



Courtesy of **Taproot Landscape Maintenance**

Telephone: (772) 263-0297

Glossary:

Acid Soil:

A soil with a pH lower than 7.0 is an acid soil. (a soil pH higher than 7.0 is alkaline)
Basically, pH is a measure of the amount of lime (calcium) contained in your soil.

Aeration (soil):

When you put air into the soil via poking holes into it or pulling cores of soil out of it.
The process of removing plugs of soil to relieve soil compaction and allowing oxygen, water and nutrients to enter the ground.

Alkaline Soil:

A soil with a pH higher than 7.0 is an alkaline soil. (a soil pH lower than 7.0 is acidic)
Basically, pH is a measure of the amount of lime (calcium) contained in your soil.

Analysis:

Determination of chemical components.

Annual Bluegrass:

Typically grows in fairway or lawn settings and develops dense patches that can adapt to most mowing heights, even the lowest settings. It typically germinates all year round and is fueled by cool moist conditions. Proper weed control is essential, as this type of weed impedes grass and plant growth due to an increase in competition for nutrients and water.

Annual Ryegrass:

Can be planted on its own or mixed in with other grass mixtures when seeding a lawn.
Due to its versatility and rapid growth rate, annual ryegrass is ideal for lawn and pasture



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purposes in cooler temperatures. This grass typically lasts one season and is ideal for newly sown lawns or any place that needs instant green coverage.

Annuals:

A plant that germinates, grows, produces flowers and seeds, and dies within one growing season.

Aphids:

Any of various small insects, such as the greenfly, that suck the juice of plants.

Bermuda Grass:

A type of grass that is mainly used on golf courses and athletic fields, but can also be used on lawns. Bermuda grass quickly recovers from damage, spreads easily, and tends to grow well in poor soils. This type of grass is best used if grass and lawn care is done on a very regular basis and the rainfall or watering is frequent. Due to its rapid growth, new lawns can experience growing grass and full coverage in 60-90 days.

Billbug:

A type of insect with several different species that typically attacks Kentucky bluegrass, but also attacks perennial ryegrass, fescues and lawn turf. Adult billbugs are grayish in color and have no legs, but push and pull themselves through the soil like a worm. Only a few species cause significant harm, but preventative grass and lawn care measures should be taken to prevent future damage. landscapes.

Backfill:

Soil used to fill a planting hole after the plant has been positioned. Amended soil is often used as backfill.



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Balled and burlapped (abbrev. B & B):

A way of packaging plants in which the roots are contained in a ball of soil held together in burlap.

Bare Root:

Plants offered for sale which have had all of the soil removed from their roots.

Bedding Plant:

Plants (mainly annuals), nursery grown and suitable for growing in beds. Quick, colorful flowers.

Bench mark (BM):

A fixed point with a known elevation.

Biennial:

A plant that completes its life cycle in two years.

Bonsai:

The art of growing carefully trained, dwarf plants in containers.

Branch collar:

Trunk tissue that forms around the base of a branch where it attaches to the main stem or a lateral. As a branch decreases in vigor or begins to die, the branch collar becomes more pronounced.

Branch ridges:

The raised area of bark in the branch crotch that makes the junction of the branch wood and trunk wood.



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Broadcast:

To scatter seed, fertilizer or other material over the ground.

Broadleaf weeds:

Weeds, such as dandelion, clover, and chickweed that take resources from turf and disrupt the texture of the lawn.

Broadleaf weed control:

The control of unsightly broadleaf weeds including dandelions, chickweed, henbit, clover, and much more. These types of weeds can increase lawn care and mowing requirements and delay the recovery of growing grass. For total lawn care and broadleaf weed control regular mowing along with proper fertilization or chemical control can eliminate these types of weeds.

Brown patch:

A fungal disease that typically occurs midsummer and results in unattractive patches of browned or blighted turf. On some lawns it can appear as roughly circular patches that can range in size. If proper lawn care is not utilized, a lawn with this disease can appear wilted despite sufficient moisture in the soil. Maintaining proper grass care and not over fertilizing can prevent brown patch from occurring.

Buffer zone (or strip):

Generally considered to be a managed area of vegetation along a property line to screen view into the property.

Broadleaf:

A term applied to nongrass-like plants; often used in the context of weed control. Examples include dandelion and white clover.



Bud:

Early stages of development of a flower or plant growth.

Bulb

The thickened underground storage organ of the group of perennials which includes daffodils and tulips. Caliper:

The diameter of a tree trunk measured 6" (15 cm) above ground level for trees up to 4" (100 mm) caliper and 12" (30 cm) above the ground for larger sizes.

Canker:

Dead sections that appear on the main trunk or branches of trees. Cankers usually occur from or fungal or bacterial infections. This type of disease can quickly cause a lot of harm to the infected tree, and kill all of the bark on a main stem or branch; if the main stem or trunk is infected that the entire tree could die.

Calibrating:

The process of checking a mechanical applicator, such as a fertilizer spreader, to insure that it will accurately deliver the right amount of material to the right amount of area.

Centipede grass:

A very low maintenance, warm season grass that grows well in sandy or clay based soil. Centipede grass needs a minimal amount of grass care, including little fertilization or mowing, and as such is perfect for busier lifestyles. However, with proper lawn care and maintenance, this growing grass can compete against weeds all on its own. This type of grass is typically slow growing, and takes a little bit longer to repair.

Chinch bug:

A small black bodied insect with wings that typically infest different types of grass, as well as some harvest crops. If chinch bugs infect growing grass or a plant, they can injure



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them or impede on their growth. Proper lawn care and maintenance can help prevent chinch bug invasions.

Chlorosis:

This condition refers to the yellowing of leaf tissue in result from a lack of chlorophyll. This can be caused by poor drainage, damaged roots, compacted roots, a high level of alkalinity, and/or nutrient deficiencies in the plant or tree. Maintaining proper plant and tree care and maintenance can help prevent chlorosis from happening. Chlorophyll: The green pigment in leaves. When present and healthy usually dominates all other pigments.

Clay:

Very fine soil particles. Clay soils (soils containing a high percentage of clay particles) are often called heavy soils and are characterized by slow movement of water through the soil. Clay soils can be improved with soil amendments such as manure, peat or mulch.

Clippings:

Leaf blades and, in some cases, stems and sheaths, cut off by mowing. Decompose readily due to their relatively high water content and generally simple chemical compounds.

Compost:

An organic soil amendment resulting from the decomposition of organic matter. A mixture of decomposed organic matter for fertilizing soil.



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Compaction (of soil):

Increase in soil density through destruction of its pore space, as by excessive traffic or working the soil especially when it's wet. Can be hard and almost impenetrable when dry.

Contact herbicide:

A weed killer that kills primarily by contact with plant tissues.

Crabgrass:

Refers to a grass-like plant that is often the target of weed control programs because its creeping stems root freely throughout lawns. In order to grow, crabgrass requires lots of sun. That's why taller grass may provide the best weed prevention by shading any crabgrass seeds. Also, overseeding a lawn will be easier in non-summer months when new grass seeds won't be competing with weeds and crabgrass.

Crane flies:

Insects, also referred to as "mosquito hawks," that are about 1-inch long with wings and long legs. In larvae form these flies resemble brown worms known as "leatherjackets." Most adult crane flies are harmless. Leatherjackets, however, feed on grass roots, causing the most damage to growing grass in spring. Thatch often provides hiding and food for these larvae. Proper lawn treatments, such as core aeration, can prevent infestations.

Crown:

The point at which a plants roots and top join (usually at soil level). The top of a plant.

Crown thinning:

When a mature tree becomes densely branched, it can cast too much shade and be susceptible to wind damage. Thinning the branches allows more light to filter to the ground and improves air flow through the foliage.



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Crown reduction:

This refers to the method of reducing the height or spread of a tree. Sometimes the crown of a tree must be reduced in height or spread, such as for utility and roof clearance. The key to this method is a pruning technique called "Crotch Dropping", where the upper horizontal branches are removed with a flush vertical trim from the main leader.

Cultivation:

As applied to turf, cultivation means working the soil and/or thatch without destroying the entire lawn surface; examples of cultivation include coring, slicing, spiking.

Cultural practices:

Various horticultural methods and techniques used to care for plants in the yard and garden. Examples include watering, fertilizing, mowing, weeding, and edging.

Dead head:

The process of pinching off used or spent blooms to keep the plants well groomed and to prevent them from setting seed. This will promote continued bloom.

Deciduous:

A tree or shrub that loses all of its leaves at once, usually in the fall.

Decomposition:

The rotting or decaying of an organic substance.

Deficiency (of nutrients):

Growth symptoms (such as chlorosis) caused by inadequate supply or unavailability of plant nutrients.



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De-thatching:

When the clippings/bulk are purposely removed from the lawn so that the grass can receive water more easily and grow better.

Disease:

An interaction between a grass plant, pathogen and its environment that results in abnormal growth and/or appearance. A pathogen that impairs the normal function or development of a plant.

Dormant:

A condition of significantly reduced activity where little if any growth occurs and where rates of physiological activities, like photosynthesis, are minimal or non-existent.

Drip Line:

The circle which would exist if you drew a line below the tips of the outer most branches of a tree or plant.

Drought:

Extended periods of dry weather often causing moderate to severe stress in turf. It can be particularly damaging when combined with high temperatures.

Drought stress:

The limitation placed on plant life by dryer than normal conditions. Growing grass is affected when temperatures become hotter than normal with little rain. Some grasses can protect themselves by going dormant. Even dormant grasses require proper lawn care, such as light watering.



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Drought tolerance:

The grass plant's ability to withstand extended periods of dry conditions with incurring permanent damage. See also tolerance.

Emerald ash borer:

An Asian beetle discovered in the United States in 2002 that has made tree maintenance difficult. Larvae from the insect are born between the bark and sapwood of an ash tree, and as they feed, the tree is unable to properly transport water. Current ash tree care means quarantining infested trees and not transporting firewood that may contain the insect.

Erosion:

The wearing away and transport of soil from land areas by wind or running water.

Evapotranspiration (ET):

The combination of evaporation (water loss from land and water surfaces) and transpiration (water loss from plants).

Evergreen:

Plants that do not lose all of their leaves at once. Evergreens can be conifers or broad-leaved.

Evaporation:

Water loss back to the atmosphere through the vaporization of water.

Crabgrass: This high-growing grass with branching stems often appears with purplish tones and spreads easily, crowding out other turf and disrupting the uniform presentation of your lawn.



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Fairy Ring: This is a circular ring of mushrooms, occurring naturally in lawns, with dark green grass in the center. Mushroom spores spawn underground, fanning out in all directions in search of nutrients.

Fertilizer: Organic or inorganic compounds that promote growth in plants by providing major nutrients and micronutrients.

Fertilization: The proper application of the proper amount of fertilizer encourages growth and flowering in turf and plants. It is also known as "feeding."

Fertilization/Fertilizer:

The application of nutrients to promote plant vitality. Organic or inorganic plant foods which may be either liquid or granular used to amend the soil in order to improve the quality or quantity of plant growth. Nutrient supplements that stimulate and maintain healthy plant growth. The most common nutrients contained in fertilizers are nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium.

Fertilizer analysis:

The amount of each nutrient in a fertilizer container expressed as percent of the total weight.

Fibrous roots:

Profusely branched roots consisting of many lateral rootlets and usually no main or taproot development.

Fire ants: These creatures have a painful sting that can be deadly to small animals or hypersensitive humans. They are most commonly found in the southern United States.

Fire Ant (Control):

Small, reddish ants named for their sting, which burns like fire and causes small bumps



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wherever the insects bite. Proper lawn care often includes destroying anthills, which can reach as high as 3 feet. Professional lawn treatments often use bait control and then destroy individual anthill mounds.

Fleas:

These tiny insects are not harmful to lawns but are a nuisance and a health problem for humans and pets since they feed on the blood of mammals.

Flea & Tick Control:

Treatment of all Lawn and bedding soil with an insecticide for controlling flea and tick populations. A lawn care service professional normally decides the best measures for both preventive or curative flea and tick control.

Foliar Feeding:

Fertilizer applied in liquid form to the plants foliage in a fine spray.

Footprinting:

During periods of mild to moderate stages of water (drought) stress, grass plants may be slow to spring back after walking on them leaving temporary foot-shaped impressions on the lawn.

Fungi:

Organisms which live off dead or living plants or animals.

Fungicide:

A chemical used to destroy or suppress fungi.



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Fungus (pl. fungi):

A non-vascular (i.e., plants that do not contain water and nutrient conducting vessels) plant that lacks chlorophyll. Some examples are: mushrooms, molds, rusts, and yeasts.

Germination:

Sprouting of the root and shoot from a seed when environmental conditions are favorable.

Goosegrass:

A weed, also known as wiregrass that grows annually in the summertime. It grows in coarse, tight bunches and is the target of many different weed control programs. Proper turf care often includes having weed prevention that keeps this weed from crowding grass.

Grading:

To make level or evenly sloping.

Grafting:

The uniting of a short length of stem of one plant onto the root stock of a different plant. This is often done to produce a hardier or more disease resistant plant.

Granular:

Pesticide or fertilizer formulations in which the active ingredient or nutrient is attached to small, dry particles of some inert carrier such as clay or ground corn cobs.

Grass:

A common name for members of the Grass (Gramineae) family of plants.

Grass Disease(s):

An impairment that harms healthy growing grass. Brown patch lawn disease, red thread



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lawn disease and fairy rings are all forms of grass diseases that can hurt or kill a lush lawn. A total lawn care plan should include prevention of lawn diseases along with proper weed control and lawn fertilization.

Groundcover:

A horticultural term applied to low-growing vegetation covering the ground; usually refers to broadleaf plants rather than lawn grasses.

Grub (Control):

Grubs are thick, wormlike larvae born of insects, usually beetles, which feed on grass roots and attract moles. A total lawn care program should include measures to control grub populations before it's too late. Proper grub control means making sure preventative and curative measures are taken before extensive damage occurs, making lawn repair necessary.

Grubs:

The larval forms of beetles, grubs live in the soil and feed on plant roots. A grub-damaged lawn usually shows large, irregular sections of brown turf that detach easily from the soil. While Lawn Doctor can treat grubs year-round, grubs are most effectively treated in late summer or early fall, before they mature.

Hardiness:

The genetic capability of a plant to adapt and survive the rigors of a particular climate, particularly to cold temperature stress.

Hardening-off (conditioning):

The process of conditioning plants to more stressful environmental conditions. **Hardpan**
A layer of hard or compacted soil impenetrable to plants roots, water and nutrients.



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Herbicide:

A substance used to kill plants. An herbicide can be selective (designed to kill a narrow range of plants) or non-selective (designed to kill any plant it contacts). Herbicides can also be pre-emergent or post-emergent.

Herbicide:

A specific category of pesticides used for controlling weeds.

High-maintenance lawn:

Lawn areas composed of turfgrass species and varieties requiring higher levels of water, fertilizing and mowing to remain healthy.

Humus:

Dark brown or black organic matter in the soil, formed from partially decomposed leaves, plants, etc.

Impervious (surfaces): Waterproof coverings that do not permit infiltration of water and that increase the volume and speed of runoff water. Examples include: roofs, parking lots, roads and driveways.

Hybrid:

A cross between two plants of different variety, species or genus. Hybrids are usually created to produce plants with specific characteristics, such as disease resistance, unique flower color, etc.

Infection:

Establishment of a pathogen within a host plant.



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Infiltration (water):

The physical process of water movement into a soil.

Insecticide:

A specific category of pesticides used for controlling insects. A substance used to kill insects.

Integrated pest management (IPM):

IPM is a method that works to control pests by combining monitoring, cultural care, control products and proper plant selection.

Irrigation:

The application of water to the soil to nourish plants. The use of automated or manual systems for applying supplemental water for the benefit of growing plants and replenishing soil moisture.

Japanese Beetles:

An insect that eats foliage and starts as a white grub, which eats grass roots causing widespread turf damage if populations are left unchecked. Care for a lawn usually includes a grass care plan to prevent large beetle populations before lawn repair or lawn seeding becomes necessary

Kentucky Bluegrass:

A variety of grass that grows best in the cooler weather of spring, fall and winter. Turf-type varieties require lawn aeration to reduce thatch, and growing grass also requires nitrogen fertilizer. A professional lawn care service can recommend lawn fertilizing and core aeration as part of an overall turf care program.



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Landscape:

An expanse of land (scenery) that the eye is able to comprehend as a single view.

Lateral branch

A branch growing out of a main trunk or stem.

Lawn:

That portion of a yard or land area covered with grass plants kept short through mowing.

Lawn Insects:

Although there are insects beneficial to lawn care, many are common pests, including: cinch bugs, fire ants, boxelder bugs, earwigs, grubs and much more. Lawns are meant to sustain a certain number of insects. When infestations occur, problems arise. Every insect affects growing grass in a different way and some are more harmful than others. Often infestations cause grass to die, which means lawn repair is necessary for grass to grow again.

Leaching:

The downward movement in water of pesticides and/or nutrients through the soil column.

Leader

The dominant vertical branch that extends above the other branches.

Lifting:

A pruning practice where lower limbs are specifically trimmed and/or removed to provide clearance for cars, structures or pedestrian traffic, a view of a home or property, etc. The height of the lift is dictated by the height of the tree and is always done in proper proportion. Exceptions to this are power lines or structures which call for job specific lifting.



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Lime:

A substance, produced by heating limestone, used in lawn care to encourage healthy, growing grass. Expert care for a lawn means a customized lawn treatment plan that may include lime along with lawn aeration and fertilization as part of a healthy yard care regimen.

Liquid fertilization:

A method of applying plant nutrients as a solution of dissolved fertilizer salts.

Low-maintenance lawn:

Lawn areas composed of turfgrass species and varieties tolerant of reduced levels of water, fertilizer and mowing while still remaining healthy.

Mainline

An irrigation line that receives water from the source and distributes it to the control valves.

Metamorphosis:

A basic change in form; for example, the changing of a grub to an adult beetle or caterpillar into an adult butterfly.

Micronutrient:

A nutrient required by plants in small or trace quantities. Does not include the major plant nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium). Essential nutrient needed in tiny amounts for healthy plant growth.

Microorganisms:

Living plants or animals (such as bacteria, fungi, or protozoa) that are so small they can be seen only with the aid of a microscope.



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Minerals:

The inorganic materials that make up a portion of the soil derived from rocks; they are usually of specific composition and crystalline in form.

Mixture:

As applied to turfgrasses, it is a combination of two or more plant species. For example, a mixture of Kentucky bluegrass and fine-leaved fescue seed.

Moles:

Small mammals that dig tunnels that cause unsightly trails on the surface of the lawn and disrupt the root system.

Mosquito Control:

A mosquito is a two-winged insect important to control because of the biting female which can spread diseases such as West Nile and equine encephalitis. Female mosquitoes take blood from mammals to reproduce in stagnant pools of water. Male mosquitoes are non-biting, and prefer plant nectar. Lawn care treatments and nets can prevent biting females from ruining your enjoyment of your green space.

Moss (Control):

These fine, green plants have threadlike stems with very small leaves and tend to grow in grassless patches of lawns. Moss doesn't kill growing grass, because it grows in soil that isn't conducive to producing healthy grass. Lawn aeration and other lawn care treatments can help control and prepare the soil for growing grass that's healthy.

Mowing:

The periodic and usually regular cutting of a lawn area to a specified height for its intended use and function. Accomplished with mowers, either manual or power operated.



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Muck:

Soil-like material developed in a swamp-like environment, composed largely of well decomposed organic materials (humus).

Mulch:

Non-living material used to cover the soil surface for purposes of controlling weeds, conserving moisture, reducing soil temperatures, and in some instances, improving appearance. Examples are woodchips, compost, and leaves. Any material applied to soil to protect or improve a certain area. It is often used around trees and shrubs for protection against weeds and to help retain water. While organic items such as leaves and yard debris can be used as mulch, be careful to monitor the pH of such materials as rapid decomposition can make the mulch too acidic.

Mulching mower:

Mowers specifically designed to finely chop grass clippings and forcibly direct them back into the lawn leaving a clean, uniform appearance to the surface.

Natural growth cycle (turf):

The sequence of grass root, shoot and flowering growth phases that occur naturally over the course of a growing season.

Natural organic nitrogen fertilizer:

A fertilizer product containing plant nutrients derived from various organic sources as contrasted with simpler inorganic sources. Common sources include composts, sludges, animal manures and various plant and animal processing by-products.

Nematode:

A type of microscopic roundworm that dwells in soil and on plant roots. They feed on plant root cells, damaging root systems so the lawn cannot properly absorb water and



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nutrients. Symptoms of this lawn disease includes irregularly sized yellow, weak or slow to grow grass with short or stunted or swollen or knotty roots. Proper lawn and yard care can help cultivate pure soil and prevent nematode infestation.

Nitrogen:

An essential nutrient required for plant growth. It is a significant component of plant proteins. Adequate nitrogen produces good green color and vigorous plants. Shortages of nitrogen are usually indicated by yellowing leaves and poor growth. Excess nitrogen can result in unhealthy, lush growth making the plants more vulnerable to environmental stresses such as heat, drought, frost, and increased disease susceptibility.

Non-selective:

A term applied to a category of herbicides that does not discriminate in its effect on one type of plant over another. For example, both grasses and broadleaf plants would be injured or killed as opposed to selectively killing broadleaf plants without affecting the grasses in a lawn area.

Noxious (weed):

Any plant declared by a state authority to be so objectionable that efforts will be directed at its eradication.

N-P-K:

Chemical symbols for nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). On a container of fertilizer, these nutrients are always expressed as percentages contained in the package and are always shown in the order N-P-K.

Nutrients (plant):

Mineral elements considered essential for plant growth. There are presently 16 minerals known to play essential roles in plant nutrition.



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Nutrient release rate:

The speed at which plant nutrients, especially N, become available for plant use following application to a lawn. This rate is often determined by the product, water and temperature conditions at the time of application.

Nutsedge:

An aggressive type of weed most commonly found in lawns, vegetable and flower gardens. Nutsedge is distinguished between other growing grasses by their stems which are triangular or V-shaped with hollow round grass stems. It prefers wet soil and does not grow in shade. Once it roots it is hard to remove, as the roots produce nutlets that can remain in the soil when the plant and roots have been pulled. With proper lawn and yard care, these types of weeds can be eradicated.

Organic:

Chemical compounds containing the element carbon other than the inorganic carbonates. Often refers to any part of, or anything produced by, plants or animals.

Organic matter (soil) (abbrev. OM):

A portion of the soil consisting of substances derived from the life and death of plants, plant parts and other soil organisms. Naturally occurring material such as manure, sewage sludge, peat, grass clippings, etc. Organic matter is often used as a soil amendment.

Ornamental:

Plants or grasses that are used for their decorative or unusual traits. Ornamental plants are typically chosen because of their display of flowers, fragrance, fruit, bark, or unusual traits such as prominent thorns. Ornamental grasses are typically used in landscapes because they can be low maintenance and able to withstand several different climates. In addition, some varieties are used because of their ability to catch the wind and add a



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sense of movement to the landscape. Proper lawn care services and plant maintenance can help preserve and enhance the beauty of most ornamental plants or grasses.

Overseed or overseeding:

The process of incorporating seed into an existing lawn area for the purpose of lawn repair or introduction of different grass species.

Parasite:

An organism that lives very closely with its host. Parasites are completely dependent on their hosts and utilize them and their resources to live, grow, and multiply. Parasites rarely kill their hosts, but can cause them harm. Having parasites in your lawn or plants can prohibit them from growing well. Therefore, proper parasite control and yard and lawn care must be used in order to prevent damage to your growing grass or plant life.

Particulate:

Used as a characterization of very tiny pieces (particles) of matter, (e.g., dust and soil)

Patch disease:

A non-specific term applied to small dead, circular areas in a lawn caused by a number of different pathogens. Symptoms may also include the appearance of dead rings of grass with green grass inside and outside of the ring.

Pathogen (plant):

Usually applied to a microorganism with the capacity to cause a plant disease.

Peat:

A partly decomposed plant material found in marshy areas. Identification or origination of parent plant material may still be possible (e.g., sphagnum peat moss).



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Perennial:

Plants that live two or more years producing flowers and seeds in successive years. A plant that lives for more than two years.

Permanent wilting point:

The point at which plant roots can no longer extract water from the soil.

Pest:

Something that can negatively impact plants. Weeds, undesirable insects and diseases are all considered pests.

Pest (plant):

Any insect, mite, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or other organism capable of causing plant stress, injury or death through disease, consumption of the plant or competition.

Pesticide:

Any chemical (or mixture of chemicals) or biological agent used to control plant or animal pests in order to protect and/or preserve desirable plants. A substance used to kill pests.

pH

The measure of a soil's acidity or alkalinity on a scale of 0 to 14. A pH of 7 is considered neutral. A pH under 7 designates acidic soil, while a pH over 7 designates alkaline or basic soil.

Photosynthesis

The process by which plants produce their food using water, carbon dioxide and energy derived from sunlight.



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Post-emergent herbicide

A chemical that kills plants after they have emerged from soil.

Pre-emergent herbicide

A chemical that kills plants after seeds have germinated but before plants have emerged from soil.

Renovate:

To restore to a previous condition, revive.

pH (soil):

A numerical measure of soil acidity or alkalinity based on the hydrogen ion (H⁺) concentration in the soil. A pH of 7 indicates neutral conditions (neither acidic nor alkaline); above 7 is basic (alkaline), below 7 is acidic.

pH level: This indicates the acidity or alkalinity of the soil. A pH value of 7.0 is neutral. Values less than this are acidic, while values greater are alkaline. Soil pH can be raised by adding lime (increasing alkalinity) and lowered by adding sulfur (increasing acidity).

Phosphorous:

One of the major plant nutrients; important in root growth and plant energy functions. The middle number of a fertilizer analysis N-P-K.

Photosynthesis:

The chemical plant process where carbohydrates are formed by combining carbon dioxide and water in the presence of light; occurs in the chlorophyll containing parts of the plant (i.e., leaves and stems).

Plant competition:

The interaction between plants for light, moisture, and soil nutrients.



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Pollination:

The transfer of pollen from the stamen (male portion of the flower) to the stigma (female portion of the flower). May occur within the same flower, different flowers on the same plant or different flowers on different plants.

Postemergence:

Generally refers to the application of an herbicide after the weed has emerged (and is usually visible) from the soil.

Potassium:

One of the major plant nutrients important in maintaining general plant health and vigor. Often associated with improved stress and disease tolerance. It is the third number in the fertilizer analysis N-P-K. See N-P-K.

Preemergence:

Generally refers to the application of an herbicide before the weed emerges from the soil. Target plants are most often not visible above ground at the time of application.

Preemergent weed control:

A treatment used to prevent the appearance of weeds such as crabgrass.

Quick-release nitrogen source:

Nitrogen from these sources is available for use by the plant as soon as water is applied and the fertilizer granule dissolves. Can also be applied in liquid formulations. Plant responds with quick green-up and rapid rates of growth.

Reel mower:

A mower that cuts grass by means of a rotating reel of blades passing over a fixed blade



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(called a bedknife) attached to the frame. Very uniform, clean cuts can be made with this type of mower.

Rejuvenation:

Stimulation of grass growth usually through the removal of thatch and may include the process of aerification to improve compacted soil conditions.

Renovation, turf:

Improving a stand of turf through replanting into an existing lawn area. May also include practices associated with rejuvenation.

Root bound:

The condition in which a plant's roots have become tangled and matted from growing in a container too long. Once planted, a root bound plant will not grow well or anchor normally. Tall plants are in danger of toppling in high winds.

Rotary mower:

A mower that cuts turf by a high-speed, rotating metal blade positioned parallel to, and at a desired height above the turf surface.

Rotary spreader:

A spreader, most often used in the application of fertilizer, that distributes the material in an arc, several feet wide, by means of a rotating disc below the fertilizer hopper. It is able to cover large areas quickly, but distribution may not be precise enough for some applications.

Saline Soil:

A soil containing enough soluble salt to negatively affect plant growth. This soil condition can be caused by both natural and artificial means, and is often the result inadequate



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drainage, which prevents saline from being leached. Proper yard care can reduce the effects of saline soil and facilitate growing grass.

Sand:

A fine but gritty or grainy material produced from the friction between larger rock and mineral fragments. In lawn renovation projects, if the soil is too soft and needs to be firmed up, or the soil composition is less than desirable, sand can be used as filler. Large soil particles. Sandy soils (soils containing a high percentage of sand particles) are characterized by rapid water movement through the soil. Sandy soils can be improved with soil amendments such as manure, peat or mulch.

Scab:

A fungal disease found in grass and some fruit trees. The most common and damaging form, fusarium head blight, causes scabs or lesions on golf course grass. Apple trees are also susceptible to scab fungus. An infected apple or crabapple tree will have black or grey-brown lesions on the tree's leaves and/or fruit. An infected tree or lawn can be treated or controlled through the use of various chemicals.

Scalping:

An undesirable mowing practice that removes an excessive amount of green leaves and shoots at any one mowing. It can seriously weaken or even kill the turfgrass.

Sediment:

Any material settling to the bottom of a liquid. Its usage in this section refers to any material carried in runoff water that, upon reaching a body of water, settles to the bottom. Sedge:

A large family of plants that resemble grass or rush and typically are found in wetlands or areas with poor soils. Some of the more common and widely known varieties of sedge



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include water chestnut, papyrus sedge and sawgrass. Nutsedge is another common variety of sedge, and is one of the more prevalent weeds affecting lawns and turf.

Seeding:

The process of distributing seed over the soil surface, either mechanically or by hand, in an attempt to establish a new lawn or renovate an existing lawn.

Selective:

The term usually applied to an herbicide that has the ability to only destroy one type of plant while not affecting others. For example, a postemergence, broadleaf herbicide will kill broadleaf plants (such as dandelions) in the lawn without affecting the grass plants.

Shade:

An area of reduced light quantity (and often quality) resulting from the partial or complete obstruction of direct sunlight.

Sheath:

The tube shaped, basal section of the grass leaf enclosing the stem.

Shoot:

Above ground, vertically oriented growth giving rise to both leafy growth and flowering stems (culms).

Shrub:

A woody plant that is low to the ground with several branch shoots. Shrub care along with tree maintenance includes winterizing and fertilization, and is an essential part of regular lawn services.

Slime mold:

A single-cell organism with the characteristics of both animals and plants, slime molds



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are often found on mulch surrounding plants, shrubs and trees. Though not parasitic, these organisms make tree maintenance and shrub care difficult because they shade the area they infect. Wet conditions stimulate growth.

Silt:

Soil particles that are larger than clay and smaller than sand.

Slit-seeding:

The use of a machine known as a slit-seeder to seed a new lawn area or overseed an existing area. Slit-seeders utilize a series of vertically rotating discs to cut small grooves into the soil while depositing seed into the grooves just behind the discs. It is an excellent means of seeding and helps insure the seed-to-soil contact necessary for successful establishment.

Slow-release nitrogen source:

Nitrogen from these sources becomes available as the product is broken down by soil microbes and/or chemical action. Plant responds with a slightly slower rate of green-up and growth. Usually this is a desirable characteristic.

Sod:

Squares or strips (rolls) of turfgrass cut from a production field and usually with a thin layer of soil still attached that is used for vegetatively installing a turfgrass area.

Sod cutter:

A machine or hand tool that is designed to cut the grass plus a thin layer of soil from the ground. The length and thickness of the cut sod can be varied.

Sodding:

Installing a turfgrass area utilizing sod.



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Sod webworm:

A species of moth larvae that feed on most turfgrass, but tend to prefer Kentucky bluegrass, perennial ryegrass and fine fescues, as well as sunny areas. Damage usually begins in spring but is more extensive in the warm summer months of July and August. Larvae build tunnels underneath the soil or in thatch, which makes dethatching and lawn aeration two common practices for reducing sod webworm infestations.

Soil:

The earth's thin upper layer capable of supporting plant growth. It is characterized by such things as texture, structure, color, and fertility which distinguishes it from material like gravel, sand or bedrock that also cover a portion of the earth's surface.

Soil enrichment:

Improving the quality of the soil by adding organic supplements and microbes to boost soil health.

Soil structure:

The combining of microscopic soil particles through the action of soil microbes into larger units commonly known as soil granules, crumbs or aggregates. Loose, crumbly soil structure is a must to sustain health plant growth.

Soil test:

A scientific analysis of a soil sample that determines its pH, texture, organic matter content and various degrees of chemical composition. They are used to assess a soil's suitability for particular uses and any necessary modifications to prepare it for the intended use.

Soluble (fertilizer):

Fertilizers that are made up of easily dissolved components in water which are



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immediately available for plant use; they can result in lawn "burning" more easily than slow-release fertilizers.

Species:

A basic identification unit used in biology to describe a single distinct kind of plant or animal that has certain distinguishing characteristics separating it from all others.

Spot treatment:

Generally refers to the application of a pesticide to a limited or small area. In the case of herbicides, it may also be applied to the treating of individual plants.

St. Augustine Grass:

A common lawn grass found in southern portions of the United States. Also called "carpetgrass," St. Augustine is a coarse grass preferring dryer, non-compacted soil conditions. St. Augustine grows the best in soil with a pH range of 5.0 to 8.5.

Stem:

The horizontal or vertical axis of a plant supporting leaves, buds and flowers.

Storm water runoff:

Rain water that cannot soak into soil and runs over surfaces such as streets, driveways and rooftops. Storm water runoff picks up pollutants as it moves.

Stress (plant):

Usually applied to environmental factors restricting normal or healthy plant growth. Some of these factors are heat, drought, compacted soils, waterlogging and cold.

Sphagnum:

A bog moss which is collected and composted. Most peat moss is composed primarily of



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sphagnum moss. This moss is also packaged and sold in a fresh state, and used for lining hanging baskets and air layering.

Spore:

The reproductive cell of ferns, fungi and mosses. (these plants do not produce seeds)

Staking:

The practice of driving a stake into the ground next to, and as a support for a plant. When attaching the plant to the stake, be sure that it is tied loosely so it doesn't strangle the stem. When staking a potted plant, the stake should be set into the planter before the plant is added.

Sucker:

A growth originating from the rootstock of a grafted plant, rather than the desired part of the plant. Sucker growth should be removed, so it doesn't draw energy from the plant.

Systemic:

A chemical which is absorbed directly into a plants system to either kill feeding insects

Symptom:

An abnormal condition in the form or function of a plant or part of a plant that helps identify the disorder.

Synthetic organic nitrogen fertilizer:

Generally refers to fertilizers formed when urea, a quick-release N fertilizer source, is further processed or combined with other materials to give it a slow-release rate characteristic.



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Systemic Pesticide:

A pesticide that moves, typically upward, inside the plant after being absorbed. In some cases, with the proper application, this type of pesticide treatment can have more efficient results.

Tap Root

The main, thick root growing straight down from a plant. (not all plants have tap roots)

Tender Plants:

Plants which are unable to endure frost or freezing temperatures.

Texture (grass):

The coarseness or fineness of a turfgrass generally based on the grass blade width and the stem size.

Texture (soil):

The relative proportion (expressed as a percent) of sand, silt, and clay particles in a soil; determines soil coarseness or fineness.

Ticks:

These miniscule creatures are actually from the arachnid (spider) family and feed on the blood of pets and humans. Ticks are dangerous because they carry debilitating and life-threatening diseases such as Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. They are not harmful to turf.

Thatch:

A dense, fibrous layer of living and dead grass stems, leaves, and roots, undecomposed or partially decomposed, that accumulates between the green vegetation and soil surface.



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The layer of dead stems that builds up under many lawn grasses. Thatch should be removed periodically to promote better water and nutrient penetration into the soil.

Thinning:

Removing excess seedlings, to allow sufficient room for the remaining plants to grow. Thinning also refers to removing entire branches from a tree or shrub, to give the plant a more open structure.

Tolerance: The plant's ability to withstand stresses associated with unfavorable environmental conditions or the application of pesticides.

Topiary:

A method of pruning and training certain plants into formal shapes such as animals.

Topsoil:

The top layer of native soil. This term may also apply to good quality soil sold at nurseries and garden centers.

Transplanting:

The process of digging up a plant and moving it to another location.

Topping:

This is the practice of removing most of the canopy, leaving mostly branch stubs. The new growth of a topped tree will come back dense, making the tree more vulnerable to high winds. The effects of topping include: the decay of large, unhealed wounds, insect infestation, sun scald to the bark and in some cases, death of the tree. Tree topping is not good for your valuable trees and is a practice never used by Only Trees. Most cities and municipalities have deemed the practice of topping illegal and the homeowner can



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be fined by the city for topping their trees. A topped tree is vulnerable in high winds and can become "missile like" in a storm situation.

Topsoil:

The upper portion of soil that is generally higher in organic matter in comparison to the subsoil and usually has more favorable characteristics of soil fertility, aeration and structure.

Toxicity:

The toxicity of pesticides and other lawn care chemicals is determined by the level that will kill the bug or weed it is targeting, but not harm other living organisms in the surrounding area.

Turfgrass:

A species or cultivar of grass that is maintained at a desired height through regular mowing.

Urea:

A quick-release nitrogen fertilizer source. Usually available as 45-0-0 or 46-0-0. It is also described as a synthetic organic fertilizer as it contains the element carbon in its chemical structure.

Variegated:

Leaves which are marked with multiple colors.

Vertical mower:

A machine with high-speed, vertically rotating blades that slice into the turf for the purpose of reducing thatch or improving soil aeration.



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Vigor (plant):

The combination of genetic and environmental factors that determine the rate and amount that a turfgrass species or cultivar is able to grow and spread.

Warm-season turfgrass:

Turfgrass species whose optimum growth occurs during the warmer periods (80° - 95° F) of the growing season.

Water insoluble nitrogen (WIN):

That fraction of nitrogen contained in fertilizer not considered to be soluble in 25° C. water. It is generally a measure of how much of the nitrogen is considered to show the slow release characteristic.

Water soluble nitrogen (WSN):

That fraction of nitrogen contained in fertilizer considered to be soluble in 25° C. water. It is generally a measure of the quick-release nitrogen contained in the fertilizer. Unlike WIN this is usually not expressed on a fertilizer package. Unless stated otherwise, the difference between the WIN and total nitrogen contained in the package is WSN.

Watering-in:

Water applied to turf immediately after the application of some pesticides or fertilizers to dissolve and/or move materials into the soil.

Waterlogging:

Soil saturated with water usually for an extended period of time and resulting in temporary anaerobic conditions.



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Wear:

The accumulative (and usually deleterious) effects of traffic on a turf area. Most often a problem on sports fields.

Weed:

An undesired, uncultivated plant growing in a manner so as to adversely compete with desirable plants for water, light and nutrients, or destroy aesthetic qualities of a lawn.

Weed and feed:

A fertilizer and herbicide combination used on lawns that feeds the desirable plants and either prevents a weed from germinating or kills an existing weed.

Zoysia grass:

A type of grass that is native to warmer regions in southeastern Asia and New Zealand. Zoysia grass is a popular creeping lawn grass that adds versatility and texture to yards or landscapes.