

AUGUST 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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LATE SUMMER TURF TIPS

by Pam Newcombe

As we move out of the July heat and into prime turf-growing season, now is the time to optimize your efforts to grow lush, green grass organically this fall. Don't lose momentum; set yourself up to finish the season strong! Some areas have been creeping back to abnormally dry conditions these last few weeks and the current NOAA 3 month forecast is for potential above average temps through October with average precipitation outlooks ([Climate Prediction Center](#)).

1. Irrigation Audit

If you're watering, test and check all of your irrigation heads to ensure you are maximizing coverage. The goal is 1-1.5" a week taking into account natural rainfall. Check out our blog on [best watering practices](#) for more details.

2. Repair Trouble Areas

Bare soil invites weeds. Plan to break up compacted soil in trouble spots once temperatures begin to drop, top dress with a 60/40 quality loam-compost mix and grass seed, and blend with surrounding areas using a 2"x4" board or leveling rake; water thoroughly.

3. Mowing

Sharpen mower blades every 25 hours of use to prevent grass damage, disease, and water loss. Mow at a minimum of 3" (3.5"-4" preferred) to crowd out weeds. Return clippings to increase organic matter. Always clean mower decks between sites to avoid spreading disease.

Check out our blogs: "[What Height to Mow Lawns and Athletic Fields](#)" & "[Best Mowing Practices](#)"

4. Soil Test

Conduct a [soil test](#) every 2-3 years to determine soil amendments. Test at least 6 weeks after your last fertilizer application and before any late summer products are applied.

5. Core Aerate

Start once grass is actively growing (this can be as soon as August 1st for irrigated lawns, or as late as August 15th for non-irrigated ones). Aeration relieves compaction, improves water infiltration, and creates essential pore space for root growth. (cont p 2)



Do you spy the problem here?

Dark green center with dormant grass surrounding is a classic indication of a broken irrigation head.

LATE SUMMER TURF TIPS (cont...)

6. Over Seed

Grass seed is your weed control, SO use those aeration holes to introduce new seed! Late summer is the best time to establish turf. Read our latest [over seeding blog post](#).

7. CHARGE the Soil!

Apply [PJC ProHealthy Turf CHARGE-S3](#) immediately after aeration to deliver nutrients directly to the root zone. This supports microbial life and primes turf for fall growth.

8. Fertilize

Apply [PJC ProHealthy Turf All-Natural Organic Fertilizers](#) a few weeks after CHARGE-S3—or at the same time for efficiency—to supply balanced nutrition for soil microbes and thriving turf.

9. Apply Calcium

Often overlooked, calcium is vital for plant health and nutrient-dense soil. Choose [High Efficiency Calcitic Lime](#), [Gypsum](#) or [BOOST+S3](#) based on your soil's needs.

10. Scout and Treat Grubs

Scout between mid-August and mid-September. Cut a square foot of turf, fold back, inspect 3–4" deep, and count white grubs. Do this in at least 3 – 4 different spots around the lawn (typically sunny locations). More than 7 per square foot? Spot-treat only where needed with [Cedar Cure](#), [hb Nematodes](#) or [grubGONE](#). Typically, only border areas where you have found evidence of grubs need attention (generally < 1,000 SF).



Need to Order?

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978-432-1019 | info@pjcorganic.com

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

PEST SPOTLIGHT GRUBS

In the Northeast, beetles are flying & laying eggs, which become destructive grubs, especially in drought stress. Common beetles in our region include:

- European Chafer
- Japanese Beetle
- Asiatic Garden Beetle
- Oriental Beetle (often active in evenings)



GRUB SCOUTING

Late August through mid-September is the best time to start scouting for white grubs. Note: dry weather can delay egg-laying, so adjust your timing accordingly.

1. Cut three sides of a square, ~1 sq ft.
2. Fold back turf to expose roots.
3. Examine top 3–4" of soil.
4. Count white grubs.

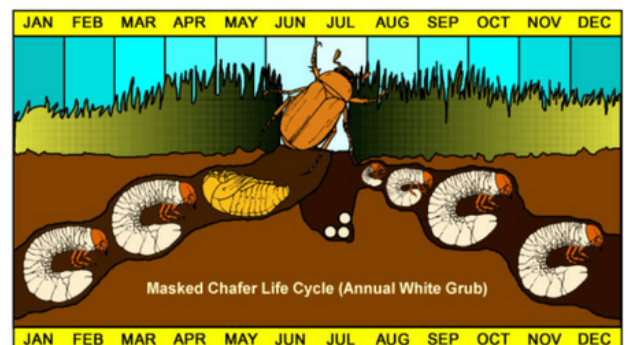
Tip: Scout in 3–4 sunny locations (prime beetle egg-laying areas).

If more than 7–8 grubs per SF are present, it's time to treat...

Treatment Options for Organic Lawns:

Cultural Practices

- Remove Attractor Plants: Such as roses, Japanese maples, grapes, zinnias, and mountain ash—favorites for adult beetles.
- Enhance Soil Biology: Promote a healthy soil food web to support natural predators like ants, springtails, earthworms, and beneficial microbes.
- Mow High: Keeping your grass taller encourages a deeper, stronger root system, which helps resist grub damage. (cont p 3)



GRUBS (cont...)

All-Natural Product Options (see product promo for details)

- Cedar Cure* (Cedar Oil): liquid - curative treatment.
- grubGONE!: granular product - preventive & curative treatment. (requires a pesticide license)
- hb Nematodes*: liquid - curative treatment. Requires moist conditions to be effective and have a limited shelf life.

Beneficial nematodes enter the grubs and consume them from the inside out. Nematodes are a 25b exempt product*

*check with your state pesticide regulatory agency to see if a pesticide license is required to apply 25b products
- this varies from state to state.

If you're maintaining an organic lawn, staying proactive with beetle and grub management is essential. Monitor beetle activity now, scout for grubs in late summer/early fall, and apply treatments early to prevent damage.

Contact us if you need help choosing the best organic solution for your property!



CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT

ORGANIC SOIL SOLUTIONS



What stands out about Organic Soil Solutions is their dedication to putting soil health at the heart of lawn care. Based in Acton, MA, they've been an all-organic company serving the Boston & Greater Boston Area since 1999. In step with PJC's approach, Organic Soil Solutions focuses on revitalizing the soil to support healthy lawns, trees, and shrubs. Their philosophy is simple but powerful: if you want a thriving landscape, you have to start from the ground up.

Here are excerpts from PJC's chat with Mike Murray (former owner) and James Murray (Mike's son & current owner). To read interview in its entirety see our [July 28th blog post](#).

How did you get started in the landscape industry?

Mike: I was in finance and operations at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. We hired Boston Tree Preservation to do some work. Having an interest in organics, I asked if they knew of any small companies for sale. They had a little lawn care division they were thinking of spinning off. I hired them to care for the lawn at my house and joined the team. I noticed that trees and shrubs fared better on properties not treated with synthetic lawn chemicals. I managed Soil Solutions for a year and in 2003, I took the leap and bought the company, and we've been helping landscapes thrive organically ever since.

How did the company change once James joined full time?

Mike: Truthfully, when James was in college, a professor said "the reason you're here is so you don't end up behind a lawn mower your whole life". Although, when he graduated, I had nobody to mow lawns. So, the first two years, all he did was mow.

I had no idea that he knew so much about construction and project management. So, he started doing some projects and we started buying more equipment. He was leading those projects and knew what he was doing. It was wonderful, it was an eye-opener.

In the beginning, we were focused on organic fertilization and mowing, and doing some projects — the project side really took off when James showed up.

James: At UMASS I was in the landscape Contracting program, where I learned about design and plants. It wasn't focused on organic lawn care. Once I got out, as the lawn care has grown, we've had to hire more full time employees enabling us to do more projects. We fill in with the basics of landscaping (mulching, clean ups, etc.). We work with designers and incorporate their plans, or work directly with customers for plant installations.

The lawn care is still the backbone of the company, and what feeds our other work. We've been able to diversify our service offerings to fill in the slow times. (cont p 4)

CUSTOMER SPOTLIGHT (cont...)

What about soil testing? Do you guys soil test your lawns?

We take a soil test for all new customers, and then generally every three years after that. If the pH is below 6, we'll test it consecutive years until we can get it to an optimal level. That's another thing that can be rewarding; you see it improve every couple years and it makes you feel like you're making a difference.

Any success stories to share?

Some of our biggest success stories have been on lawns that another company installed, and then the following year, the homeowner reaches out for help. We go, and the soil is typically really compacted or no organic matter. Then, we're able to incorporate all the nutrients with our organic program, and things really turn around.

Another is electric mowing - two years ago we made the switch to all electric lawn mowing (mowers, trimmers, and blowers). As towns have started to put restrictions on gas equipment we have tried to be ahead of the curve. It hasn't been all smooth sailing, but the advancements in technology in just the past two years has been amazing. I'm so excited to see where this goes and we are happy to be on the cutting edge of this side of the industry

Words of wisdom for someone entering the organic turf care arena?

James: soil testing, aerating, improving organic matter, and grass seed make all the difference in the world. Additionally, proper mowing practices...We mow 60-70 accounts. We leave the clippings and mow high. We don't always have that option if they hire someone else to do it. That's always a challenge; yards get scalped and don't grow deep roots and then they wonder why they have weeds. A lot of our best lawns are ones that we mow, because generally we're cutting higher than other companies (3.5 inches).

Mike: Someone told me 'every hour you're in the field, you're losing money because you're not growing the business'. And it's true; you can get behind if you're out working all day and then come home at night and try to work.

This month's customer spotlight, Organic Soil Solutions, is based in Acton, MA. For more information on their lawn care & renovation, soil drench beds, planting, and stone walks, visit their [website](#).



PRODUCT PROMO



Cedar Cure – Soil-Based Pest Control

Effective as a curative solution when applied as a soil drench at 8oz-16oz per 100 gallons of water using a backpack sprayer for spot treatments or tank sprayer for larger areas. Grubs' exposure to the cedarwood oil triggers the erosion of the exoskeleton.

16oz treats 50-100,000sf.

- ✓ Kills larvae and insect eggs in the soil
- ✓ Comes in 16oz, 1 gallon & 5 gallon containers.
- ✓ Minimum-risk, 25(b) EPA-exempt pesticide

[REQUEST PRICING](#) ➔



grubGONE!

Is a granular product that can be used as a preventive treatment when grubs are hatching late July or early August at 2lb/1,000sf or a curative treatment into the fall at 3lb/1,000sf. The active ingredient is *Bacillus thuringiensis* subspecies *galleriae* (Btg) that once ingested will kill the grub without harming beneficial insects. While grubGONE is an all-natural bio-insecticide, it is registered with the EPA and requires a pesticide license. Comes in 10 and 40lb bags.

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IN THE NEWS

New Connecticut Fertilizer Law on Biosolids and PFAS

There's been a lot in the news about PFAS (Forever Chemicals) in household products, soil, food, water pretty much everywhere. Connecticut leads the charge against PFAS. Starting July 1, 2025, fertilizers and soil amendments containing biosolids or sludge with PFAS are banned.

What Are Biosolids?

Byproducts from sewage treatment plants, often used in "organic-based" fertilizers due to low cost.

[Read full blog >](#)

At PJC, we believe you can make a difference.

Read labels. Choose better. Browse our [products](#). Check out our blog on [How to Choose an Organic Fertilizer](#).

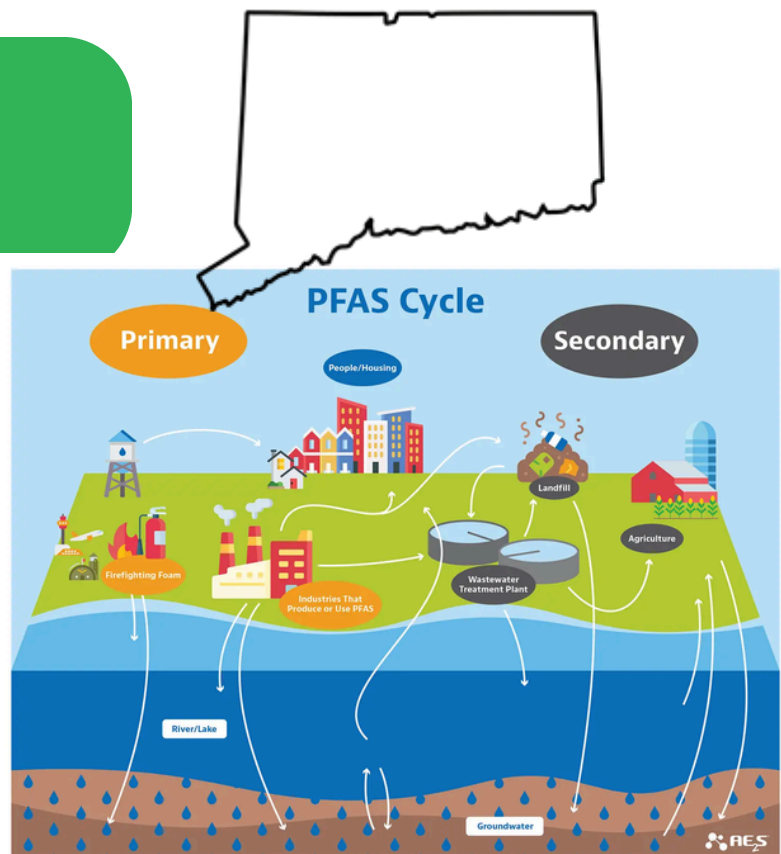


image source: ae2s.com

PJC Organic Premium Grass Seed

A thick, diverse, and tall turf canopy is your best defense against weeds and heavy foot traffic. The key?

Start with the right seed.

PJC Organic's premium grass seed blends are specially curated for exceptional performance in natural organic turf care. Our blends are developed using National Turfgrass Evaluation Program (NTEP) data to ensure they deliver proven results across seasonal conditions.

We carefully select varieties for:

- High germination rate (90% or better, except KB 85%)
- Heat, drought, sun, and shade tolerance
- Wear resistance for high-use areas
- Optimal nutrient needs
- Minimal weed seed and inert material

Whether you're maintaining fields, school grounds, parks, or lawns, we'll guide you in choosing the perfect blend to elevate your turf care success.

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HAPPENINGS

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

NOFA Accreditation Course in Organic Land Care, Aug. & Nov.

The online, asynchronous learning course allows 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.



[LEARN MORE >](#)

Sustainable Landscaping Techniques: Improve Your Client's Soil, Aug. 8th

Weston Nurseries, Hopkinton, MA | 1:00pm-4:30pm

NOFA/Mass is hosting an event with Weston Nurseries featuring healthy soil practices, perfect for folks of all skill levels who are landscaping with ecology in mind and heart.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

CGKA New England Ground & Ice Expo, Aug. 19th – See you there!

Durham Fair Grounds, Durham CT | 10am-3pm

Equipment Demos, Educational Classes, Networking + Industry Experts

Whether you're looking to level up your skills, explore new equipment, or grow your business - this is the event for you.

[LEARN MORE >](#)



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CT NOFA Soil Health Course

Wednesdays in September (virtual) | September 27th, Ridgefield, CT (in-person)

This 4-week intensive training will study the intersection of the physical, chemical, and biological properties of healthy, living soil.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

127th Annual NEPA Fall Conference & Trade Show, Sept. 10th - 12th

The Margate Lakefront Resort, Laconia, NH

The Annual Fall Conference has been held for decades. Join sessions, networking events, and meet with Commercial Reps from throughout New England in New Hampshire! It is a time for professionals from all outdoor industries to meet and grow through education and networking. Receive .6 CEUs.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

2025 NHLA Fall Field Day, Sept. 24th

Belknap County Fairgrounds, Belmont, NH | 8am-3pm

Vendors, speakers, and demonstrations; Fall Field Day is your opportunity to learn about emerging issues, experience hands-on skill building, network with industry peers, and earn professional credits.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

2025 MALP/MAA FALL Field Day, Sept. 24th

Warren Conference Center, Ashland, MA | 10am-3pm

A collaboration between Massachusetts Arborist Association (MAA) and the Massachusetts Association of Landscape Professionals (MALP). It is approved for 2 MCLP and MCA education credits. MDAR PACE and ISA credit available.

[LEARN MORE >](#)

