

HOW TO GET A Brand New House IN THE SAME OLD SPACE

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HABITAT
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HOME RENOVATION



Care now means healthy lawn later

Spring is the time to pamper your lawn to make up for the punishment that grass received during severe winter weather, according to Loren Blum, nursery buyer and horticulture training director for English Gardens and Fairlane Florist.

"A little extra care now can mean a healthier, more attractive and enjoyable lawn the rest of the year," said Blum.

To begin work on the lawn, wait until the soil is dry enough to rake without creating muddy, bare spots. Remove all dead grass, leaves, sticks, or other debris.

AFTER RAKING, MOW the lawn, preferably with a vacuum-type mower, which removes all the clippings. Fertilize with a complete fertilizer, which is high in nitrogen, low in phosphorous and fairly high in potash.

Pre-emergence crabgrass control should be applied at this time. The easiest way is to apply a fertilizer-crabicide combination that saves time

and effort. For best results it is advisable to apply crabgrass controls before dandelions bloom and, of course, follow recommended rates exactly.

Spring is also a good time to reseed an established lawn and introduce new grass types into lawn areas which have not flourished in the past.

Select a blue grass type for sunny areas or one of the fine-leaved fescues for shady areas. Perennial rye grasses are sometimes used in situations where erosion may occur and quick germination is required. Rye grass usually germinates within a week under good conditions while bluegrass takes about three weeks to emerge.

"This is the primary reason why grass seeds are offered in a variety of mixes or blends by most seed companies," Blum said.

"UNLESS YOU ARE very knowledgeable about lawn grasses, it's usually a good idea to ask for professional advice at your local garden center," Blum said.

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