



10 STEPS TO ORGANIC TURF CARE

1. SOIL TEST



Chart your course—A soil test provides the necessary information needed to establish a realistic turf management program. Test for pH, buffer pH, Organic Matter, Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC) and base saturation with a focus on calcium-to-magnesium ratio. A soil test should be taken every 3 years to monitor change.

2. UTILIZE PJC ALL-NATURAL ORGANIC FERTILIZERS

APPLY AN ALL-NATURAL ORGANIC FERTILIZER EVERY 7-10 WEEKS. Organic fertilizers feed the soil biology and the soil biology feeds the plant. Buy products that contain water insoluble nitrogen and low or no phosphorous.



3. ADDRESS SOIL CHEMISTRY

APPLY SOIL AMENDMENTS ACCORDING TO SOIL TEST RESULTS. Maintain pH between 6 and 7, ideally 6.5-6.7 using calcitic or dolomitic lime based on calcium-to-magnesium ratio. Rate & frequency is determined by buffer pH. To adjust calcium only, use gypsum.

4. ADDRESS SOIL STRUCTURE

APPLY SOIL AMENDMENTS ACCORDING TO SOIL TEST RESULTS. Improve Organic Matter & CEC using Charge-S₃ and Boost+S₃. Gypsum helps break up clay soils.

5. MOW PROPERLY



THE MOST IMPORTANT CULTURAL PRACTICE! Mow High - 3-1/2 inches to encourage deep roots and shade the soil. Cut no more than 1/3 of the grass blade at a time. Avoid mowing wet grass. Sharpen mower blades after every 25 hours of use to prevent tearing grass blade. Damaged grass blades lose moisture and are susceptible to disease.

6. RETURN GRASS CLIPPINGS

ADDS ORGANIC MATTER AND IS A NATURAL FERTILIZER = additional 1lb "N" in a season. Bag clippings when weed seeds and flowers are present (ie. crabgrass, dandelions) to mitigate further spread of seeds.

7. EFFECTIVE WATERING

Follow PJC's 1-2-3-2-1 Watering Method. Water deep, infrequently, and in the morning. 3/4 – 1.25" inch of water a week. Newly seeded areas and extreme heat water necessitate more frequent watering for shorter periods. Over-watering leads to compaction and disease.



8. CORE AERATE

RELIEVE SOIL COMPACTION. Aerate when grass is actively growing to allow grass roots to spread and improve air circulation in the root zone. Early Spring and Fall is the best time. Athletic fields should be aerated with higher frequency throughout the season.

9. OVER SEED



CREATE A DENSE STAND OF GRASS TO CROWD OUT WEEDS. In the Spring, seed slice thin areas. Top dress and over seed trouble spots. Broadcast grass seed when aerating and water to establish. Late Summer and Fall over seed is the best window for germination and establishment.

10. SCOUT FOR WEEDS & PESTS

WEEDS ARE AN INDICATION OF UNDERLYING SOIL CONDITIONS. Work at creating the environment grass requires to grow (steps 1-9) and in 3-5 years weeds diminish. In the meantime, manually pull weeds and re-seed bare areas. Treat grubs with hB nematodes or cedar product. Over-watering and improper mowing practices contribute to weed pressure.