



NEW HOMES FAQs

Lawn Care Guide

The Wrekin
Housing Group

Contents

Watering, settlement, cutting	Page 3
Ongoing Maintenance	Page 4
Lawn Care Calendar	Page 7
Plants and trees aftercare	Page 8

Watering

You must water newly laid turf twice daily, for at least **two weeks**.

During hot weather watering should be carried out in the early morning and evening.

Signs of under watering:

Shrinkage



Yellow / Browning turf



Please note turf which fails due to lack of water and maintenance is beyond our control and will not be replaced.

Settlement

Refrain from walking on the turf for up to **four weeks** to give the grass time to root.

Once rooted it will need cutting.

Cutting

For a successful cut we advise

1. Mow at the right height and only with sharp blades

For the first few cuts you should use the highest setting of your lawn mower. While it may be tempting to cut your grass super short to cut down on the frequency of your mowing, doing so can harm your grass and impact its growth. Reduce the height gradually.

2. Mow when conditions are dry

Wet grass blades will be weighed down by the water, whereas dry grass is upright and ready to be cut.

Ongoing Maintenance

Guide to levelling a lawn after natural settlement

You will invariably experience some settlement which can be of varying degrees across your garden and you should follow the below guide to assist you in rectifying this issue.

Evening out a bumpy lawn can be tackled all year round, but the best time to do it is in the spring.

The soft spring ground makes smaller lumps even easier to flatten and will make the turf easier to work with in general.

Start with smaller bumps (less than one inch) and use your foot to press them firmly down.

Fill any small animal holes with topsoil, compressing the earth with your foot to create a solid surface.

Water these areas well to encourage fresh grass growth which will return over time to create a seamless finish.

Flatten larger bumps

- For more sizeable lumps of turf, you will need to enlist the help of a few tools to even out the surface.
- Start by mowing the entire lawn and raking it to uplift thatch and clumps of other organic matter.
- This is similar to scarifying your lawn, though it doesn't need to be done as deeply.

Top dress the holes

- Top dress larger bumps by using sand and garden soil, in a ratio of 40 percent sand to 60 percent soil.
- Fill the lumps which have been flattened out, using a hard-bristled brush to work it into the soil.
- This method of top dressing is best done on mildly uneven areas which can be compensated with fresh earth to level out minor slopes and mounds.
- Water the area well to encourage fresh grass to grow in place of the clumpy turf.

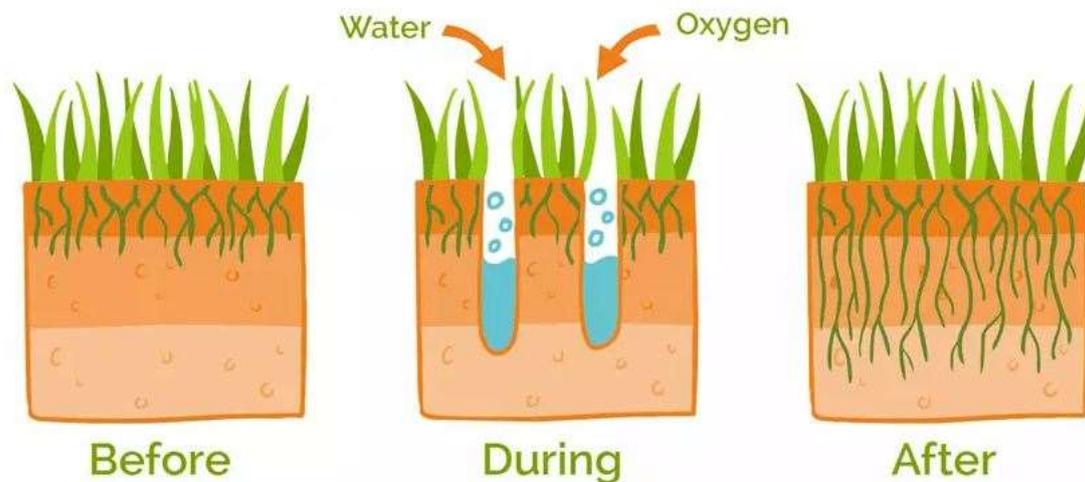
Over seed your lawn

- Once you have successfully filled small, moderate and even larger holes to create a flatter lawn, it's time to sow some fresh grass seed.

Aerate

If your soil is hard, compact, or covered in thatch, you may want to aerate it.

Aeration loosens the soil and reduces thatch build up by either poking holes in the soil (with a spike aerator) or pulling plugs out of the soil (with a plug aerator).



To aerate your lawn, wait until the soil is moist so that the aerator can easily penetrate the soil. Most people choose to aerate in the spring or autumn.

The best tool to use for aerating your lawn is a hollow tine aerator, which pulls up plugs of soil from the lawn.

Alternatively, you can spike the lawn with a garden fork. The deeper you spike the lawn the better, as it will open up the soil and allow the air to circulate, promoting healthy grass growth.

Deeply spiking the lawn will also help the water, penetrate deeper into the soil – therefore enabling it to be absorbed into areas that it may not have been able to reach previously due to compaction.

Please watch this quick 1-minute guide on YouTube if you choose to use a garden fork to aerate your lawn:

[Aerating the Lawn \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com)

Regular aeration of your lawn over the spring and summer months is essential to limit the risk of lawn compaction which often leads to waterlogging of your lawn.

One of the best and easiest ways to improve drainage in your garden is to simply grow more plants. Plant choice is important though, choose plants that can thrive in shady/damp conditions.

Feed

Steps to take for lawn feeding include:

1. Prepare your lawn for feeding: scarify, rake and mow the lawn at least 3 days before the application of lawn feed or control products.
2. Apply lawn feed: depending on the time of year apply your lawn feed (for high maintenance lawns consider optional added weed and moss control product)
3. Maintenance: lightly water the feed in and repeat steps if necessary.

Applying fertiliser in spring will help the grass to recover from winter damage and to grow more extensive root systems that are better able to withstand drought and flooding.

Feeding in autumn with a lawn feed, rich in phosphorus, promotes good root growth.

Wet soils and dead patches allow mosses to thrive in the lawn over winter. Remove these with a proprietary moss killer to allow the lawn to thrive.

Toadstools

- Toadstools occur naturally when the conditions are right and appear in the new or long-established turf.
- They grow from spores in the soil when the weather is warm and wet.
- Regular mowing will remove them, and in general they do not harm the lawn.

Leatherjackets

- Leatherjackets are the larvae of the Crane Fly (daddy long legs).
- The adult Crane Fly lays eggs between July and September in grassed areas.
- Eggs hatch 2-3 weeks later and the larvae (Leatherjackets) feed on the grass roots in the mild damp spells from Autumn to late Spring.
- They live in the soil; they have thick brown skin, no legs and are up to 5cm long.
- Indication of Leatherjackets are Patches of turf dying back and birds pecking at the turf in numbers.

Avoiding the problem

- Aerating the lawn (as above) will improve drainage and help prevent infestation.
- Nematodes are an effective measure to be used in the Spring or Autumn, when the larvae are at their weakest.
- Regular maintenance and lawn feed will help to keep the grass strong to resist an attack.

Lawn Care Calendar



Plants and trees aftercare

Newly planted shrubs and herbaceous plants need some aftercare to keep them healthy and your new plants and trees will need water.

- In hot weather do this in the early morning or in the evening.
- Water at the base of the plant and give it a thorough soak.
- It is better to soak each plant less often than give a light sprinkling every day, which can harm the plant. Mulching will help retain moisture.

Trees – watering

New trees need plenty of water, unless it is raining or the ground is clearly very wet, you MUST keep the tree/s watered.

- It is recommended that you give your tree/s a thorough soaking at least twice a week in the dry weather, more often if any signs of wilting are apparent.
- Even a small tree will need 20 litres to soak the root ball.
- This watering regime should continue throughout the first season.
- Trees planted that have a girth of more than 20cm will require watering in dry weather through their second year to ensure survival.
- Wilting is the most obvious sign of under-watering, leading to browning leaves.
- Signs of over-watering are yellowing leaves; rapid leaf drop and spotting of the leaves.

Staking and Tying

Your tree will have been staked and tied.

Check these periodically for signs of chafing and tightening as the tree grows and make any necessary adjustments to give enough room for new growth checking at least once a week.