

# Eco-Turf Talk

ORGANIC TURF CARE  
NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2026

## 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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# SPRING TURF TIPS

Set the Foundation Early



Spring is an important time to set turf up for success. As soils warm up, early decisions directly impact weed pressure, turf density, and season-long performance.

### 1. Focus on soil first - Soil Test

A must for any organic turf care program! The results take the guesswork out of product requirements, helps to set customer expectations, and keeps your sale objective. [Run your soil tests through PJC Organic](#) and we'll provide you with recommendations in an easy to understand format.

Healthy soil drives healthy turf. Early-season applications of organic fertilizer and soil conditioners help activate biology and improve nutrient availability.

### 2. Spring Clean-Up

No matter how much time you spend on fall clean-ups, winter has its own plans. Over the winter, grass naturally dies back and goes dormant. Dormant grass is not the same as thatch, and in an organic system, thatch is generally not a problem as the soil biology breaks it down. So be careful - aggressive raking and detaching can damage the crown of grass as it comes out of dormancy, remove valuable organic matter, and create a thin lawn for crabgrass and other weeds to take hold later in the season.

### 3. Don't Rush Mowing

Mowing is the most critical component in a successful OTC Program. Wait until turf is actively growing and for your 1st cut mow high to perform a "clean-up" cut. This helps your turf to stand up straighter. In addition, this practice chips up any leftover organic matter missed in your spring clean-up. It also gives you a chance to see if anything needs to be adjusted or repaired on your mower. After that 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. Finally, return clippings to get valuable organic matter back into the soil, then maintain a higher cut height to reduce stress and suppress weeds.

### 4. Overseed Strategically

Spring seeding can be effective when timed right. Bare soil is the first place weeds take hold, so address thin or damaged areas promptly once soil temperatures reach 50°F. (cont. p 2)



# SPRING TURF TIPS (cont...)

...Use quick-establishing seed mixes heavy in perennial rye and aim to complete seeding before mid-May. Remember, lawns may be thinner this spring due to poor germination from fall over seeding affected by the drought.

Note: unless it's an athletic field, we recommend seed slicing vs core aeration in spring, as core aeration can bring weed seeds to the surface.

## 5. Irrigation Check

If you have an irrigation system, check for damage that may have occurred over the winter. Adjust heads, replace any that may have been broken, and check your watering schedule. When it comes time - water deep (1" week), infrequently, and in the morning. Over watering can lead to soil compaction.

**A dense, healthy lawn is your best defense against weeds. Proper fertility and mowing reduce the need for intervention later. >>> For a deeper dive, read our full [Spring Turf Tips Blog](#).**

# WEED SPOTLIGHT DANDELIONS

Skip the quick fixes. Dandelions are often a sign your soil needs attention, not harsher treatment.

In our latest blog, we break down what dandelions are really telling you and how to manage them naturally by improving soil health, not fighting against it. Read more to take a smarter, organic approach to a healthier lawn

>>> **Read our blog: "[How to Manage Dandelions Naturally: An Organic Lawn Care Guide](#)".**



# WEED SPOTLIGHT: CLOVER



As turf emerges from dormancy, clover often establishes faster than grass. While some view clover as a weed, it does provide benefits.

Clover thrives in cooler soil temps, low-fertility, compacted soils with poor turf density. Its ability to fix nitrogen allows it to outcompete turf in underperforming lawns.

Clover can be undesirable on athletic fields and high-traffic turf. It creates inconsistent playing surfaces, reduces traction, impacts ball rolling speeds, and signals imbalanced soil conditions.

## How to Manage Clover Organically

### 1. Improve fertility

Low fertility is a common driver of clover growth. A balanced fertility program, delivering approximately 2-3 pounds of organic nitrogen per 1,000 square feet each season, is a good starting point. If results fall short, consider adding a fourth application or switching to a higher-nitrogen organic fertilizer.

### 2. Build organic matter

Healthy levels of organic matter (OM) help buffer soil conditions and promote resilient turf. Topdress, raise mowing height, return clippings, and promote deep root systems.

### 3. Overseed aggressively

Thicken turf to crowd out clover. Seed at least twice per year: Spring: before May 15 and Fall: Aug 15 – Sept 15 and Choose the right seed - Spring: focus on grasses that germinate quickly, such as Perennial Rye Grass, to help create immediate ground coverage.

### 4. Mow high

Maintain a higher mowing height throughout the growing season to improve stress resistance, enhance turf appearance, and reduce light penetration that encourages weed seed germination.

Ultimately, whether clover is a "weed" depends on expectations and site use. Healthy, dense turf is the most effective way to manage clover...no herbicides required.

## Benefits of Clover

Historically, clover was included in grass seed blends because of its many benefits:

- Fixes atmospheric nitrogen, improving soil fertility and making nitrogen available to turf grass naturally, fertilizing nearby plants
- Helps outcompete and suppress other weeds
- Provides a food source for pollinators

## ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT POLICIES EXPANDING NATIONWIDE

Across the U.S., states and municipalities are accelerating the shift away from gas-powered landscaping equipment. More than 27 states now have policies, incentives, or restrictions in place to reduce emissions and noise from lawn equipment.

In some cases, this includes rebates and incentives to help contractors transition to electric tools, while other areas are moving toward full bans. [View policy map and breakdown](#)

### Gas-Powered Equipment Bans Take Effect in 2026

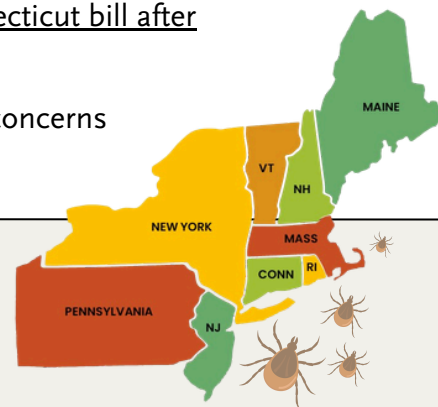
Cities are beginning to enforce stricter regulations. For example, San Francisco's ordinance bans gas-powered landscaping equipment starting January 1, 2026, applying to contractors, property owners, and public agencies.

These policies are being driven by concerns around air pollution, noise, and worker health, and are expected to expand to other regions. [Read about the 2026 equipment ban](#)

### Northeast Debates Continue on Equipment Transition

Legislation across the Northeast is evolving. In Connecticut, a proposed ban on gas-powered leaf blowers was scaled back after industry pushback, shifting instead toward financial support programs for businesses adopting electric equipment. ("[Gas-powered leaf blower ban removed from Connecticut bill after backlash](#)")

This reflects a broader trend: movement toward electrification, but with ongoing concerns about cost and performance.



# IN THE NEWS

## TICKS ARE NOW A YEAR-ROUND CONCERN IN THE NORTHEAST

Many assume that cold New England winters naturally reduce tick populations. "Cold temperatures can and do impact survival in deer ticks, lone star ticks, and American dog ticks. When directly exposed to open air temperatures around 7-10°F, most individuals of these species will die within 2 hours. There is undoubtedly some degree of mortality that tick populations experience during the winter. It's just not enough."

Research shows that certain tick species, especially deer ticks, can remain active whenever temperatures rise above freezing, even in the middle of winter. Snow cover, rather than killing ticks, can actually protect them by insulating the ground and preventing extreme temperature swings. On top of that, species like the [lone star tick](#) are expanding their range northward, driven in part by changing climate conditions.

"With ticks, it's all a numbers game...Ticks lay about 2,000-10,000 eggs, depending on the species. Each female lone star tick lays about 3,000 eggs. Even if only a small percentage of her ticks survive the winter, the chances of some progeny surviving are increased through sheer volume."

>>> [Read more in PJC's Blog Post](#)

# HAPPENINGS

Stay informed & inspired this season with industry events & education.

## The Cornell Turf Show: Live Webinars

A free weekly webinar series covering topics in golf, sports turf, and lawn/landscape management. Each 30-minute session offers practical insights from Cornell experts. Can't attend live? Recordings are available via the Cornell Turf Show podcast.

Fridays thru May 22 | 10:00 – 10:30 AM EST | Online

LEARN MORE



## NEPA Spring Meeting

Join professionals from parks and recreation, athletic fields, schools, municipalities, and universities for a full day of learning and networking. The program features insights from experienced regional and national educators, along with opportunities to connect with industry vendors.

May 7, 2026 | 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM | Lexington, MA

LEARN MORE



## MALP Dinner Meeting

Creating Pollinator Habitats: Practical Enhancements for Today's Landscape. 2 MCLP education credits, 1 MCH education credit.

June 17, 2026 | 4:00pm - 7:00pm | Natick, MA

LEARN MORE



## New England Turf Show

A long-standing regional event; bringing together green industry professionals for education, demonstrations, and hands-on learning. Attendees can explore updated maintenance practices, discover new equipment, and engage directly with vendors and experts.

June 18, 2026 | Hampton, NH | Full-Day

LEARN MORE



## New England Turf Show

These casual, free evening events run monthly from May through October, typically held 5:30–7:00 PM and focused on learning, networking, and seeing innovative landscapes firsthand.

May 27 | June 25 | July 23

LEARN MORE



# PRODUCT PROMOS

## BOOST+S3

Designed to meet your soil's needs coming out of Winter! BOOST+S3 is a soil conditioner and bio-stimulant that improves soil structure, enhances nutrient retention, and activates microbial life. With plant proteins, essential minerals, and added humates, it helps reduce compaction and jump-start early green-up with chelated iron. Ideal for March through May applications.

## FERTILIZER

### ProHealthy Turf 7-0-2+

A reliable early-season 2-in-1 fertilizer and soil conditioner made with premium all-natural ingredients as a food source for soil biology while adding organic matter to the soil. For immediate response and sustained growth, this blend has 2% water soluble nitrogen available in cooler soils (for those who want to get out there early!) and the 5% water insoluble nitrogen provides a longer feed. It also feeds soil biology and improves nutrient retention with added humates.

Easy to apply, non-burning, and free from urea, municipal waste, or manure.

PJC's OMRI listed 6-0-6, and OMRI listed 8-0-6 blends are great all year round!

## GRASS SEED

The most effective weed control is dense turf. Spring seeding should be completed by mid May for best results. Read our blog on [Choosing the Right Spring Grass Seed](#) to select the best varieties for your site.

[request pricing](#)



# IN THE NEWS

## A Legacy of Growth: Celebrating Fred and the Roots of PJC

### What does it take to build a company rooted in purpose?

In April, we celebrated Fred Newcombe's birthday and the story behind PJC Organic. From a leap of faith in 2001 to a family-run business that helped shape the organic land care movement. What started as a small landscaping operation has grown into a trusted source for products, education, and sustainable solutions.

>>> [Read The Full Story](#)



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

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

# MORE HAPPENINGS!

**NOFA Organic Land Care Trainings**  
(virtual + in-person)



### Online Course – August 2026

Flexible, self-paced training designed for working professionals. This six-week program includes recorded coursework, scheduled virtual discussions with instructors, and a final exam. Participants should plan for approximately five hours of coursework per week.

[LEARN MORE](#)



### In-Person Trainings (Various Locations)

Offered periodically in partnership with regional organizations, these multi-day courses provide immersive, face-to-face instruction. Participants complete coursework over 3–4 consecutive days, followed by an online exam.

[LEARN MORE](#)



## Associations' Event Calendars

There's always more to explore!

[CGKA](#) →

[ELA](#) →

[MALP](#) →

[MELNA](#) →

[MNLA](#) →

[NEPA](#) →

[NHLA](#) →

[NOFA](#) →

