

Eco-Turf Talk

ORGANIC TURF CARE NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2025

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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EARLY SUMMER TURF TIPS

Stay Ahead of The Heat

As early summer rolls in, landscapes are feeling the shift—longer days, warmer temps, and a fresh wave of turf management challenges. Whether you're maintaining home lawns, sports fields, or large properties, now is the time to strengthen your turf and prepare for summer stress.

At PJC Organic, we've compiled the top early summer turf tips to help you support healthy, resilient grass through the growing season—using organic principles and smart management strategies.

1. Mow High – May, June & July

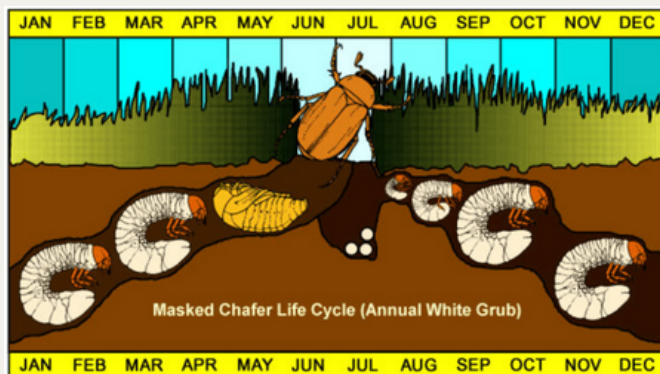
Raising mowing height promotes deeper root growth, which helps turf access water during hot and dry periods. Mow at 3.5–4" whenever possible, and follow the 1/3 rule—never remove more than one-third of the grass blade in a single mow. Sharpen blades after 25 hours of use to prevent tearing and return grass clippings to build organic matter.

2. Feed the Soil, Not Just the Grass

Your early summer fertilizer application is vital. We recommend using all-natural organic, water insoluble, slow-release fertilizers that feed the soil biology making nutrients available over time. PJC ProHealthy Turf granular fertilizers are ideal for delivering balanced nutrition while supporting microbial activity in the soil.

3. Monitor for Pests & Weeds

Due to the cool, damp conditions, clover is hanging around a little longer than usual, and there may be cases of red thread popping up. An early summer application of ProHealthy Turf will help both clover & red thread. Grubs are in the process of pupating into beetles and will fly away so not much to do about those now. To deter mosquitoes around seating areas consider use of a fan and remember get rid of standing water. When scouting, ask: "Why is this weed or pest here?" Poor soil health, compaction, or thin turf often create the conditions for outbreaks.



Pro Tip: Check out our "Pest Product Promo" on page 4 for info on Cedar & Mosquito Cure.

EARLY SUMMER TURF TIPS (cont...)

4. Irrigate Wisely

Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep root growth. Early morning irrigation is best to reduce evaporation and prevent disease. During drought periods or water bans, focus on high-value areas and communicate realistic expectations to clients.

5. Keep Up with Cultural Practices

Monitor Soil Moisture: Use a screwdriver test or moisture meter to check for dry zones or compaction. Prep now to aerate and over seed in late summer or early fall by identifying thin or compacted areas.

6. Communication is Key

Early summer can bring client concerns: brown patches, weeds, or insect activity. Use this time to educate clients about turf biology, organic practices, and realistic seasonal expectations. A well-informed client is a long-term partner in organic turf success.

The Organic Advantage

Organic turf care isn't just about products—it's a philosophy rooted in soil health, sustainability, and smart management. PJC Organic offers:

- Soil Testing & Product Recommendations
- All-Natural Fertilizers & Soil Amendments
- Customized Organic Turf Care Programs
- Organic 25(b) Pest Control Products

Need to Order?

We stock CedarCure, MosquitoCure™, granular fertilizers, and more—available for bulk order or by pallet. Call us for pricing and product support. 978-432-1019

Let's get your properties thriving this summer... with healthier soil, stronger turf, & satisfied clients.

WEED SPOTLIGHT

KEEP CRABGRASS IN CHECK

What It Is:

Crabgrass is a summer annual weed that germinates in late spring and thrives in hot, dry conditions often along sidewalks, driveways and over septic systems. Seeds can stay viable for over a decade and each plant is capable of producing a very large volume making it extremely difficult to manage. Once established, it spreads quickly across bare, weak or thinning turf, forming unsightly patches that can choke out desirable grass.



Why It's There:

Crabgrass typically invades when turfgrass is struggling, often due to:

- Low mowing heights
- Compacted or nutrient-deficient soil
- Poor irrigation practices
- Thin, bare, or damaged areas

Crabgrass is nature's way of covering open soil—but with proper cultural practices, you can prevent it from gaining a foothold.

Chemical-Free Control

At PJC Organic, we believe that a healthy, dense stand of turf is the best weed control. Here's how to manage crabgrass without synthetic herbicides:



Mowing

We can't say it enough - this is your first line of defense. Mowing at 3.5–4" beginning in June shades the soil, which cools the surface and reduces crabgrass germination. It also promotes deeper root growth in your desirable turf species. (cont. p 3)



PROPERTY FEATURES

Check out these gorgeous, **ORGANIC** fields at Shaw's Lane (Dover, NH)

*Photo and mowing credit to Dave from RAD LLC



"Sharing an image of the Casino which has never looked better! Thank you for your expert guidance."

- Sally, Horticulturist

...These emails from happy customers never get old.

Shout out to the Crane Estate, Ipswich MA for their environmentally friendly, all-natural turf care practices!

KEEP CRABGRASS IN CHECK (cont...)



Build Soil Health

Crab grass thrives in poor soil conditions - so flip the script. Healthy soil grows healthy grass. Adjusting pH, organic matter, cation exchange and Ca:Mg deficiencies is important to grow a healthy stand of turf. Soil test to guide soil amendment applications.

Limit Soil Disturbance

Frequent raking, dethatching, or aggressive aeration in spring can bring crabgrass seeds to the surface where they germinate. Time your maintenance practices wisely and avoid unnecessary disruption.

Thicken the Turf

Crabgrass loves bare spots. Over seed bare areas spring and fall with PJC's premium grass seed!. A thick, healthy lawn crowds out weeds naturally.

Water Wisely

Water deeply and infrequently to encourage deep rooting of turf grass. Shallow, frequent watering creates compacted soil which in turn favors crabgrass and other shallow-rooted weeds.

Be proactive!

Managing crabgrass organically means shifting your mindset from weed reaction to why do I have weeds. It's one thing to kill a weed -- it's another to grow cool season grasses.

Have questions about how to build a successful organic turf care program?

Call us or visit pjcorganic.com for support, soil testing, and proven organic products.



PRODUCT **Pest** PROMO **Control**

IN THE NEWS

Clients Complaining About Ticks & Mosquitoes?
Offer Natural Relief with Cedar Cure & Mosquito Cure.

Cedar Cure – Soil-Based Pest Control

Cedar Cure targets a wide range of turf pests—white grubs, ticks, ants, mosquitoes, chinch bugs, armyworms, and more. Formulated with cedarwood oil, it disrupts insect behavior by overwhelming their sensory receptors, causing them to flee and interrupting the reproductive cycle.

- ✓ Kills larvae and insect eggs in the soil
- ✓ Causes exoskeleton erosion for Dead Before Hatch effect
- ✓ Safe for people, pets, and pollinators
- ✓ Minimum-risk, 25(b) EPA-exempt pesticide

REQUEST PRICING 



Mosquito Cure

Fast Knockdown & Long-Lasting Repellent

Mosquito Cure offers powerful control and repellent action for mosquitoes and other landscape insects. Formulated with plant-based essential oils, it directly affects the pests' nervous systems—offering immediate knockdown and up to 4 weeks of protection.

- ✓ Fast-acting and long-lasting
- ✓ Safe for use around fish, children, and pets
- ✓ Made with essential oils, not synthetic chemicals
- ✓ Minimum-risk, 25(b) EPA-exempt pesticide

REQUEST PRICING 

Does the Grass Like Auto-Mowers?

In a recent study from Cornell (May 10, 2025), turfgrass researchers explored the impact of daily mowing via robotic mowers versus traditional weekly cuts. They found that:

- Denser turf: Both tall fescue and Kentucky bluegrass developed higher shoot and tiller densities under daily robotic mowing—translating to thicker, more uniform turf.
- Surprising thatch behavior: Contrary to concerns, thatch depth was actually lower in robotically mowed plots, despite increased organic material, possibly due to lighter machine compaction.
- Weed dynamics vary: Creeping weeds like clover may persist in cool-season turf, while some warm-season grasses showed improved weed control under the robotic regime.

The key takeaway? Consistency matters: Frequent cuts help maximize turf health and density—something auto-mowers excel at, making them especially useful for high-traffic areas such as athletics fields.

Read the full article by Carl Schiementi [here >](#)



PJC RESOURCES

[Mowing e-Guide](#)

[Managing Dandelions Organically e-Guide](#)

[Blog Page](#)

Follow us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#)
& check out our [Blog](#).

We regularly post industry news,
events, products, & cultural practices.

HAPPENINGS

Check out these upcoming opportunities to expand your knowledge and network in the landcare industry...

NEPA TURF SHOW

June 18, 2025 - Phillips Exeter Academy

In-Person - Full Day - Outdoor Event

Come see us at New England's Longest Standing Annual Turf Show!

Don't miss out on this great educational and hands-on training opportunity designed for Parks and Recreation, Sports Turf Managers, School Maintenance, Municipalities, Universities, and more! Learn new and improved maintenance techniques from top tier educators and spend time with commercial vendors demonstrating cutting edge equipment.

LEARN MORE



NOFA ACCREDITATION

If you're interested in becoming an accredited organic land care professional - either for yourself, or for your staff members - NOFA's fall courses are open for registration. Courses are scheduled for August and November. These online, asynchronous learning courses allow working professionals to achieve accreditation on their own schedule.

Each online course runs for about 6 weeks, during which students work at their own pace to complete the learning and have optional weekly meetings with instructors and OLC staff.

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The UConn Extension School & Municipal Turf/Grounds Workshop

Thurs. July 17, 2025 | Storrs, CT

Enjoy a full day of science-based presentations on managing healthy landscapes in schools and municipalities.

- Expert speakers
- Professional re-certification credits
- Tools, updates & hands-on knowledge
- Lunch included

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2025 UMASS TURF RESEARCH FIELD DAY

Wed. July 23, 2025 | South Deerfield, MA

Get the latest on turf research and education at UMass...

- Take a guided research tour with presentations & demos
- Hear about and see projects in the field
- Talk turf with UMass faculty and staff
- Network with colleagues in a festive atmosphere
- Meet with industry exhibitors at the trade show
- Get professional re-certification credits

Includes a continental breakfast & BBQ lunch!

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MNLA Summer Conference & Trade Show

Thurs. July 24, 2025 | Topsfield, MA

Professionals in the green industry will not want to miss this great summer opportunity for education, recertification, and networking! Down to Earth attracts more than 600 industry professionals representing garden centers, retail and wholesale nurseries, greenhouse growers, landscape contractors, maintenance, designers, and architects. It's the place to connect with industry colleagues and friends.

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CT Grounds Keepers Association's New England Ground and Ice Expo

August 19, 2025 | Durham CT

The region's premier event for landscaping professionals and snow management experts! This year, we've combined two events into one epic day: the Landscaping Equipment Showcase and the Snow Removal & Ice Control Seminar. This is your chance to dive into everything you need to elevate your business and skills! Double the education for attendees, Double the visibility for vendors, one POWERHOUSE event!

LEARN MORE

