



Rolawn[®]

TRUSTED TURF & TOPSOIL

Aftercare Guide

Maintaining your Rolawn lawn

Thank you for choosing Rolawn Medallion® Turf



This guide aims to help you understand how to assist your new lawn in becoming established. It also outlines the basis of an annual maintenance routine as well as answering some of the more common questions asked by our customers. Please remember that while this information provides an overview it is by no means an exhaustive guide to maintaining the health of your lawn.

- You can find comprehensive technical information and advice at: rolawn.co.uk



Immediately after laying

Water

Watering your new Rolawn turf is the single most important step you need to take to establish a beautiful and healthy lawn.

Start watering on the day turf is laid. On hot days, you may need to commence watering large lawns prior to laying all the turf.

- Ensure that the new lawn is never short of water.
- Lift corners of the turf to check water has percolated through to the underlying soil.
- Water repeatedly until the turf is well established.
- Even if it rains, you should still check that the lawn is receiving sufficient water.
- It is best to water turf in the early morning or during the evening so that less water is lost to evaporation.
- Once established, occasional watering during dry periods should be adequate.

Soon after laying

Mow

Be prepared to mow your new lawn as soon as it needs it, provided this can be done without disturbing the turf.

If turf is dislodged, replace it and allow the turf more time to establish before recommencing mowing.

- Don't delay. Most people allow turf to grow too long. Mowing encourages establishment, although this should be the only traffic in the first few weeks.
- Never remove more than one third of the grass blade length.
- Alternate the direction in which you mow your lawn.
- Clippings do not have to be collected if they are minimal, provided sunlight is reaching the blades of grass. Clippings in small amounts return nutrients to the soil encouraging a healthy lawn.



For more guidance view our 'Lawn aftercare' video at: rolawn.co.uk/rolawn-tv

Appropriate maintenance is key

The appearance of your Rolawn lawn will be affected by the environment it lives in and the treatment it receives. A healthy lawn requires a balance of air, food, water and light. An appropriate maintenance programme helps to keep these elements in balance.

Mowing

Rolawn Medallion® turf is used to a cut height of 25mm. You should aim for the same, removing no more than one third of the grass blade length at any one time. Adjust how often you mow your lawn dependent on how quickly the grass grows. In the peak growing seasons, frequent mowing can dramatically enhance your lawn's appearance.

If your lawn becomes too long, gradually bring it back down to the correct height. Mowing a lawn from 75mm down to 25mm in one cut will result in a weak, sparse, pale lawn.

Whatever type of mower you have, it must be well maintained, with blades sharpened at least once a year.

Feeding

It is vital your lawn receives sufficient nutrients. Rolawn recommends a balanced year-round feeding programme, but as a minimum once in spring and again in autumn. Rolawn GroRight® Lawn Establishment Fertiliser can be used as a top food.



Broadleaf weed treatment

Broadleaf weeds can be weeded out using a knife or mechanical weeder, but make sure you get the root of the weed out.

Alternatively, they can be treated using a suitable selective herbicide or an all-in-one treatment.

Dealing with moss

If you feel the moss in your lawn is a problem, the best way to manage it is to scarify it out to allow the grass plants to grow. Scarification also reduces the build up of thatch which stops water and air penetrating through to the soil and prevents dense grass growth.

If you apply a moss killer, once the moss has turned brown/black, scarify using a spring tine rake or a mechanical scarifier. Only scarify if your lawn is more than 12 months old and the grass is actively growing. Once you have scarified your lawn, overseed to help prevent weed growth.

Overseeding

Overseeding an established lawn is an essential part of annual lawn maintenance. It improves colour, helps fill in space or worn areas and gives your lawn a thicker, denser sward.

We recommend a mix of Rolawn Medallion® Lawn Seed and Lawn Topdressing brushed into the surface of the lawn.



Aerating

Aerating helps to relieve compaction and assists with drainage.

Use a garden fork or powered aerator in spring and autumn to spike your lawn, especially before applying a lawn fertiliser or topdressing.



Topdressing

Topdressing your lawn is vital to retain a level surface, improve drainage and control the build up of thatch.

It will enhance a lawn's appearance by stimulating new grass growth and increasing tolerance to wear and tear. Rolawn Lawn Topdressing is a high quality, sand based, multi-purpose lawn dressing that can be applied any time, when the grass is actively growing.

Apply at a rate of up to 3 litres/m² and work it into the lawn's surface with a stiff brush or back of a rake.

Annual meadow grass (AMG or *Poa annua*)

AMG plants tend to have a lighter colour than other grasses and grow from a central base.

Small amounts can be eliminated using a sharp knife. Cut firmly and diagonally into the roots. Resulting bare patches will soon fill if the lawn is healthy. Alternatively, apply a little seed and soil.

For denser areas, maintain grass height at 25mm, aim to mow every 10 days. Brush or rake before mowing to raise AMG stems for removal. Discourage growth by avoiding lime or fertilisers containing lime. Maintain a healthy lawn to avoid gaps that help AMG germination.



Frequently asked questions

The topics covered here are those which are mostly commonly experienced, but please be aware that issues will vary according to conditions.

 If you have a query about something that is not covered here, there is a wealth of additional lawn care advice on our website: rolawn.co.uk

Why does my lawn look a bit yellow and bald after mowing?

This is likely to occur where a lawn has been laid on uneven ground. Known as ‘scalping’ it is where too much of the grass blade has been removed in one cut resulting in weak, pale and sparse areas. This can be avoided by raising the mowing height and never removing more than one third of the grass blade length at any one time. The ground should be levelled by applying a topdressing as per the guidance on page five.

If laid in the rain, does my lawn still need irrigating?

Check the soil to see if the rain has penetrated through, by lifting a corner of the turf.

 If the soil is not damp, follow the guidance in our article ‘*Watering your turf and soil drainage*’ at: rolawn.co.uk

I have found some brown net in the turf you supplied, what is it?

This is Oxygrid™ degradable net, a technology that helps us operate a more environmentally friendly cultivation process and which also sets up the turf for a healthy future. It will degrade over 2 to 5 years, according to climatic conditions.

If it becomes exposed, use scissors or a knife to trim out what you can see.

I have just laid a new lawn and it is looking very yellow, will it be ok?

This is usually a sign the turf was left rolled up too long. With light, air and water the turf will recover.



How do I rectify damaged patches of lawn?

There are many causes of 'patchy' areas, from pests like leatherjackets to poor nutrition to drought or shade. In most instances patches are preventable through an appropriate lawncare routine. Some repairs can be achieved by topdressing and overseeding an area in spring or autumn. For a quicker result, using a sharp edging tool, cut out a square of turf around the damaged patch. Replace with the same sized patch of healthy lawn from an area where it is less visible or some new turf. Once you have placed the healthy turf in the hole, brush in topsoil around the edges.



How do I level uneven areas of turf?

Treatment depends on the size of the area to be rectified. Generally, uneven areas can be levelled with routine top dressing. For specific high or low spots, covering areas of up to 2metres or smaller, create an H-shaped incision, peel back the turf, and remove or add topsoil according to whether the level is too low or too high. Firm down the soil then re-cover with the turf and apply topdressing around the edges of the incision.



A healthy ecosystem for your lawn

We are often asked about lawn issues which are perceived to be problems and which, historically, gardeners treated with chemicals.

These issues are often naturally occurring elements central to a garden's ecosystem and therefore part and parcel of a healthy lawn. In growing our turf we have incorporated a more holistic approach and we encourage our customers to do the same. By working with nature, you will be kinder on the environment and save money on unnecessary treatments and chemicals.

What should I do about earthworms in my turf?

Worms are valuable to lawns, breaking down thatch and helping improve the soil characteristics, which all aids grass plant growth. The down side is the worm casts that are unsightly and which can create an uneven lawn. Let casts dry out, then brush them back into the lawn. Use regular applications of lawn top dressing to help even up the lawn surface.

Why are there toadstools in my turf?

Toadstools are the fruiting body of fungal spores, which exist in lawns all the time. In most instances, damp mild weather causes them to appear, although on freshly laid turf you can get them under almost any circumstances. Toadstools are a sign of good microbial activity essential for a healthy lawn. They will disappear after a few weeks as weather conditions change and are unlikely to re-occur.

Why has my lawn developed a slightly 'fuzzy' look?

This is usually small clusters of seed heads, often occurring in spring. This is part of a grass plant's annual life cycle and how a lawn repairs itself. Regular mowing with sharp mower blades will keep on top of the seed heads. However, it is not recommended that you lower the height of your mower. If it is practical, remove any unsightly weed grasses by hand, remembering to take the roots as well.

I have patches of light brown unhealthy growth and red strands, what is it?

This is Red Thread disease, which is a common fungal turf issue. It is usually a sign of stress in the turf, it does not kill the grass plants, and it is solved through correct lawn maintenance. In most cases feeding the lawn will eradicate the issue and the patches will recover.

Seed & lawn care

Our seed and lawn care products can help you maintain a healthy, green lawn, no matter where you are in the UK.



GroRight® lawn establishment fertiliser

- Gives your lawn the best possible start, feeding from the roots up
- Can be used to feed an existing lawn
- Available in 5kg bags
- Coverage: approx. 125m² at the recommended application rate of 40g/m²



Medallion® lawn seed

- The same ryegrass / fescue seed mix as our award-winning Medallion® Turf
- Available in 1.5kg boxes and 20kg sacks
- Application rate for new lawns: 35g/m²
- Application rate for overseeding: 23g/m²



Lawn topdressing

- High-quality, sand-based multi-purpose lawn dressing
- 500 litres per bag, covers up to 167m² at recommended depth of 3mm

We select only the highest specification seed types, as verified by the Sports Turf Research Institute (STRI), the UK's leading independent body for the turf industry.



Seasonal lawn maintenance

January / February

- Remove leaves and debris.
- Aerate.
- Service mower and ensure blades are sharp.
- Stay off the lawn if frozen or waterlogged.



March / April

- Start mowing the lawn as warmer weather stimulates turf growth and increase the frequency of mowing as required.
- Apply Rolawn Lawn Topdressing.
- Remove by hand or spot treat coarse grasses and weeds.
- Scarify if your lawn is more than 12 months old.
- Patch damaged lawn areas and edges with Rolawn turf or lawn seed.
- Overseed if your lawn is more than 12 months old with Rolawn lawn seed.



May / June

- Increase mowing frequency, a little and often is the key.
- Aerate.
- Remove by hand or spot treat coarse grasses and weeds.
- Water if rainfall is low.
- Treat established lawns containing weeds and moss with a proprietary weed and feed moss killer.





July / August

- Use water wisely, but to maintain colour in summer, more watering will probably be required. In times of drought your lawn will go brown and dormant. It will recover when rainfall returns.
- If required, a Chafer Grub killer and Leatherjacket killer.
- Make arrangements for your lawn to be mown whilst you are on holiday.



September / October

- Gradually decrease mowing frequency as grass growth slows, raising the height of cut as winter approaches.
- Scarify if your lawn is more than 12 months old.
- Aerate.
- If needed, treat established lawns containing weeds and moss with a proprietary weed and feed moss killer.
- Repair damaged or worn areas with new Rolawn turf or lawn seed.
- Apply Rolawn Lawn Topdressing.
- Allow worm casts to dry before brushing with a stiff broom.



November / December

- Remove leaves and debris.
- Mow if the lawn is still growing.
- Prune and thin foliage surrounding the lawn.
- Clean and oil all equipment before putting into winter storage.



Further information



➤ For more lawn care advice and information on using topsoil, bark and mulch visit: **rolawn.co.uk**, where you'll also find:

- Rolawn TV – our practical 'How to videos'
- Product Calculator
- Newsletter – register for free seasonal lawn care guides



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All weights and measurements are approximate when packed.