



MANAGING DANDELIONS ORGANICALLY

7 EXPERT TIPS FOR DECREASING DANDELIONS IN LAWNS & FIELDS

From the team at PJC Organic

Understanding Dandelions

Dandelions are easily recognized by their bright yellow flowers atop hollow stalks with deep taproots. Their long taproots can extend several feet down, making them resilient and hard to eradicate. While often viewed as pests, dandelions offer benefits, including: transportation of minerals to the soil's surface, pollinator support, and a great addition to soups, stews, and salads!

Dandelions thrive in:

- Compacted soils: Their taproots can penetrate hard ground.
- Low calcium levels: They often indicate calcium-deficient soils.
- Low fertility areas: They outcompete grass in nutrient-poor conditions.



Organic Management Strategies

1. SOIL TEST

Conduct a soil test to determine pH and nutrient levels. PJC tests for: pH, buffer pH, Organic Matter, Cation Exchange Capacity, P/K/Mg and % Base Saturation.

2. ADDRESS SOIL HEALTH

Based on soil test results:

- Adjust pH: Aim for a pH between 6.5 and 6.8.
- Apply High-Calcium Lime: Use high-calcium lime to correct deficiencies, which can reduce dandelion prevalence over time.
- Use Low/No Phosphorus Fertilizers: Reduce phosphorus to discourage dandelion germination.

3. AERATE

Alleviate soil compaction, promoting healthy root growth for turfgrass.

4. IMPROVE LAWN DENSITY

A dense lawn can prevent dandelion seeds from taking root. Regular overseeding, especially in thin areas, helps maintain turf density and reduces opportunities for dandelion establishment. Introduce competitive grass species to outcompete dandelions.





SPRING LAWN MOWING GUIDE

7 EXPERT TIPS FOR A HEALTHIER, STRESS-FREE LAWN

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5. MECHANICAL REMOVAL

Physically remove dandelions, ensuring the entire taproot is extracted. Simply removing the flower head is insufficient, as the plant can regrow from the remaining root. Tools like the Fiskars 4-Claw Weeder can assist in this process.

- Timing: Remove after rainfall when soil is moist for easier extraction.
- Dispose Properly: Bag and remove plants to prevent seed dispersal.



6. PROPER MOWING

- Mow High: Maintain grass at optimal heights to shade out weed seedlings.
- Manage Clippings: When dandelions are in bloom, bagging grass clippings can prevent the spread of seeds. Dandelions adapt to mowing heights, so this practice helps control their propagation.

7. PATIENCE!

Natural methods require time. Consistent application of these practices over several years will lead to a noticeable decrease in dandelion presence and promote a healthier lawn ecosystem.

Contact us today for professional advice on organic lawn management, or visit our website for more tips, tools, & trusted products.

A Holistic Approach to Lawn Health

Dandelion management is just one small part of a successful lawn care strategy. At PJC Organic, we help landscapers, schools, and municipalities combine proper cultural practices with:

- All-Natural Fertilizers
- Soil Amendments
- Soil Testing Analysis & Recommendations
- Organic Turf Care Program Development
- Education and Consultation

This practical, holistic approach is the foundation of turf that thrives—without the use of harsh chemicals.