

the LawnShed

All you need for the perfect backyard

A LAWN LOVER'S GUIDE

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WATERING IN WINTER

Our Lawn genius addresses the water requirement in Winter, do we need to water at all?

FROSTY

The impact it has on your lawn and how to reduce its impact

SHOULD YOU FERTILISE IN WINTER

What impact does nutrients have on the lawn during Winter

DEALING WITH SHADE

We review the problems with shade and some creative ways to deal with it

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Editor's Note



Hello lawn lovers,

As the Winter slowly falls upon us we welcome you to the latest edition of our Winter Lawn Care Magazine. In this issue, we delve into the essential tips and techniques that will help you maintain and nurture your lawn during the colder months. While the growth may slow down and the colours may fade, it is during this season that we have the chance to lay the groundwork for a stunning lawn that will dazzle once the frost thaws.

Winter presents its own unique challenges and opportunities for lawn care enthusiasts. This Winter is the first for a while in the La Nina weather pattern and we are already seeing weather patterns across Australia where low temperature records are being set.

In the following pages, you'll discover expert advice on frost protection, and strategies to keep your turf strong and resilient. We've curated articles to equip you with the knowledge to navigate the Winter wonderland that awaits your lawn.

Winter also offers a time for reflection and rejuvenation. It's a chance to explore new ideas,

cultivate a deeper understanding of lawn care principles, and plan for the coming year. So we would love to hear from you about things you would like to see come Spring.

We hope this edition of our Winter Lawn Care Magazine brings you not only valuable insights and practical advice but also a sense of wonder and delight. May it inspire you to embrace the seasonal beauty and care for your lawn with dedication, creativity, and a touch of magic.

If this guide leaves things unanswered or if you would like to suggest some topics for our next guide, then please contact me at help@thelawnshed.com.au because, as I said, I love talking lawn.

Wishing you a season filled with warmth, joy, and a lawn that flourishes,

Ian Thompson
Master of Agriculture (Turf Management)



Winter: A home lawn checklist

**"Tis the season
To be freezin"**

Clear Debris

Start by removing any fallen leaves, branches, or other debris from your lawn. A clean surface allows more sunlight, better air circulation and reduces the risk of disease.

Mow at the Right Height

Keeping your lawn a little longer allows for more leaf blade to absorb sunlight and keep the plant healthy.

Fertilise

Applying liquid fertilisers for quick absorption and colour is a great way to provide essential nutrients throughout the dormant season, ensuring a strong and vibrant lawn in Spring.

Water Appropriately

Adjust your watering schedule based on the weather conditions. In most cases, lawns require less water during Winter, but it's essential to provide occasional deep watering if there is a prolonged dry spell.

Protect from Frost

If you live in an area with temperatures drop below 5 degrees, protect your lawn from frost damage. Avoid walking on frozen grass, as it can cause stress and lead to damage.

Beware Fusarium

Monitor your lawn for small circular patch disease with pink/red/yellow edges, Fusarium is a common lawn disease during Winter. If seen on your lawn treat with an appropriate fungicide.

Reduce traffic

Try to minimise traffic on the lawn during Winter as recovery times are slower.

Plan for Spring

Use the Winter months to plan and prepare for Spring lawn care. Research new lawn care techniques, equipment upgrades, or landscaping ideas that you'd like to implement once the soil temperatures increase.



Got Winter Weeds?

TARGET WINTER WEEDS LIKE A PRO

Guided by soil temperature, annoying weeds have recently germinated. Check out our Weed Guide for products that the pros use.



The impact of frost on your lawn

Winter's arrival brings a sense of tranquility, transforming our surroundings into a frosty wonderland. However, beneath this icy beauty lies the potential for both benefits and challenges for our beloved lawns. Frost, with its delicate crystalline touch, can leave a lasting impact on our green landscapes. In this article, we explore the effects of frost on lawns, understanding its implications and discovering how we can mitigate its potential harm.

Frost Formation

Frost occurs when the temperature drops below freezing, causing moisture in the air to condense and freeze onto surfaces. The frozen moisture appears as delicate ice crystals that blanket our lawns in the early morning hours. The formation of frost is influenced by factors such as air temperature, humidity levels, and the duration of freezing conditions.

The Effects of Frost

One of the main concerns with frost is its potential to cause damage to grass blades and root systems. When frost forms on the grass, it can lead to cell damage and, in severe cases, even kill the grass. Walking or mowing on frost-covered lawns can exacerbate this damage by breaking or bending the delicate grass blades. Another concern is the development of Fusarium, a fungal disease that thrives under cooler temperatures, leaving unsightly patches on the lawn.

Minimising Frost Damage

- *Avoid foot traffic on frost-covered lawns to prevent compaction and damage to the grass blades.
- *Delay mowing until the frost has melted, as mowing on frozen grass can lead to breakage and stress on the turf.
- *Ensure proper lawn care practices throughout the year to maintain lawn health and resilience.
- *Monitor for Fusarium development.



CATCH SOME HOT TIPS

WATERING IN WINTER

Winter brings its own set of challenges when it comes to lawn care, and proper watering practices play a crucial role in maintaining a healthy and resilient lawn. While grass growth slows down during the colder months, adequate moisture is still essential for the overall health of your turf.

Understand the Watering Needs

During Winter, lawns typically require less water compared to the warmer months. The reduced evaporation rate and slower grass growth mean that the soil retains moisture for longer periods, this is even more evident in shaded areas. However, it is crucial to provide occasional deep watering to prevent the grass from becoming excessively dry and stressed. Feel the soil with your fingers or use a soil moisture meter to gauge its dryness. If the top few inches of soil are dry, it's an indication that it's time to water.

Choose the Right Time

Water your lawn during the warmest part of the day in winter, typically between 10 am and 2 pm. This timing allows the grass blades to dry before the colder evening temperatures set in, reducing the risk of fungal diseases. Avoid watering in the late afternoon or evening, as the prolonged wetness can encourage fungal growth.

Deep Watering Technique

Whenever you water your lawn, aim for deep watering sessions. Apply enough water to penetrate the soil to a depth of around 4 to 6 inches. Deep watering encourages the grass roots to grow deeper into the soil, promoting a stronger and more drought-resistant lawn. Watering deeply also reduces the frequency of watering required.

By following these guidelines, you can ensure that your lawn receives the right amount of water during Winter.

COMBINE AND SAVE



Knock out those Winter weeds and have the products ready in the shed for the first signs of warmer weather in Spring.

Professional quality products and the advice to match.

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DISEASE PROFILE: LEAF SPOTS



Leaf spots are a group of common lawn diseases that can affect the overall appearance and health of your turf. Among the various culprits responsible for leaf spots, *Dreschlera* and *Helminthosporium* are notable fungal pathogens.

Dreschlera leaf spot, caused by the fungus *Dreschlera* spp. (formerly known as *Bipolaris* spp.), typically manifests as small, oval or irregular-shaped spots on the grass blades. These spots may start as light green or yellow and gradually develop into dark brown or black lesions with a yellow halo around them. *Dreschlera* leaf spot is commonly observed in warm and humid climates.

Helminthosporium leaf spot, caused by various *Helminthosporium* species, appears as small, brown or tan spots with dark borders on the grass blades. Over time, these spots may enlarge and merge, causing the affected grass to turn yellow or brown. *Helminthosporium* leaf spot is commonly found in areas with high humidity and frequent rainfall.

Management Tips

Improve Air Circulation: Promote better air circulation by pruning overhanging branches and thinning dense vegetation near the lawn to reduce humidity and create a drier environment.

Avoid Overwatering: Leaf diseases thrive in moist conditions, so water your lawn deeply and infrequently, allowing the soil surface to dry between watering sessions.

Maintain Proper Mowing Height: Keep your grass at an appropriate mowing height to prevent stress and minimise the likelihood of infection.

DISEASE PROFILE: LEAF SPOTS

Fungicide Application: In severe cases, consider applying a fungicide labelled for control. Consult our resident lawn genius and refer to the product instructions for the most suitable fungicide and application guidelines.

Remove Infected Clippings: Regularly remove and dispose of grass clippings to minimise the spread of fungal spores.

Preventative Tips

Implement Proper Lawn Maintenance: Practice good lawn care techniques, including regular mowing, proper fertilisation, and appropriate irrigation to promote a healthy and resilient lawn.

Improve Drainage: Ensure adequate drainage to prevent waterlogged conditions, as excessive moisture can contribute to the development of Helminthosporium leaf spot.

Avoid Excessive Nitrogen: Excessive nitrogen fertilisation can make the grass more susceptible to diseases. Follow proper fertilisation guidelines and avoid use a more controlled release source.

Avoid Overcrowding: Properly space plants and promote adequate sunlight penetration to reduce moisture retention and create a less favourable environment for leaf spot diseases.

Conclusion:

Leaf spots caused by *Dreschlera* and *Helminthosporium* can be challenging for lawns, but with proper management practices, their impact can be minimised. Regular maintenance, including appropriate watering, mowing, and fertilisation, combined with preventive measures and, if necessary, targeted fungicide applications, will help keep your lawn healthy and resistant to leaf spot diseases. Remember to consult with our resident lawn genius if you are concerned about your lawn and are considering the application of a fungicide.



Fertilising in Winter

Fertilising your lawn during the winter months might not seem intuitive, as grass growth slows down and goes into a dormant state. However, providing your lawn with the right nutrients during this period can contribute to its overall health and prepare it for a strong comeback in the Spring.

Fertilising your lawn in winter offers several advantages:

Enhanced Root Development: Winter fertilisation promotes healthy root growth, ensuring your grass is better equipped to absorb nutrients and water when the growing season returns.

Improved Colour: Winter fertilisers like Lawn Play Enhance contains essential nutrients such as iron, which help enhance the lawn's ability to produce chlorophyll, the green pigment in plants.

Early Spring Green-Up: A well-fertilised lawn in Winter can have the nutrients stored, ready for action, delivering quicker green-up and growth once Spring arrives, giving you a head start on achieving a lush, vibrant lawn.

Choose the Right Fertiliser

As lawns are growing slower it's important not to over fertilise your lawn. The best way to do this is to "spoon feed" the nutrients to your lawn using liquid foliar applications. These fertilisers are absorbed directly through the leaves of the plant so there's no loss.

Timing the Application

Apply the liquid during the day when it can dry and been properly absorbed through the leaf. Avoid fertilising once a frost is received, as this usually sends the plant into full dormancy and the nutrients will not be required. Once soil temperatures rise above 10 degrees again it's good to start feeding for Spring.



COMBINE AND SAVE



Maintain the colour of your lawn with our colour pack.

Professional quality products and the advice to match.

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Painting Your Lawn

A vibrant and lush green lawn is a sight to behold, but sometimes, achieving that perfect shade of green can be challenging. Instead of resorting to painting your lawn, there is a more natural looking alternative: using pigments. Pigments, when applied correctly, can enhance the chlorophyll content in your lawn, resulting in a healthier and greener turf.

Pigments can be used to boost the chlorophyll content, which plays a crucial role in photosynthesis and overall plant health. By enhancing chlorophyll production, pigments help maximise the lawn's ability to capture sunlight and convert it into energy, leading to improved growth and a vibrant green color.

Benefits of Using Pigments

Increased Photosynthesis: Pigments enhance the absorption of light, allowing plants to capture more energy for photosynthesis. This results in improved growth, increased vigor, and overall lawn health.

Stress Tolerance: Pigments can provide a protective barrier against environmental stressors such as excessive sunlight, heat, and drought. They act as a natural sunscreen, reducing the risk of sunburn and minimising water loss through transpiration.

Extended Green Period: Pigments can help extend the period of vibrant green colour in your lawn, even during stressful periods like drought or extreme temperatures. This allows for a longer-lasting aesthetic appeal.

Using pigments to boost chlorophyll in your lawn offers a natural and effective way to achieve a vibrant green color without resorting to painting. By harnessing the power of pigments, you can enhance photosynthesis, improve stress tolerance, and extend the green period of your lawn.



PRODUCT PROFILE: LAWN COLOUR PACK



Introducing the LawnPlay Colour Pack, enhance your lawn's green with LawnPlay Enhance and Verdant. This convenient pack combines the power of LawnPlay Enhance, a high iron fertiliser with nitrogen and magnesium, and LawnPlay Verdant, which includes pigments to boost chlorophyll content.

LawnPlay Enhance promotes vigorous growth and a vibrant green colour by providing essential greening nutrients and high levels of iron. The iron stimulates chlorophyll production, resulting in a lawn that will have your neighbours green with envy. Nitrogen and magnesium further enhance nutrient uptake and strengthen stress tolerance, ensuring your lawn stays resilient.

LawnPlay Verdant instantly transforms your lawn with its premium pigments. These pigments amplify the green shade, creating an eye-catching and long-lasting colour. Unlike paint, LawnPlay Verdant is plant-friendly and environmentally safe, allowing you to achieve stunning results without compromising your lawn's health.

The beauty of the LawnPlay Color Pack lies in its convenience. By mixing and applying both LawnPlay Enhance and LawnPlay Verdant together, you save time and effort with a single application. Additionally, purchasing the Color Pack offers cost savings making it a smart and cost-effective choice for lawn enthusiasts.

Unlock the true potential of your turf, enjoy a vibrant green colour, and reap the benefits of chlorophyll-boosting products with the LawnPlay Colour Pack.

DISEASE PROFILE: WINTER FUSARIUM



Scientific Name: *Microdochium nivale*

Symptoms

The symptoms of Fusarium circular or irregular patches of dead or discolored turfgrass, often with a reddish-brown or tan appearance. A "smoky" or grayish-white fungal growth may be visible on the affected grass blades under favorable conditions.

In severe cases, the patches can coalesce (join together), resulting in larger areas of damaged turf.

Prevailing Conditions

Cool and moist weather, typically between 10°C to 25°C.

Poor drainage and overwatering, leading to extended periods of moisture on the turfgrass surface. Compromised turfgrass health, such as weak root systems or nutrient deficiencies, making the grass more susceptible to infection.

Cultural Practices

Proper mowing: Maintain the appropriate mowing height for your turfgrass species, as shorter grass may be more prone to disease.

Adequate drainage: Ensure proper soil drainage to prevent prolonged periods of moisture on the lawn.

Avoid overwatering: Water deeply but infrequently, allowing the soil surface to dry between watering sessions.

Reduce thatch: Regularly dethatch the lawn to minimize the buildup of excessive thatch, which can create a favorable environment for Fusarium disease.

Fungicide Application:

In severe cases or when cultural practices alone are insufficient, fungicide application may be necessary.

If unsure about any of these directions or if you have more questions please contact us.

FOR THE NOT SO FUN GUYS

Disease control doesn't need to be intimidating.
Impala® gives you great disease protection and cure.



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SHADE AND ITS IMPACT ON GROWTH



Shade poses unique challenges to maintaining a healthy lawn, including reduced sunlight and the resulting impact on turf growth. By combining the wisdom from James B. Beard's "Turfgrass Science and Culture, 1973", and the use of modern sun-tracking apps like Sunseeker, lawn enthusiasts can effectively manage shade and promote thicker, healthier turf. In this article, we will explore the influence of shade on lawns, the benefits of blending traditional knowledge with modern technology, and how products can enhance shade management.

Understanding the Impact of Shade on Lawns

Shade diminishes the amount of sunlight available for photosynthesis, leading to weakened growth, thinning turf, and increased susceptibility to stress, diseases, and weeds. Addressing shade-related issues requires strategic planning and informed decisions based on the unique conditions of each lawn. Beard, 1973 lists the developmental responses by the turfgrass plant as:

- Thinner leaves
- Reduced leaf width
- Increased leaf length and plant height
- Reduced shoot density
- Longer internodes
- Reduced tillering
- Reduced stem diameter
- Reduced rate of leaves
- More upright growth





Beard offers invaluable insights into the impact of shade on lawns and the selection of shade-tolerant turfgrass varieties. By integrating the knowledge from this timeless reference with modern apps like Sunseeker, homeowners can gain a deeper understanding of their specific shade patterns and optimize their shade management strategies.

The Benefits of Sun-Tracking Apps

Sunseeker and similar apps provide real-time visualisation of the sun's path across the sky, empowering homeowners to identify areas of shade and sunlight in their yards. Armed with this information, lawn owners can strategically plan their lawn layout, adjust tree placement, and select appropriate shade-tolerant turfgrass varieties.

Products to help

Primo Maxx: Enhancing Shade Management: Primo Maxx, a growth regulator product, plays a vital role in shade management. This chemistry affects nearly all of the developmental responses listed by Beard above and at low rates can actually improve a lawns tolerance to shade.

Chlorophyll improvement:

Both pigments and high iron fertilisers offer effective ways to enhance the appearance of your lawn, by adding these products you can increase the chlorophyll content in the plant and improve the lawns ability to absorb sunlight.

Lastly, these products are not miracle workers, whilst they can improve your lawns ability to handle lower light conditions they won't allow your lawn to grow in the dark. So if your lawn isn't seeing any sun then look to replace with a garden bed of low light loving plants.

SECRET OF THE PROS



Plant growth regulators make good grass great and are a vital component on every finely cut turf surface



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Winter Weed Guide

While winter is often seen as a dormant season for your lawn, the weeds aren't asleep, so it's essential to address weed growth to maintain a healthy and weed-free turf. This guide will provide you with valuable insights on identifying winter weeds, selecting the right weed control products, and the importance of timing your applications before seeding.

Common Winter Weeds

Winter weeds include Winter grass, chickweed, bindii and dandelion. These weeds can thrive in cooler temperatures and compete with your grass for essential nutrients and sunlight. Check out our weed guide for help identifying or send some photos to our resident lawn genius.

Choosing the Right Weed Control Product

Choose selective herbicides specifically formulated for broadleaf weed control. These products target broadleaf weeds while minimising damage to your desirable grass. Look for Bow & Arrow and Dicamba M.

Timing

Be sure to time your application well before Spring, allowing weeds to flower and seed means a lot more weed seed in your soil, so more weeds next year.

Application Tips

- Always read and follow the instructions on the herbicide label carefully. This ensures proper application rates and safety precautions.
- Consider weather conditions before applying weed control products. Avoid applying herbicides during freezing temperatures, heavy rain, or when there is a chance of frost.
- If the weed infestation is minimal, spot-treat affected areas rather than applying herbicides to the entire lawn. This minimises chemical exposure and potential damage to your grass.



BOW & ARROW



Every lawn lover needs a few standard products in their shed. A broadleaf herbicide that targets a huge number of weeds and is highly effective is a must.

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