major investment and valuable tool in a turf grass program. Make certain to do a thorough blowout before soil temperatures drop below freezing by early December.

8. Winter Turf Blankets

A requirement for PJC High Performance fields. Winter turf blankets provide a great way to protect key areas and encourage early spring green up in high traffic zones. Goal mouths, mid field, and areas between the 'hashes' take a beating in every sport. Turf blankets offer the best way to cheat nature and add a few weeks of extra growth opportunity pre and post season.

9. Dormant Seeding

If you have extra seed laying around – get it in the ground! An uncommon practice but one that has proven results. Dormant seeding ensures that you are getting all your seed in the ground and not feeding the mice over the winter. This practice should only be done when air and soil temperatures are cold – we mean cold, cold. Warm temperatures can cause early germination and not give the roots time to get established before winter (unless under a turf blanket). Do this practice in December through February for best results.

10. Get Some Rest!

Landscaping is tough and demanding work. Make sure to take some time to recharge after the long season. Enjoy the holidays – we are always available to bounce ideas off and help you grow, ORGANICALLY!

The overall success of an Organic Turf Care program is based on consistency over time. Taking a holistic approach to your program is essential. Therefore, looking through the lens of the Healthy Turf Circle will provide you the tools to succeed. Cultural Practices, Soil Biology, Soil Chemistry, Soil Structure are the core tenets to PJC Organic's Turf Care Programs.



FEATURED PRODUCTS

(continued on p. 3)

Benefits of Turf Blankets:

1. Allow for end-of-season field repairs
2. Protect key areas from harsh winters
3. Warm the soil; promoting faster growth and green-up in the Spring



TURF BLANKETS

High-use athletic fields do best when they get warmth and protection over winter. Goal mouths, mid field, and areas between the 'hashes' take a beating in every sport. Turf blankets add extra growth opportunity pre and post season.

All sizes available — from covering goal mouths to entire fields. This is an inexpensive investment that yields great results!



IN THE NEWS

After Aaron Rodgers injury, NFLPA calls for grass in all stadiums

ESPN September 13, 2023

The NFL Players Association's new executive director has called for the league to change all of its field surfaces to natural grass in the wake of Aaron Rodgers' season-ending injury... But Rodgers' injury sparked a widespread outcry for grass surfaces, and NFLPA executive director Lloyd Howell echoed those sentiments in a statement released Wednesday morning. "Moving all stadium fields to high quality natural grass surfaces is the easiest decision the NFL can make," Howell said. "The players overwhelmingly prefer it and the data is clear that grass is simply safer than artificial turf. It is an issue that has been near the top of the players' list during my team visits and one I have raised with the NFL." [Read more →](#)



October is Campus Sustainability Month

Campus Sustainability Month is an international celebration of sustainability in higher education. Throughout the month, colleges and universities organize events on campus and elsewhere to engage and inspire incoming students and other campus stakeholders to become sustainability change agents. The goal of CSM is to raise the visibility of campus sustainability and provide campus sustainability advocates with a platform through which to deepen campus engagement around sustainability.

[Learn more →](#)

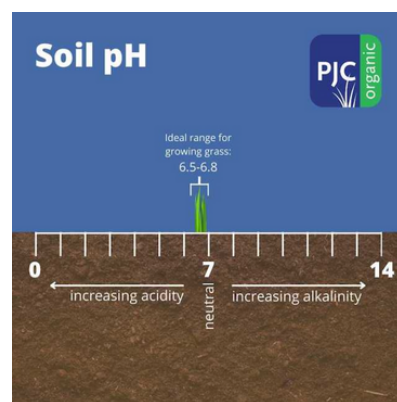
FEATURED PRODUCTS

FALL IS THE TIME TO LIME!

Did you know cool season turf grass grows best in soil with a pH of 6.5 – 6.8 and Ca:Mg ratio of 7:1-15:1? Soil in this range encourages root development, and increased microbial activity that contributes to the availability of nitrogen, sulfur and phosphorous in the soil, making available the macro and micro nutrients the grass needs to grow.

We are pleased to announce that Solu-Cal is manufacturing for PJC an Enhanced Calcitic Lime With 2% HUMIC ACID.

High Efficiency Lime with Humate works on neutralizing soil acidity quickly! Increases pH in weeks rather than months and covers more ground with less product. Realize major labor and product savings! PJC carries a variety of high efficiency and standard lime and calcium based products to meet different program needs.



ORGANIC TURF CARE PROGRAMS FOR 2024!

As the season starts to slow, we know it's tempting to ride the wave into hibernation. We encourage you to use this time and momentum to plan for Spring 2024!

Is your community or customers asking for organic alternatives to their fertilizer program? Are pesticide restrictions changing the way you manage turf? PJC is more than a supplier or organic products to the turf care industry...we work with landscapers, schools and municipalities to tailor an organic fertilization program that is practical and fits your business providing product, support and education. [Reach out!](#)

VIEW PRODUCT PAGE



KEEP UP! Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) & check out our [Blog](#). We post industry news, events, products, & cultural practices.



HAPPENINGS



Forum: Integrated Pest Management

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens

Wed. Oct. 18th 5pm

Five panelists will share introductory insight about common-to-emerging pest concerns, discuss practices, share resources available to Mainers, and feature recent studies and discoveries related to sustainable pest management. Come with your questions!

If you're around the Boothbay Maine area please consider joining!

LEARN MORE



NOFA's In-Person Accreditation Course — **POSTPONED** !

Formerly scheduled for Oct 30th-Nov 2nd in Portsmouth, NH.

This course has been postponed. Stay tuned on their [Facebook](#) page or join [NOFA's mailing list](#) for rescheduling updates.



NOFA's Online Accreditation Course — Begins Feb. 1, 2024

This self-paced format allows you to complete the course at your own pace during the month of February.

LEARN MORE



BLOG FEATURE

THE CONS OF ARTIFICIAL TURF

We're passionate about this topic (and have been getting a lot of calls inquiring about the pros and cons of synthetic v. natural fields). There's a lot more to this topic that we will cover in additional articles. For now, these two blogs provide an entry into the conversation and shed light on the all-too-controversial topic.

["Safety Concerns Associated With Artificial Turf"](#) — a good place to start regarding the increased risk of injury, exposure to chemicals and disease, and the Heat Island Effect on artificial fields.

["Synthetic Turf Fields Require Maintenance"](#) — Here we break down the myth that synthetic fields are maintenance-free.

VIEW BLOG PAGE

