

MANAGE THAT MOSS!

After a long wet winter many traditional grass lawns are looking in pretty poor shape with significant levels of moss. They also have a confused look to them after we had so many weeks of warm weather through the darkest months and then the cold spell. Whereas the grass struggles with those conditions moss thrives.

Getting Started

On a dry day give the lawn a light mowing to tidy it up.

Apply a moss killer in the form of **Lawn Sand** which will kill off moss and give the lawn a mild feed. Seven to ten days later rake out the dead moss with a spring-tined rake or if you have a large area use a mechanical scarifier.

Spike the lawn with a fork or even better a hollow tine aerator (this looks like a giant fork with tubes instead of spikes), preferably all over, but particularly where the grass is thin or where there are bare patches. This will improve local drainage for the top few cm of the lawn.

Top dress with **Lawn and Turf Dressing**, a mixture of sharp sand, peat and soil and then brush well in using a besom broom or the back of a rake.

Then, in order to repopulate the completely bare patches, over sow with grass seed at a rate of 2 oz per square yard or 50g per square metre. Where the grass is patchy but hasn't completely disappeared use about half that rate. Choose a grass seed mix to suit your lawn. If it's a fine lawn you are after then use a grass seed mix without ryegrass, should you have shady patches then select a seed mix suited to those conditions.

Keeping up the momentum

As required, mow the lawn but keep the mower at a raised setting to begin with reducing the height gradually over the next few weeks.

Three or four weeks later apply Evergreen Complete, which is a spring feed, weed and moss killer. It also helps to retain the moisture.

If deep rooted perennial weeds – including dandelions, plantains and daisies – persist apply **Weedol Lawn Weedkiller** (the new name for Verdone), which is a selective lawn weed killer.

As the grass begins to green up and grow quicker, increase the frequency of cutting and reduce the height of the mower.

Further information on lawn care is available at the tills or on our website
www.thegardeneronline.co.uk

Use pesticides safely. Always read the manufacturers label and use only as directed.