

Step 5: Top Dressing

Top dressing levels out your lawn, fills holes, and improves soil condition.

Use clean washed sand (for clay soils) or a sandy loam/topdress mix (for sandy soils) or *Mineral Magic Lawn Conditioner*

Spread evenly across the lawn, no more than 1cm deep – make sure the grass tips are still visible.

Rake in a figure-eight motion for even coverage.

Guide:

A 20kg bag covers 1-2m² for a 60m² lawn at 10mm depth, you'll need around 0.6m³ of soil.



Step 6: Watering & Recovery

Water deeply immediately after topdressing.

For the first 2 weeks: keep the lawn damp with light waterings twice daily.

Once you see new growth: reduce to one deep soak a week (plus top-ups in hot weather).

When the lawn reaches mowing height again, resume regular mowing to encourage thick, even growth.

Extra Tips

- 1 Don't top dress if heavy rain is forecast – it makes levelling difficult.
- 2 Avoid scalping Buffalo lawns too hard – they regenerate from above-ground stolons.
- 3 If mowing gets overwhelming in summer, a Plant Growth Regulator (PGR) - *Astro 120ME* can slow vertical growth while thickening the turf. Only apply once your lawn has fully recovered.

Check List

- ✓ Clear debris & weeds
- ✓ Dethatch (mow low)
- ✓ Aerate the soil
- ✓ Fertilise & apply soil conditioners
- ✓ Topdress (≤1cm)
- ✓ Water deeply & regularly
- ✓ Resume mowing once new growth appears

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SPRING HOME LAWN RENOVATION

6 Easy Steps
for a Beautiful
Summer Lawn

Spring is the season when many gardeners give their lawn a “reno” – a simple process to refresh the soil, reduce thatch, and kick-start healthy growth after winter. You don’t have to renovate every year, but it’s a great option if your lawn looks tired, spongy, compacted, or uneven.

The best time is once the weather has warmed up and your lawn is actively growing (usually September to mid-October depending on your climate).

Step 1: Preparation

Clear the lawn: Rake up leaves, sticks and debris left from winter.

Control weeds: Pull them out by hand, or for larger patches use a selective herbicide (*Bow & Arrow*, *Cutlass M*) and/or pre-emergent (*Barricade*, *Spartan*).

Dispatch chewing grubs: For safe, season long control use *Acelepryn GR*

Boost growth early: A liquid fertiliser such as *TPL Essence* can be applied a few weeks before renovation to give your lawn energy to recover.



Step 2: Tackle Thatch

What is thatch?

Thatch is the build-up of dead roots, stems, and organic matter that forms a spongy layer in your lawn. Too much thatch blocks air, water, and nutrients from reaching the soil, and can lead to drainage or fungal problems.

How to dethatch:

- Set your mower low and cut into the thatch layer. Kikuyu and couch lawns (including TifTuf) can even be scalped down close to the soil.
- Buffalo lawns (like Sir Walter DNA Certified) are more delicate – mow low, but leave some green cover on top.
- For large areas or thick thatch, consider hiring a dethatching machine.
- Always rake up and remove the debris afterwards.
- (Note: Do not dethatch cool season lawns such as RTF Tall Fescue.)

Step 3: Aeration

Compacted soil makes it hard for roots to breathe and absorb nutrients. Aerating loosens the soil and improves water flow.

Small areas: Use a garden fork or aerating sandals. Push holes 8–10cm apart, then repeat at right angles.

Large or compacted lawns: Hire an aerator. For very hard ground, a core aerator removes plugs of soil, creating deeper air channels.



Step 4: Fertilise & Condition Soil

Renovation is stressful on turf – feed it well so it bounces back.

Fertiliser: Apply a slow-release granular fertiliser for steady nutrients over the coming months – *TPG Enhance 25-2-11*

Gypsum: Helps break up clay soils and reduce compaction.

Wetting agents: Improve water penetration in sandy or hydrophobic soils – *TPW Aquapro*

Seaweed extracts: Boost recovery, stimulate root growth, and improve stress resistance – *TPL Ultikelp*