

# Eco-Turf Talk

Organic Lawn Care NEWSLETTER



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## 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.

## Pennsylvania Campus Goes Organic

Announcement written by Mackenzie Feldman  
Re:Wild Your Campus, Project Director

"We have some exciting news to share with you. After over two years of our Drexel University students advocating for an organic campus and proving that organic management WORKS through a pilot project with PJC Organic, TODAY Drexel University announced that they are going all organic!! [Read about it here.](#)

We are SO happy and proud of the hard work and dedication our students have put into this cause. Most importantly, their patience and support towards the grounds team has been so inspiring to watch. As activists, we always want to see change happen really fast, and it's often hard to play the long game, meeting university grounds staff where they are and trusting it will work out in the end. I found myself often trying to push the students to move faster and be more aggressive in their advocacy so change could happen as quickly as possible, especially when grounds would make condescending remarks about how organic management would never work. But Drexel students, you taught and continue to teach me and the rest of the Re:wild Your Campus team so much about perseverance and the long-term benefits that come with moving slow and always showing empathy to the folks on the ground who will ultimately be responsible for implementing the change. You are leaving a lasting legacy on your campus, making it a safer place for all living beings.

Shoutout to PJC Organic for doing an amazing job on the organic pilot and we are so excited for your work to expand to the entire campus. Thank you to our Re:wild Your Campus family for your support. We couldn't do this without you all. Learn more about Re:Wild Your Campus [Green Grounds Certification.](#)"

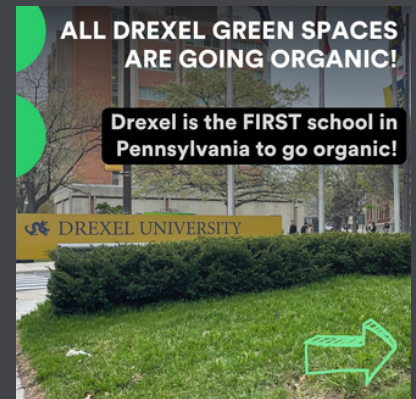


image source: @rewildyourcampus



# 10 Spring Turf Tips

by Fred Newcombe

Get your lawns and athletic fields off to a great start—print these tips out and start checking ‘em off!

1. **Equipment**—Sharpen your mower blades and have a second set ready to go. Check and adjust your grass trimmer line as needed. Fill your portable gas tanks. Exercise the engines in the parking lot before loading them into your trailers.
2. **Irrigation Check**—If you have an irrigation system, check for winter damage. Replace any heads that may have been broken. Check your watering schedule. Water deep: 1” week and in the morning when the time comes this Spring.
3. **Finalize Product Needs for Best Pricing**—Your customers should be sending back their signed contracts by now. Order for the season and take advantage of bulk pricing with split deliveries.
4. **Spring Clean-Up**—Remove leaves & sticks to avoid smothering and killing the grass as it begins to grow. Notably, be careful not to over-rake or dethatch. Over the winter, grass naturally dies and goes dormant. Aggressive raking can damage crowns of dormant grass, remove valuable organic matter, and create a thin lawn for crabgrass to take hold later in the season.
5. **Mowing**—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. Return clippings to get valuable organic matter back into the soil.
6. **Soil Test**—A must for any organic turf care customer! Soil test results provide the starting point for program recommendations, helps set customer expectations, determine products and keep your sales objective. Run your soil tests through PJC Organic and we’ll provide you with collateral to make your sales even easier.
7. **Repair Trouble Spots**—Bare soil is the first place weeds take hold. Seed slice or topdress and overseed with a loam/compost mix areas that are bare or looking stressed to help thicken the turf. In early spring we recommend perennial rye, fescues, and Bluegrass.
8. **Fertilize** with PJC ProHealthy Turf Fertilizers
9. **Apply Soil Amendments** according to soil test results.
10. **Address Weeds**—Broadleaf weeds do a great job of greening up before turf and dandelions will be starting to pop as soon as temperatures allow. So, be proactive and pull weeds. The best management practice in an organic turf care program is mechanical removal of weeds. We like the Fiskar Stand up 4 claw Garden Weeder. This is a service you can bill for rather than applying an herbicide.

## WEED SPOTLIGHT

Spring is here and the weeds are emerging. As the days get longer and the soil begins to warm, turf grass is coming out of dormancy and the race to establish a dense stand of turf begins. When scouting lawns and athletic fields, ask yourself why a weed is there. The short answer is: underlying soil conditions. Given the wet, cool New England Spring we’re having, expect to see more chickweed and clover this season. We wrote about common weeds and what to do about it in our April Blogs. Learn about them...

### CHICKWEED

[read more >](#)

### CLOVER

[read more >](#)

### DANDELION

[read more >](#)



# PJC ORGANIC'S SPRING PRODUCT LINEUP

practical approach  proven products

## April-May: ProHealthy Turf BOOST+S3

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. Can be used when soils are still cool

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.

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! (May-June)

## May-June: CHARGE-S3

## All Season: PJC ProHealthy Organic Turf Fertilizer

Our lineup features different products to meet different needs. OMRI listed products available. 3-4 applications a season based on expectations and use. Visit our website for [more information](#) →



### Soil Testing 1-2-3:

1. we send you the supplies
2. you dig the dirt and mail it to the lab
3. PJC interprets lab results and provides in a word document with your logo on it in an easy to understand format along with product recommendations.

[MORE INFO](#) >

## All Season: SOIL TESTING

Whether you're a landscaper looking to start an organic program, or you've been providing the service for years, it's important to remember that a solid program begins with a soil test.



Over the Winter, PJC's President, Fred Newcombe, completed Cornell University's Advanced Soil Health Certificate Course.

While he's always been our soil health guru, courses like this keep us young.

## HAPPENINGS

- April 25th, [CCLA Member Meeting](#)
- April 30th, [NHLA Landscaping for Water Quality](#)
- May 8th, [NEPA Spring Meeting](#)
- May 15th, [NHLA Landscape After Hours](#)
- [NOFA Accreditation Courses](#)
- Summer 2024, [Re:wild's Campus Ground Up Advocacy Bootcamp](#)