

Spring Lawn Prep Checklist for Ontario Homeowners

Sodding Canada | sodding.ca | GTA Ontario

Quick Reference Guide

1 Wait for soil to be dry enough to walk on without leaving footprints

This is the most important rule. Working on wet Ontario spring soil compacts it and damages grass crowns. Usually late April to early May in the GTA.

2 Walk the full lawn and note problem areas

Snow mold patches, bare areas over 30 cm, spongy sections, drainage problems. Write it down before you start any work.

3 Rake out dead grass and winter debris

Bag everything. Don't leave it to decompose on the lawn - it can harbour snow mold fungus and block light.

4 Check thatch depth with a shovel plug

Cut a plug and measure the brown spongy layer. Under 1 cm = fine. 1 to 1.5 cm = light rake. Over 1.5 cm = power dethatcher needed.

5 Overseed bare patches over 30 cm in diameter

Use seed matching your existing lawn variety. Scratch the soil surface first. Water daily for 3 weeks.

6 Apply first fertilizer in early May

Not before. Balanced slow-release fertilizer, follow label rate. Do not over-apply - this causes more harm than under-fertilizing in spring.

7 Check mowing height and sharpen mower blade

First mow at 7.5 to 8 cm, never shorter. A sharp blade is essential - dull blades tear grass and invite disease.

8 Schedule fall core aeration in September

Don't aerate now. Put a reminder in your calendar for early September. This is the most effective maintenance task for Ontario clay soils.

Free estimates across the GTA | sodding.ca